

*Check against delivery*

***Statement by  
Ambassador Samuel Isa, Deputy Permanent  
Representative of Ethiopia to the UN  
at  
57<sup>th</sup> Session of International Commission on  
Population and Development (ICPD);***

***New York,  
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**Thank you Chairman,**

The SDGs highlight the vital link between population dynamics and development outcomes. Factors like population size, growth rate, and migration patterns significantly influence progress towards SDG targets, particularly in healthcare, education, gender equality, urbanization, and environmental sustainability. The implementation of the ICPD impacts at least the implementation of 10 SDGs. Addressing challenges related to population and development requires collaborative efforts and international cooperation to implement effective policies and strategies.

**Mr. Chair,**

In line with United Nations Charter, the ICPD Programme of Action unequivocally affirms the sovereign right of each country to determine its own development path, in accordance with its national laws, development priorities, and cultural heritage, while respecting diverse religious and ethical values, and upholding universally recognized human rights. However, this fundamental principle is often undermined, as the international community continues to grapple with tendencies of undue interference in the political and cultural affairs of sovereign nations.

As stated in Principle 2 of the Programme of Action of the ICPD, people are the most important and valuable resource of any nation. Population policies that view population growth as a problem to be solved through fertility reduction measures need to be carefully balanced with the intrinsic worth and dignity of every human being. Such approaches are necessary to appreciate the value and potential of each person, and strengthen the very foundation of human rights and dignity.

**Mr. Chair,**

Ethiopia's Home-Grown Economic Reform, launched in 2018, aims to foster efficiency and introduce competition in key growth enabling sectors like energy, logistics, and telecom, and address macroeconomic imbalances. The Government of Ethiopia has also launched a 10-Year Development Plan, based on our 2019 Home-Grown Economic Reform, which runs from 2020 to 2030.

We are committed to achieving sustainable development and harnessing the demographic dividend through inclusive and equitable population and development policies. Our National Population Policy prioritizes food security, universal access to education, and healthcare. We have made significant strides in reducing maternal and child mortality, increasing access to education, and promoting equality between men and women. Ethiopia seeks to chart a development path that is sustainable and inclusive to accelerate poverty reduction and boost shared prosperity.

My delegation emphasizes that parents are the primary educators of their children, and family is the first school of values, and social responsibility. Parents' roles are irreplaceable and essential, and their rights and duties regarding their children's education should be respected, including their right to teach moral values according to their convictions. In this regard, Ethiopia's school feeding program has yielded impressive results, with considerable decrease in student dropout rates. Moreover, the initiative has generated employment opportunities, particularly for mothers, creating a positive ripple effect that benefits each family and supports the well-being of future generations.

With a view to realizing food security, the Ethiopian government has introduced the **National Wheat Program**, designed to elevate domestic wheat production. It is anchored in enhanced participation of small-scale farmers through cluster farming scheme and the expansion of irrigation.

Furthermore, our Prime Minister has initiated another notable flagship program, known as **National Green Legacy Initiative** with substantial endeavors to mitigate the detrimental impacts of climate change. This program bolsters the effort to realize food self-sufficiency by planting billions of fruit bearing trees every year.

**Mr. Chair,**

While we acknowledge that significant strides have been made in achieving the goals and objectives of the ICPD, the stark reality is that formidable challenges persist nationally and globally. Underdevelopment, poverty, migration, human trafficking, organized crime, conflicts, and humanitarian crises continue to affect societies. These pressing issues demand our collective attention and action. There is still much work to be done to fully realize the ICPD's vision and ensure a more equitable and sustainable future.

**In conclusion,** we recognize the critical role of international cooperation and partnerships in achieving our population and development goals. We call on the international community to support our efforts through technology transfer, knowledge exchange, capacity building and technical assistance by upholding its commitments. Together, we can harness the potential of our growing population and achieve sustainable development for all.

**I thank you.**