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STATEMENT

BY

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DURING THE

**58TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON POPULATION
AND DEVELOPMENT**

New York

April 2025

Chairperson,

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Zambia, I extend our appreciation to the Commission on Population and Development for convening this crucial 58th session. This year's theme holds particular significance as it aligns with Zambia's goals to enhance access to healthcare, address health disparities, and promote well-being across all demographics regardless of economic background.

Zambia aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the African Group. Further, my delegation takes note of the Secretary General's report on this session's theme and its recommendations.

Chairperson,

Zambia has made notable progress in improving health outcomes. For example, the under-5 mortality rate has dropped from 191 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1992 to 42 in 2024. Maternal mortality has also seen a decline, from 729 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2002 to 187 in 2024.

Additionally, Zambia has significantly expanded access to HIV prevention and treatment, surpassing the 95-95-95 targets. This achievement reflects the government's commitment to improving public health and ensuring better outcomes for those affected by HIV. Although Zambia has made progress, challenges remain, particularly in addressing non-communicable diseases, reducing teenage pregnancies, and strengthening the health system to achieve Universal Health Coverage.

Chairperson

To address these challenges, Government is implementing policies including the National Health Strategic Plan aimed at reducing NCDs. This will be done through strengthened multi-sector collaboration, promoting healthy lifestyles and enhanced early detection and management of NCDs at all levels of care.

Chairperson

You may also wish to note that Zambia is investing in primary healthcare, expanding national health insurance coverage, addressing the health workforce shortage and improving infrastructure to both prevent and respond to diseases outbreaks. Further, Government is integrating climate resilience into health planning to address the adverse health impacts of climate change and solarisation of public infrastructure including health facilities to improve health service delivery.

As we reflect on the progress made and the challenges that remain, Zambia reiterates its steadfast commitment to the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action. We call upon all stakeholders to join hands in building a world where all peoples enjoy good health, equal rights, opportunities, and a future free from discrimination and violence. We should all join in fighting harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriages.

Chairperson

In conclusion, I wish to reaffirm Zambia's commitment to ensuring healthy lives and promoting the well-being for all by improving the integration of population dynamics in development planning processes and population data generation.

I thank you.