



# **STATEMENT**

**Delivered BY**

**HONOURABLE NASIR ISA KWARRA  
CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL POPULATION COMMISSION**

**ON**

**Assessing the status of implementation of the  
Programme of Action of the International Conference  
on Population and Development and its contribution to  
the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for  
Sustainable Development during the decade of action  
and delivery for sustainable development  
(NATIONAL ASSESSMENT)**

**AT THE**

**57th SESSION OF COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND  
DEVELOPMENT (CPD)**

**NEW YORK, APRIL 29 – MAY 3, 2024**

## **Chair**

On behalf of the Nigeria delegation, I congratulate you and members of the Bureau on your appointment and wish you success in the conduct of the session. Nigeria, pledges its support to you and the Bureau throughout your tenure of work.

This year's theme affords us, the opportunity to reflect and evaluate the status of our performance and give account of our stewardship at fulfilling the commitments to implement the Programme of Action (PoA) of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), that has now span three-decades as well as use the evidence of our efforts to measure our progress at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 (*just 5 years from now*).

Nigeria commends the Secretary General for the comprehensive reports on the theme with insights on performances and progress attained across regions in the thirty-decades of the implementation of the Programme of Action (PoA) of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and on its contributions to achieving 2030 Agenda.

## **Chair**

Nigeria's status of progress may not reflect realities at this time due to the postponement in the conduct of the anticipated Population and Housing Census and the yet to be released 2023 Demographic and Health Survey Report, which would have provided current data and information shifts that may have occurred.

However, Nigeria's population has more than doubled shortly before Cairo (1994), from 88.9 million in 1991 to currently estimated at over 223 million in 2023 with an inter-censal annual growth rate of 3.2%. This place Nigeria among the 8 countries that will contribute to world population growth between now and 2050. Seventy percent of the population is under the age of 30. Our experience in fertility decline is unimpressive, where the total fertility rate (TFR) declined slightly from 6.0 per woman in 1990 to 5.3 per woman in 2018 and modern contraceptive prevalence rate (mCPR) improved insignificantly from 10% in 2013 to 12% in 2018, amidst high unmet needs for family planning at 19% in 2018.

Almost half (49.3%) of the population are females out of which half of them are in their reproductive ages (15-49 years). These population segments are central in the implementation of the PoA of the ICPD in Nigeria.

Forty-three percent of the females get married by age 18; while 23 percent of teenagers (age 15-19 years) are already experiencing motherhood. Preventable maternal death is still one of the highest in the world – declined from 545/100,000 live births in 2008 to 512/100,000 live births in 2018.

Nigeria has made improvements in antenatal care (ANC) that meets the WHO recommendation (4+ visits) from 47% in 2003 to 57% in 2018; while 43% of births were delivered by skilled birth attendants (2018 NDHS) compared to 38% in 2013. Under5 mortality reduced from 201/1,000 Live Births in 2003 to 132/1,000 Live Births in 2018. However, 37% of our Under5 are stunted currently due to malnutrition. The main challenge associated with not meeting anticipated milestones is low investments in health and education.

### **Chair,**

Overall, Nigeria's performance on the assessment is ***“Behind Schedule”*** for most of the thematic areas of the PoA, due to disruptions by the COVID-19 pandemic, incessant challenges of insecurity, leading to sustained humanitarian crisis, high debt burden and high rates of debt servicing.

## **Chair,**

In order to fast-track progress towards accelerating efforts to improve our performance regarding the ICPD PoA, Nigeria has carried out several actions in terms of policies and intervention including among others:

- i. Revised its National Population Policy twice – in 2004 and 2022;
- ii. Also revised its National Health Policy thrice – 2004 and 2016;
- iii. Developed and implemented National Strategic Plan on Adolescent and Youth Health, 2006 and 2018-2025;
- iv. Revised the National Health Insurance Act in 2022 to support realizing Universal Health Coverage (UHC);
- v. Implements the Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, Adolescent Health and Nutrition strategy – to improve performance towards achieving SDG 3 with specific focus on reducing maternal, newborn and child mortality and address adolescent health;
- vi. Implements a current National Development Plan (2021-2025);
- vii. Implements a national Strategy for accelerating Human Capital Development, since 2022;

- viii. Implements a roadmap on harnessing the Demographic Dividend for Sustainable Development at the national level since 2017 and at the sub-national levels in six States and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT);
- ix. Implements interventions to lift 100 million of its citizens out of poverty by 2030 – focused on achieving SDG 1;
- x. Domesticate the Child Rights Act in 34 out of 36 states and the FCT;
- xi. Stem of HIV/AIDS as Nigeria is on the verge of achieving the UNAIDS 95 95 95 targets;
- xii. Implements the National Policy on Sexuality Education and now called Family Life and HIV/AIDS Education;
- xiii. Recruited and deployed 2,497 doctors, midwives, nurses, and Community Health Extension Workers in the last six months to bridge the manpower shortage in the health sector;
- xiv. Implements the National Contraceptives Basket Fund since 2011;
- xv. Implements the National Guidelines on State funded Procurement of Family Planning Commodities, to bridge the funding gap for Family Planning.

## Chair

***To accelerate progress and consolidate on the gains attained with the implementation of the PoA of the ICPD,*** in the Post ICPD30 PoA agenda!! include:

- i. Accelerate investments in health, environment, and humanitarian interventions;
- ii. Fully integrate of population dynamics into national development interventions and foster implementation through the National Policy on Population and the National Health Policy;
- iii. Address the challenges and take advantage of urbanization;
- iv. Implement education for All, particularly for girls up to tertiary level;
- v. Address Gender Equality, Equity and Empowerment of Women including issues of multi-dimensional poverty and gender-based violence, and harmful practices such as female genital mutilation and child marriage;
- vi. Scale up interventions about the Reproductive Health of Adolescents, Young People and Women, specially to accelerate Family Planning practices to enable Nigeria to achieve zero unmet need for family planning and maternal death by 2030;
- vii. Accelerate harnessing the Demographic Dividend – develop improve practices/actions/interventions and

innovative investments ***focused on young people*** in three key aspects; health, education and training/skills acquisition and creation of decent jobs to accelerate opportunities to alter our prevailing age-structure;

- viii. Accelerate the implementation of the National Guidelines on State funded Procurement of Family Planning Commodities, to bridge the funding gap for Family Planning;
- ix. Prioritize Human Capital Development by aligning educational curriculum with the global labour market dynamics and the changing landscape in technology and innovations;
- x. Prompt an effective political will to mobilize adequate and sufficient domestic and international resources to finance development efforts in order to accelerate the full implementation of the ICPD PoA in Nigeria;
- xi. Promote inclusive Partnerships, including taking advantage of the North-South, South-South and Triangular Cooperation to access modern technology, innovations, strengthen systems/institutions and build capacities for programmes implementations;
- xii. Improve governance and ascribe to accountability and transparency;



- xi Adopt strategies for effective Monitoring and Evaluation of Post ICPD30 PoA targets through generating quality, reliable, timely and well disaggregated demographic data and prompt researches;
- xii Sustain the spirit of multilateralism as the best alternative for realizing commitments regarding the ICPD PoA and its unfinished agenda and the 2030 agenda.

**Chair and distinguished delegates,**

As I conclude, Nigeria expresses its profound gratitude to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for the sustained partnership in the implementation of the ICPD PoA over the three decades and we look forward to furthering the partnership - ***“to transform the lives of our people for the emergence of a healthy and quality population for a peaceful and prosperous nation”.***

I thank you.