



REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

STATEMENT

DELIVERED BY

**MR PATRICK ZIMPITA, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY,
FINANCE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS**

**DURING
THE FIFTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF
THE COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

29TH APRIL TO 3RD MAY 2024

NEW YORK

**MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
LILONGWE 3**

APRIL-MAY 2024

Chairperson

Excellencies

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

Malawi aligns itself with the statement delivered by Angola on behalf of the African Group.

Madame Chair,

Let me congratulate you and the entire bureau for assuming the leadership of this 57th Session of the Commission on Population and Development. You can count on our full support during the deliberations of this session.

We cannot overemphasize the importance and relevance of this year's CPD session as we celebrate 30 years since the adoption of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Program of Action. This gathering, therefore, provides us with an opportunity to take stock of where we stand.

Madam Chair,

The Malawi Government has made positive strides in implementing the ICPD agenda within the national development framework and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). At the Nairobi Summit, Malawi adopted the ten commitments and the Action Plan has been mainstreamed in the Malawi national vision, the Malawi 2063 and in the third National Population Policy. Some of the notable achievements under the ICPD commitments include:

- Positive gains in educational attainment and political representation of women. The gender parity ratio in secondary school is now at 0.96 with free Primary education enrolment at 92%;
- Women's representation in parliament is at 23 per cent from only 6% from in 1993;
- The total fertility rate (TFR) has reduced from 6.7 children per woman's lifetime in the early 1990s to 4 children per women's lifetime as of 2023;
- Maternal mortality rate has reduced from over 1000 deaths per 100,000 live births in the 1990s to 380 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2020;
- Under-five mortality has reduced from 234 deaths per 1000 live births in the 1990s to 42 deaths per 1000 live births by 2022;
- Coverage of Youth-friendly health services (YFHS) has increased from 65% in 2020 to 85% in 2024 ;
- Malawi has achieved a ten-fold increase in contraceptive prevalence rate from just over 7% in the 1990s to 65% among married women in 2022.
- Malawi is implementing a robust civil registration system and over 90% of Malawi adult population and about a third of all children have been registered and issued with a Legal unique digital identity number.

Madam Chair,

Despite these positive strides, there is still work that we as member states need to accomplish to meet the vision for humanity as set in the Program of Action. As we plan to proceed with the Program of Action, we need critical reforms that will enable us to accelerate the achievement of the vision at global, regional, and national levels. Some of the areas that require attention include:

- Identification of Financial resources to support implementation of population interventions;
- Strengthening partnerships at all levels with, civil society, and international organizations to leverage resources;
- Strengthening population data systems and the use of population estimates and projections to inform policy development;
- Build Capacity for the Population Units and Councils to enable a well-coordinated population intervention; and

As we move forward, we need to recommit to the principles of the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action, which emphasizes human rights, gender equality, and the empowerment of individuals and communities.

We need to harness the transformative potential of technology, innovation, and data to inform evidence-based policies and interventions that leave no one behind

In conclusion, I reaffirm Malawi's commitment to accelerating the people-centered vision expressed in the ICPD. Therefore, on behalf of my delegation, I urge fellow member states and all relevant stakeholders to recognize the ICPD Program of Action as a critical success factor in the development and implementation of future development programs.

I THANK YOU.