

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Delegates,

Thank you, Chair for giving me the floor. The Angolan Delegation would like to add its voice and join other delegations in congratulating you on your election to the Chair and we are confident that under your guidance and leadership the work of the Commission will achieve its objectives. We also extend congratulations to the other members of the bureau on their election.

Also, my delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by Bolivia on behalf of the G77 and China.

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the Republic of Angola, I would like to express the thanks of my government to the Secretary-General and the ICPD Beyond 2014 Secretariat for presenting us with this report on progress to date in *Framework of Actions for the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 (E/CN.9/2014/4)*.

The review provides a unique opportunity to present a comprehensive global analysis of the current state of the world's population and its development, with concrete recommendations for accelerated action.

The evidence presented by the review overwhelmingly supports the ICPD consensus that the respect, protection, promotion and fulfilment of human rights are necessary preconditions to improving the development, dignity and well-being of all people necessary for the development of their resilience and create the conditions under which they can achieve their full potential.

Angola calls for a comprehensive global review to contribute to the acceleration of the implementation and achievement of the Programme of Action beyond 2014.

Distinguished Delegates,

The ICPD agenda was a result of social movements working together with governments and the UN and these partnerships have been crucial for implementing the Program of Action over the past 20 years. Working together, we can put human rights and gender equality at the center of the ICPD review process and the post 2015 agenda.

In this context, Angola has been consistently addressing population issues with due consideration of its contribution to socio economic development and improvement of quality of life. There have been interventions in social sectors in the country such as reproductive health, education and sanitation as well as improvement of productive employment in all sectors of economy and descent work for our people, particularly women and youths. In this connection, Angola has been implementing policies, strategies and programmes related to population for sustained economic growth and sustainable development in line with the Cairo Programme of Action.

Indeed, since population issues are multi-sectoral and multi-dimensional in nature, they are intrinsically related to sustainable economic growth and development. It is in this regard Mr. Chairman, that all sectoral policies become crucially relevant to population issues. Such policies in Angola include:

- Address the needs of adolescents and youth. The Government has continued to strengthen the national policy framework for promoting youth development **and** empowerment with a thrust on skills training and mind-set change that enhances employability, self-employment and productivity, through the Integrated National Youth Policy.
- Likewise, the government has not lost sight of gender equality and women empowerment. In Angola, Empowerment of women and involvement in national development is evident at all levels and is mainstreamed in the education system, skills upgrading and participation in the political

platform not as mere observers, but as leaders securing competitive and special seats in the Parliament and government.

Angola has a special government Ministry focused on gender — The Ministry for Family and the Promotion of Women - whose mandate is to coordinate all gender related activities and women empowerment.

- In the health sector, Angola has been making progress by upgrading municipal, regional and national health facilities. We have managed to reduce maternal and child mortality through interventions and support from our partners of which we appreciate. Also, Angola is implementing the National Strategic Plan for Reproductive Health, and the Healthcare Program to prevent and control HIV / AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections, as a means to mitigate that inequalities in universal access to reproductive health services, including the strengthening of the health system in both rural and urban areas.
- In addition, the government created a specific Population Unit within the Ministry of Planning and Territorial Development which will be responsible, in conjunction with other Ministerial Departments and the civil society, for the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the National Population Policy.

We went further to address the operation of those policies by strategies and plans to ensure sustainable development of the country. The following programmes are currently implemented through:

- National Development Plan 2013 — 2017;
- Sanitation Development Plan 2013 — 2015;
- National Youth Plan 2014 — 2017;

- Municipal Integrated Programme to Combat Poverty and for Rural Development;
- Implementation of the Law on Domestic Violence;
- National Policy for Gender Equality and Equity.

Chairman, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The ICPD Beyond 2014 review process provides a unique opportunity to forge a new global position to address the persistent and emerging challenges of population and development, and Angola believes that the issues under discussion during this year's session are of crucial importance not only for my country but also for the international community as a whole.

Finally, in order to succeed we discourage any attempt to impose concepts or notions pertaining to social matters, including private individual conduct, cultural values, that fall outside the international agreed legal human rights legal framework.

Thank you for your attention