



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



Permanent Mission of Zambia to the United Nations, 237 East 52nd Street, New York, NY 10022
Tex: (212) 888-5770 Fax: (212) 888-5213 E-mail: zambia@un.int

Please check against delivery

STATEMENT BY

H.E. AMBASSADOR LAZAROUS KAPAMBWE
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

AT THE

51ST SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND
DEVELOPMENT (CPD)

SPECIAL THEME "*SUSTAINABLE CITIES, HUMAN MOBILITY
AND INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION*"

New York
11th April, 2018

**Chairperson,
Excellences
Distinguished Delegates,**

My delegation wishes to congratulate you for convening the 51st Session of the Commission on Population and Development. I also take this opportunity to congratulate you and the other members of the Bureau on your election, and for steering the work of this commission so far. I wish to align this statement to the statements delivered by His Excellency, H.E. Mr. Mohamed Edrees, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations on behalf of Group 77 and China, as well as by His Excellency Issa Konfourou, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Mali on behalf of the African Group.

Zambia considers the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action as essential in realising her vision of becoming a prosperous middle-income country by the year 2030. We reaffirm our commitment to the full implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and we also stress that the ICPD Programme of Action forms the bedrock for the shift in development policies that considers the individuals as full actors in society.

Chairperson

This year's theme, *“Sustainable Cities, Human Mobility and International Migration”*, is being discussed at a critical time as the country continues to experience both in and out migration. Zambia is one of the highly urbanised countries in Sub Saharan Africa with 39.5 percent of the population living in urban areas, expected to reach 45.5 percent by 2030. The high rate of urbanisation presents challenges to the country for sustainable development. The carrying capacities of the major cities in most cases has been exceeded.

In reversing the high urbanisation trend, the Government has put in place the medium to long term measures, planned to address the “Pull and Push” factors which underpin this phenomenon including having a National Population Policy in place. Efforts are being undertaken to increase the provision of basic social services in the rural areas. This will help to reduce the rate of rural-urban drift and create room for the development of sustainable cities. Coupled with these measures is the implementation of the decentralisation initiatives contained in the National Decentralisation Policy and the Urban and Regional Planning Act No. 3 of 2015.

Chairperson

Zambia is a country of origin, transit and destination of all types of people including labour migrants, asylum seekers, irregular migrants and victims of human trafficking.

The influx of refugees to Zambia has increased significantly overtime and requires increased attention, especially for women and children. Zambia, has been hosting refugees and asylum seekers from neighbouring countries and the Great Lakes Region for over fifty years now numbering over seventy thousand. The Government, with support from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) continues to develop infrastructure in refugee settlements to ensure that the refugees are provided with all the necessary services and more support is needed in this area.

As a roll out country for the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework, Zambia is taking an integrated approach in responding to the new refugee crisis in the north where more than fifteen thousand refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo have crossed into the country in the last five months. In addition, more than twenty thousand former refugees from Angola and Rwanda who did not return to their countries of origin have been given permanent residence in Zambia.

Chairperson

In Zambia, we will continue to implement measures that would promote the creation of sustainable cities, enhance safe and conducive human mobility and harness benefits from the international migration. We look forward to the successful conclusion of the session of this commission and the outcomes.

I thank you.