



## **Rwanda National Statement to the 57th Session of the Commission on Population and Development**

**Delivered by Deputy Director General of the National Institute of Statistics, Mr. Ivan Murenzi**

**Madam Chair,**

I am pleased to deliver this statement on behalf of Rwanda.

We wish to begin by thanking you and the members of the Bureau for your leadership and tireless effort in seeking a consensual outcome.

**Madam Chair,**

In view of the current session of CPD57, it is important to look back into the lifetime of ICPD@30 as we assess the progress made and the challenges encountered.

Firstly, Rwanda renews its unwavering commitment to advancing the ICPD Programme of Action as it is clearly embedded into the Rwanda Vision 2050 that follows principles of sustainable development and inclusive growth.

Rwanda recognizes that sustainable development is contingent upon demographic shifts as they continue to shape our future. We fully understand that population trends, including growth rates and age structures, profoundly influence socio-economic development and sustainability. Rwanda underscores the importance of integrating the ICPD programme of Action into national policies and strategies and promoting investments in young people to harness the demographic dividend.

Secondly, over the past decade, Rwanda has achieved remarkable strides in critical domains such as child and adolescent health, maternal and newborn care, and reproductive health. Noteworthy advancements include a significant increase in modern contraceptive usage, rising from 48% in 2014/15 to 58% in 2020, and a decline in the maternal mortality ratio from 476 in 2010 to 203 in 2019/20. Child mortality has also dropped from 50 in 2020 to 45 in 2019/20.

Considering the already demonstrated commitment to the realization of the ICPD Programme of Action, we reaffirm our commitment to achieve SDG 3.7 by 2030.

Thirdly, Rwanda has demonstrated a robust dedication to the generation of population data, exemplified by its consistent backing of the Population and Housing Census alongside specialized surveys. The census has been consistently done every 10 years since 1978, with the most recent one in 2022. In 2017, Rwanda unveiled its Data Revolution policy, signaling a strategic endeavor to cultivate an innovative, data-driven industry conducive to catalyzing rapid social and economic progress.

What is clear to us is that megatrends are exposing new population data needs, including for a better understanding of human-environmental interactions and population vulnerabilities to climate change; the scale and drivers of human migration; changes in behavioral and social norms, including changing fertility aspirations; emerging trends in health and well-being and new pandemic risks; the costs and benefits of new modes for health care delivery; and the impact of technology on fear, misogyny and violence, among others. [SG report, para 67]

There is a need to strengthen population data systems and the use of population estimates and projections in policymaking so that all countries can anticipate and prepare for future demographic trends and have the data to identify and reach those furthest behind. The systematic use of population data and projections is critical for countries to understand the changing characteristics and needs of the population, and robust registry-based national data systems, including gender statistics and disaggregated data to track inequalities. [SG report, para 83]

**Madam Chair,**

As I conclude, Rwanda believes that as the 2030 deadline for the SDGs draws closer, keeping the promise of the ICPD Programme of Action assumes even greater urgency. The international community must act united to ensure that people-centered development remains at the center of the discussions Post 2030.

For Rwanda, ICPD PoA, is not just a mere document but rather a useful and valuable road map that aligns well with Rwanda's development journey.

We stand ready to collaborate with our global partners, sharing experiences and best practices to address the complex interplay of population dynamics and development.

**Thank you for your attention.**