

STATEMENT BY
MR. STEPHEN WAINAINA
ECONOMIC PLANNING SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF DEVOLUTION AND PLANNING

ON
KENYA'S ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES IN THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ICPD PLAN OF ACTION BY 2014

UNDER AGENDA ITEM 4
(GENERAL DEBATE ON NATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN POPULATION
MATTERS: ASSESSMENT ON THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT)

DURING
The 47TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND
DEVELOPMENT

AT

UN HEADQUARTERS-NEW YORK
FROM 7TH – 11TH APRIL 2014

Mr. Chair,

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Bolivia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China as well as the statement by the distinguished representative of Kenya on behalf of the African Group.

On behalf of Kenya and my fellow delegates, it is a great honour for us to attend this 47th UN Session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) on the International Conference on Population and Development. I wish to congratulate the members of the Bureau who continue to skillfully steer the work of the Commission. Let me state from the onset that Kenya has been committed to the ICPD Programme of Action and indeed will continue doing so. It is my pleasure to share with you our achievements and challenges during implementation of the ICPD Plan of Action.

Mr. Chair,

In the area of **Population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development**, Kenya has put in place various policies and programmes incorporating population aspects in national, sectoral and county Development plans and strategies. Key among them include a progressive and forward-looking developmental blue-print Vision 2030, and adoption of a human rights based Population Policy for National Development (2012) in line with the Constitution of Kenya 2010. In our regular budget we have assigned higher weights to Population size and poverty index in the allocation of decentralized funds. To mitigate the effects of climate change the percentage of forest cover has increased by 16 percent, from 108,900 hectares in 2008 to 127,100 hectares in 2012.

In the area of **population growth and structure**, Kenya has advanced towards the demographic transition as reflected in the declining population growth, with declining fertility and mortality rates. The population growth rate which had peaked at 3.9 percent per annum in 1979 declined to 2.9 percent in 2009. The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) declined from 8.1 births per woman in 1979 to 4.6 births per woman in 2009.

Mortality, as measured by the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) declined from 88 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1979 to 52 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2009.

Key achievements in policy formulation and implementation include the National Reproductive Health Policy (2007) which advocates for provision of youth-friendly reproductive health services and the National Youth Policy (2007) through enactment of National Youth Council Act 2009 which has established a robust National youth council, among others.

The key challenge is how to maintain the decline in fertility and mortality rates for Kenya to register a decline in population growth rate to the desired target of population replacement level of 2.1 children per woman in the near future. The other challenge is to deal with the issues related to the youth who constitute the largest segment of Kenya's population. This include matters of education, skills, employment and more importantly harnessing the demographic dividend.

Mr. Chair,

In the area of **urbanization and internal migration**, Kenya has recently adopted explicit policies and programmes to help achieve a more balanced spatial population distribution. Key among these are the Constitution of Kenya (2010) and the Citizenship and Immigration Act (2011).

The key challenge is how to address the annual urban population growth rate, estimated at 8 percent and the concerns of the populations living in informal settlements (slums), and estimated at about 60 percent of the urban population.

In the area of **international migration and development**, although international migration is minimal, Kenya has put in place legal frameworks to deal with international migration and development. Kenya has been collaborating with International Organization

of Migration (IOM), UNHCR and other development partners to protect and assist refugees and displaced persons access basic needs like food, shelter, health, education and social services.

Repatriation of refugees and addressing the root causes of terrorism remain the current major challenges and priorities in the coming years.

In the area of **family, wellbeing of individuals and societies**, the Constitution of Kenya (2010) elaborates on the rights of the individual, family and society including children, youth, the elderly and persons with disabilities. In addition, Kenya has put in place policies and strategies key among them being the provision of free maternity care services in all public health facilities effective from June 2013.

In the area of **reproductive rights and reproductive health**, the Government has put in place a number of policy and legislative measures to enforce reproductive rights and to guide the provision of reproductive health services. The Constitution of Kenya (2010) affirms reproductive health rights and elaborates the rights of individuals, family and society. A notable outcome in the health sector is the reduction by half in the national HIV prevalence rate from an all-time high of 13.5 percent in 1998 to 5.6 in 2013.

The major challenge remains how to effectively monitor the implementation of the numerous legal measures to protect the reproductive rights of adolescents and youth.

Mr. Chair,

In the area of **gender equality, equity and empowerment of women**, key achievements include establishment of the National Gender and Equality Commission in 2011 to spearhead and address gender equity and equality issues and the Constitution of Kenya 2010 which stipulates that no one gender shall hold more than two thirds of

all public appointments; and, also creates other constitutional, legal and structural frameworks for the advancement of women's rights. Other notable achievements are the development and adoption of the National Gender and Development Policy and the new government's commitment on affirmative action committing a large percentage of national expenditure to the economic empowerment of women, persons with disabilities and the youth.

However, despite all these initiatives, disparities in gender equality, equity and the need for empowerment remain a challenge.

In the area of **population, development and education**, implementation of free primary education in 2003 has been a milestone that has resulted in universal access to education and improved girl to boy enrolment ratio to near parity by 2012. Also, the family planning and reproductive health programme has been re-positioned to address the unmet need for family planning services. Another key achievement is that the proportion of pupils starting Standard one who reach Standard 8 rose from 42.3 percent in 1990 to 80.3 percent in 2012, while the primary to secondary school transition rate rose from 64.1 percent in 2008 to 76.6 percent in 2012.

Key challenges remain in maintaining acceptable pupil-teacher ratios and minimizing dropouts hence raising completion rates.

Mr. Chair,

In the area of **crisis situation and emergency preparedness**, the country is implementing a number of policies, including the creation of a national disaster management unit in government.

Key challenges include mitigation against the effects of politically instigated violence, hosting large numbers of refugees, flooding and drought.

In the area of **resources mobilization, partnerships and coordination**, Kenya has developed the Kenya Joint Assistance Strategy to accelerate aid effectiveness in line with the Paris Declaration. Other key initiatives also include the development and adoption of the External Resources Policy (2007); a legal framework for public private partnership (PPP) and strengthening of governance structures which include the creation of 47 counties in Kenya.

In the area of **monitoring and evaluation mechanisms**, Kenya has put in place a National Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System (NIMES) to ensure that government programmes are implemented and evaluated in a synchronised manner at all levels of Government.

Let me reiterate that the Constitution of Kenya 2010 is a very progressive constitution with chapter four (4) dedicated to the Bill of rights. Most of the issues dealing with population especially human rights and development are well articulated.

In general, Kenya has made great strides in the development of policies and programmes to realize the goals of ICPD POA and this is reflected in the improvement of key population indicators for the country.

Distinguished delegates, let me conclude by noting that Kenya supports the Addis Ababa ICPD declaration and would like a progressive outcome of the 47th session on Population and Development that clearly paves the way for the Post ICPD 2014 Agenda. While we do not support extreme conservative or liberal positions, we strongly believe that the outcome of the meeting can adopt those policies and strategies that are in line with national laws and policy priorities.

Thank you very much.