

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA



Fifty-seventh session at United Nations Headquarters in New York

from

29 April to 3 May 2024.

NATIONAL STATEMENT DELIVERED BY:

HON. NASSOR MAZRUI, MINISTER OF HEALTH

- ***Your Excellency Ms. Noemi Espinoza Madrid, Ambassador of Honduras and Chair of the 57th session of the Commission on Population and Development,***
- ***Excellency, Colleagues, Distinguished Delegates***

It is with profound gratitude and a sense of responsibility that I address the esteemed delegates gathered here today at the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Population and Development. As the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania, I extend warm greetings from H.E. Samia Suluhu, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, and all Tanzanians. I also commend the UN System in general, and all delegates gathered here today for your dedication to advancing our collective goals.

Madam Chair,

The United Republic of Tanzania, in alignment with global priorities, stresses the significance of elevating the population and development agenda in international decision-making processes. Despite the progress achieved within the last three decades in alignment with the vision outlined by the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), persistent disparities call for heightened political dedication and increased resources to dismantle barriers hindering the advancement of marginalized populations such as women, girls, and individuals facing poverty, discrimination, and violence.

In the evolving landscape shaped by global megatrends and shifting demographics, it is imperative to harmonize efforts toward sustainable development grounded in principles of human rights. As the population and development agenda assumes a central role in influencing future global decisions, fostering fresh perspectives and fostering collaborative partnerships are essential to reigniting commitment to the fundamental values of the ICPD.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Tanzania recognizes the profound influence of population dynamics on the country's progress and has achieved significant milestones in advancing the well-being of its people. In the healthcare sector, Tanzania has made remarkable strides in enhancing its infrastructure, with 538 health facilities built or refurbished, particularly in underserved rural areas. This expansion has greatly improved access to essential health supplies, with a coverage rate now standing at an impressive 90%. Successes in combatting diseases like HIV/AIDS and Malaria showcase Tanzania's dedication to public health, culminating in the prestigious polio-free certification received

in 2015, together we can women and girls first and achieve zero preventable maternal deaths.

Moreover, Tanzania has displayed a firm resolve to tackle gender disparities, with women comprising 37% of parliamentary representatives. Legislative mandates requiring Local Government Authorities to allocate a portion of revenue toward empowering women, youth, and persons with disabilities exemplify Tanzania's commitment to fostering gender equality and social inclusivity. By empowering women and youth through key leadership positions at various government levels, Tanzania has fostered a conducive environment for effective governance and policy implementation.

Nevertheless, Tanzania is cognizant of remaining hurdles in areas such as transportation, housing, adolescent pregnancy, climate change resilience, poverty, and income disparity. Continuous efforts are being made to address these challenges, with a particular focus on enhancing educational opportunities and ensuring access to water and energy resources. These initiatives are aimed at alleviating social and economic burdens, especially for vulnerable groups like women and children, underscoring Tanzania's commitment to sustainable development and inclusive growth.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Tanzania, with a population of 61.7 million according to the 2022 Population and Housing Census and projected continued growth, is poised to become one of Africa's top three countries by population by 2050, with over 50% of our population under 25 years old. Recognizing this critical demographic landscape, Tanzania is committed to increasing investment in health, education, empowerment, and employment to achieve our national goals

and aspirations, especially focusing on empowering disadvantaged youth, particularly women, integral to our development vision.

Specifically, URT will continue undertaking strategic and accelerated interventions that strike a balance between population dynamics and resource availability. Community-level interventions will focus on improving access to healthcare, especially reproductive health, while policy and decision-making efforts will prioritize practical orientations and understanding of population trends' economic implications.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The future of our world relies heavily on how we navigate the interaction between population trends and development outcomes. The decisions we make today will influence the progress and well-being of generations to follow, impacting the strength and success of nations globally. Therefore, I urge all collaborators and concerned parties to uphold the promises set forth in the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) of 1994, and to further strengthen and maintain these commitments while addressing any remaining obstacles.

I express sincere appreciation to the United Nations system, including UNFPA, and all contributors to development for their ongoing assistance. I call for sustained teamwork and unity as we jointly strive toward inclusive and sustainable development, ensuring that no one is left behind. Let us move forward with unwavering dedication and resolve to construct a more promising future for all.

Thank you.