



**Statement by Honourable Dr. Douglas Mombeshora,
Minister of Health and Child Care of the Republic of
Zimbabwe at the 57th session of the Commission on
Population and Development (CPD57)**

New York: 30 April 2024

SALUTATIONS

- I am honoured to represent the Government of Zimbabwe at this crucial 57th session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD57). As we gather here today, we are reminded of the importance of addressing population growth and development in a holistic and sustainable manner.
- Almost 30 years after the landmark ICPD Conference in Cairo, Zimbabwe has made significant strides in implementing the ICPD Programme of Action, and we are committed to continuing our efforts to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health, reduce maternal and child mortality, and promote gender equality.
- Following the Nairobi Summit in 2019, Zimbabwe established a multi-sectoral National ICPD Taskforce to

coordinate and periodically review the implementation of the 12 Commitments made by the Government of Zimbabwe.

- As a precursor to this ICPD30 commemorations and the CPD57, the National ICPD Taskforce, organized a High-Level Meeting on April 22, 2024, to reflect on the progress we have made as a country in implementing the ICPD Programme of Action.
- Based on the discussion at that High Level Review Meeting, Zimbabwe has made significant progress towards implementing the ICPD Programme of Action. Our achievements include:
 - reduced maternal mortality from 651 in 2010 to 362 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2022, a major achievement that, also, confirms our commitment to ensure that no women should die while giving life.
 - The Government stepped up financing for contraceptives through increased domestic resources budget allocation for Family Planning. We have invested USD3million in the last 2 years and have already initiated USD2million worth of contraceptive procurement for this year using Government resources. In this regard, Zimbabwe became the first Country in the East and Southern Africa Region under the UNFPA Supplies Global Partnership to receive

Match Funding to complement Government's investment in family planning. We are, also, currently working on National Health Insurance scheme which will reduce catastrophic health spending by our people.

- Without data we cannot plan for our population and cannot address urbanization and migration, poverty, access to health care and education, gender equality, patterns of production and consumption, and environmental degradation. Through the successful Population and Housing Census conducted in 2022, the Government of Zimbabwe is mining the data to address these issues.

- These achievements notwithstanding, we still face significant challenges in the implementation of the Programme of Action in the following key areas:

1) Adolescents and Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health:

As a nation, we are dealing with high rates of adolescent pregnancy, which require proactive and multisectoral measures to address them. Teenage pregnancy negatively impacts on our effort to accelerate ICPD Programme of Action as it can result in increased maternal mortality, reduced access to education for the girl child, increased health risks among the many harmful effects on development. Addressing the needs of and supporting

young people's meaningful engagement is an accelerator for the attainment of the ICPD Programme of Action goals

2.) The adverse impacts of climate change crisis

We have been hit by natural disasters of late; Cyclone Idai, the COVID-19 pandemic; cholera outbreak and El Nino induced Drought which continue to exacerbate vulnerabilities and inequalities and have a disproportionate impact on women and girls and on our communities. We are continuously working on strengthening our emergency preparedness and response, to create a conducive environment for disaster risk reduction initiatives and for a comprehensive and strategic approach to climate change adaptation, mitigation, financing, and environmental education.

3. Financing for Sexual and Reproductive Health:

The importance of domestic financing in accelerating progress towards the ICPD Program of Action cannot be overstated. As a country, we are committed to increasing budget allocations for health, access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, information and education, and social protection for our citizens.

In conclusion, let me reaffirm the commitment of Zimbabwe to the Programme of Action of the ICPD, rights and choices for all, investments in youth and their meaningful engagement, high quality disaggregated data and the key actions to address the

unfinished business of the Programme of Action, ensuring no one and no place is left behind.

I thank you.