



REPUBLIC OF NAURU

STATEMENT

National Statement to be delivered by the H.E. Lara Daniel, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Nauru at the United Nations at the Plenary of the 58th session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD58)

Wednesday, 9th April 2025
UNHQ, New York, USA

Check against delivery

Mr./Madam President,
All protocols observed.

Since the adoption of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in 1994, Nauru and our fellow Pacific Island Developing States have consistently emphasized the vital link between environmental protection and sustainable human development. Regrettably, these warnings have too often gone unheeded.

We meet today amidst cascading global crises—including the growing threat of climate change—which have placed unprecedented strain on our health systems and our capacity to deliver essential services. For Nauru, addressing population and development challenges requires urgent action on three fronts: climate resilience, ocean sustainability, and innovative financing.

Climate change is the single greatest threat to our existence. Its impacts have already begun displacing populations, increasing health vulnerabilities, and driving the migration of skilled professionals—including health specialists—who are vital to our national systems. Our hospital infrastructure is being stretched beyond capacity, and the burden on our health workforce continues to grow.

The ICPD Programme of Action remains a valuable guide in improving the quality of life and upholding the rights of all individuals. Yet, despite our commitment, Nauru struggles to deliver on these promises due to financial constraints, depleted infrastructure, and critical health workforce shortages, particularly in specialized care and midwifery. Our geographical remoteness further compounds these challenges.

The shortage of skilled health personnel, including nurses and midwives, is felt across the Pacific. Some countries have resorted to recruiting from within the region or re-engaging retired professionals. These efforts are made possible through the support of our development partners, notably the Government of Australia. We reaffirm the call made at the 4th International Conference on SIDS: to build and retain a trained, motivated, and adequately resourced health workforce.

Excellencies, the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent underscores our collective regional commitment to health, well-being, equity, and human rights. Political leadership plays a key role in ensuring this vision becomes reality.

Yet, strong leadership alone is not enough. We must also invest in robust health data systems to support planning, policy, and monitoring. Many Pacific countries—including Nauru—face challenges in managing the growing demand for data from donors and partners, often without the capacity to respond effectively. Strengthening national statistical and information systems is critical to sustainable development.

Despite these challenges, we have made important progress. With the support of the Government of Australia, Nauru has seen:

- A rise in births attended by skilled personnel
- Increased antenatal and postnatal care for women
- A modernized maternal ward at our only hospital

We are also grateful to UNFPA's Pacific Subregional Office, whose training and capacity-building initiatives have been instrumental in improving maternal and reproductive health services.

Excellencies,

Nauru has adopted national policies in health, education, gender, youth, ageing, and disability.

But without adequate resources, these policies cannot deliver results. We must turn good intentions into action.

Let us be clear: investing in maternal and child health is a pathway to economic growth, community well-being, and intergenerational equity. We call on development partners, the private sector, and philanthropic institutions to join us in these efforts.

Only together can we build healthier, more resilient societies—where every person, regardless of geography, can live a life of dignity and opportunity.

I thank you.