



## CONCEPT NOTE

- Subject:** Side Event during the 55<sup>th</sup> Session of UNCPD 2022 organized by the Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the UN in collaboration with the African Union Observer Mission and the United Nations Population Fund
- Theme:** The Revised Population Policy: Pivotal for Achieving Population Management
- Date:** 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022, 13:15 – 14:45 pm (NY time)
- Venue:** Nigeria House, 828 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Manhattan, New York, USA

### **Background**

The United Nations Commission on Population and Development (UNCPD) sessions provide platforms for sharing experience of real-life situations, showcasing of achievements, demonstration of commitments on population management, exchange of best practices/lessons learned and “What Works”. They also highlight priorities and options for addressing current and prospective population related development challenges.

2. In line with the 2022 UNCPD Special Session's theme - **“Population and Development: In Particular Sustained and Inclusive Economic Growth,”** and in recognition of prevailing realities of the consequences of rapid population growth in the context of *quality, structure, distribution, and movement*, Nigeria wishes to share its experiences in managing population and development challenges.

3. Nigeria's population is estimated at 216 million (NPC, 2022), which makes it the 6<sup>th</sup> most populous country in the world. Current demographics portend even more growth. Young people (age below 30 years) constitute over 70 percent of the entire population, providing an age-structure that is youthful, with about 54 percent making-up the productive/working age (15-60 years) population. In addition, half of the

female population is in reproductive ages (15-49 years) and unmet need for family planning is unacceptably high at 19 percent. These realities require urgent interventions that will enable moderating fertility rates (currently at 5.3 – 2018 NDHS) through purposeful family planning and births spacing for population management and control.

4. Realizing the implications of the rapidity of its population growth, size and the burden of the age structure on economic growth, and their relationship to Nigeria's current security situation, among other things, the President launched the National Policy on Population for Sustainable Development (NPP) on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2022.

5. The Revised NPP is a comprehensive document dealing with all the key aspirations of Nigeria in relation to population management for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. It is benchmarked on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets and the 2019 Nairobi commitments. The policy emphasizes the urgency to address sustained high fertility rate, through among other things, expanding access to modern family planning, counseling and commodities as well as promote births spacing. It also underscores the importance of investing in quality education of young people particularly girls, human capital development, advancing holistic effort to achieve significant demographic transition.

### **Objectives of the Meeting**

- i. To exchange population management experience and best practices among participants towards addressing population management and development concerns;
- ii. To underscore the role of National Population Policies as veritable tools for harnessing the Demographic Dividends, towards achieve the SDGs and the Nairobi Commitments;
- iii. To highlight the importance of supporting: (a) investment in free, compulsory education of girls to completion of secondary school level;(b) provision of affordable health care particularly for sexual and reproductive health, family planning; and (c) provision of adequate nutrition as actions with multiple impacts on accelerating economic growth;

- iv. To emphasize the importance of generating accurate, timely disaggregated and geo-referenced data to support decision making, programming of targeted interventions and tracking of progress.

### **Guiding questions**

1. What are the population management priorities that require attention in view of the COVID-19 pandemic and potential socio-economic implications?
2. How can effective partnerships among Member States, the private sector, Civil Society Groups, Non-governmental Organizations, development partners, the media and individuals enhance implementation of policies that address population and development concerns?
3. How can we sensitize countries on the importance of using the Population Policy as a platform to monitor and track progress at achieving global and regional commitments to improve the health of women and girls including creating opportunities for young people to reach their potentials?

### **Expected Participants**

- Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations, H.E Amina Mohammed;
- Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations, H.E Tijjani Muhammad-Bande;
- African Union Representative at the UN, H.E Fatima Kyari Mohammed;
- Deputy Executive Director of the UNFPA, Dr. Diene Keita;
- President/CEO Population Reference Bureau, Washington D.C, Mr. Jeff Jordan;
- Discussions/Dialogue by Member States of the UN;
- Civil society organizations;
- Donors/Partners;
- The media; and
- Nigerian Community in the U.S