



REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

STATEMENT
BY
HER EXCELLENCE CARLA LOVEIRA ON THE
OCCASION OF THE 57th SESSION OF THE
COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND
DEVELOPMENT

New York, April 29th - May 3rd, 2024

H.E. Ms. Noemí Espinoza Madrid, Chair of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD)

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. Mozambique is profoundly honored to address this assembly on the occasion of the 57th Session of the CPD.

2. We commend you, Madam Chair, for the brilliant manner in which you are steering over our work. You can count on our support for the success of your Chairmanship.

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen

3. This session is taking place in a very important moment for the advancement of population and development agenda, as this year marks the 30th

anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development.

4. This milestone offers a distinct momentum to stake stock of progress achieved so far, address the emerging challenges, recommit ourselves to the noble objectives of the ICPD and, more importantly, to the renew our collective determination to accelerate the implementation of the Programme of Action.

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen

5. The ICPD Programme of Action outlined the path towards valuing the population factor as a central element of the development process. In the post-Cairo period, the human person began to be considered not only as the creator of wealth, but also as the main beneficiary from it.

6.30 years have elapsed, but the people-centered development approach agreed in Cairo, continues to be valid and timely. The adoption of the Declaration on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the ICPD, by consensus, confirms its vitality.

7. With that in mind, Mozambique managed to achieve promising results in the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, resulting in the improvement of the living standards of its people, especially in the empowerment of women, girls and young people in general

8. Our well-being and development indicators have shown noteworthy progress over the last 10 years.

- Maternal mortality has declined from 500 deaths in 2007 to 427 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2017.
- Infant mortality has also declined from 135 in 1997 to 39 deaths in 2022 per thousand live births.

- Life expectancy increased from 51 years in 2007 to 54 years in 2017, and for women it increased from 53 to 57 years;
- Illiteracy rate declined from 51% in 2007 to 39% in 2017, with significant impact on women.

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9. The Mozambican population is currently estimated at 32.4 million inhabitants, of which 52% are women. Of this total, just over half are under the age of 17, which represents the potential for the development of our country.

10. Currently, more than 2 million households, representing 34% of the total of approximately 6 million families in our country, are headed by women, which demonstrates how important their role in society is.

11. Despite progress in promoting the well-being of the population, particularly women and girls, we still face challenges that require us to reinforce actions that result in expanding access for women and men to education, training and health services, water and productive resources.
12. We note with concern the existence of more than 11 thousand children who head households, which requires the government and society in general to pay greater attention to their protection.
13. In addition, gender-based violence is a matter of concern for Mozambique. 45% of women in our country have suffered some type of violence, most of the time perpetrated by family members or acquaintances.
14. In the same vein, the fight against premature unions continues to be our priority, bearing in mind that 41% of girls marry or live in marital unions before the age of 18 years.

Excellencies

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15. We recognize the emerging challenges and existing opportunities for acceleration, focusing on population dynamics with a view to galvanizing efforts to achieve sustainable development.
16. As a matter of fact, the ICPD goals are critical to meet the SDGs and the Africa's Agenda 2063. Those are complementary and mutually reinforcing agendas toward the much-needed people centered development.
17. We also recognize that strengthening data and statistical systems that guide decision-making on the ICPD, SDGs, financing and investments remain crucial.

18. We reiterate Mozambique's firm dedication to the cause of harnessing the demographic dividend, through strengthening data systems and prioritizing family planning and sexual and reproductive health, particularly for adolescents and young people, through free access to family planning methods in our public health system.

Madam Chair

19. As I conclude, I would like to reiterate that Mozambique stands united with the world to promote the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the ICPD Program of Action.

20. Uphold the ICPD Programm of Action is not an option. Rather, it is a collective imperative to transform the challenging global population landscape into a driving force for inclusive and sustainable development, leaving no one behind.

I thank you!