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# **STATEMENT TO THE FIFTY-SEVEN (57<sup>TH</sup>) SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

**New York**

**April, 2024**

## **Chairperson and distinguished delegates,**

On behalf of the Zambian Delegation, I wish to congratulate you and other members of the Bureau for the successful 57<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development.

Zambia welcomes the holding of this Session which aims at *“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”*.

## **Chairperson**

Zambia has one of the fastest growing population in the world at a rate of 3.5 percent per annum. This has resulted in half of the population being children below 15 years. In this regard, Zambia has prioritised harnessing its demographic dividend by implementing socio-economic reforms and policies needed to achieve inclusive development.

To this effect, Zambia has increased funding in the health sector, education and skills development, expanded social protection programmes, and introduced reforms to stimulate economic growth. Between 2022 and 2023 the Zambian Government employed more than 37,000 teachers and 15, 000 health workers.

## **Chairperson**

Zambia has also made progress in promoting dignity and equity by implementing policies such as the free education policy, the re-entry policy and the population policy. Further, to safeguard

human rights, new laws such as the Children's Code Act, which criminalises child marriage have been enacted.

The Government has furthermore rolled-out The Life Skills and Health-Education curriculum enabling young people to live productive lives in the future.

Zambia has made strides in integrating population dynamics into all development planning processes thereby forecasting the future needs of the population. Data collection and coordination have also improved as we have continued to undertake periodic national surveys and censuses as well as improved on our administrative information systems to enhance availability of accurate and quality real time data.

### **Chairperson**

Lastly, Zambia would like to stress the importance of international and national partnerships in addressing interconnected challenges with adequate resources to fulfil the country's commitment to a full implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. This commitment was further demonstrated by Zambia hosting the successful 10-year continental review of the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development (AADPD+10) in November 2023.

**I thank you.**