



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Namibia to the United Nations
360 Lexington Avenue, Suite 1502, New York, NY 10017
Tel: (212) 685-2003 • Fax: (212) 685-1561 • E-mail: namibia@un.int

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STATEMENT

BY

PENDAPALA A. NAANDA
CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, A.I.

AT

THE 47TH SESSION
OF THE COMMISSION ON POPULATION
AND DEVELOPMENT

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

NEW YORK
10 APRIL 2014

Mr Chairman,

At the outset, let me join others in congratulating you and other members of the Bureau for the manner in which you have steered our deliberations at this 47th session of CPD.

I wish to align this statement with the statement delivered by Bolivia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and also that by Kenya on behalf of the Africa Group.

Mr Chairman,

Namibia welcomes the opportunity to participate in this Session, a landmark event that provides us with a platform to reflect on measures that should be taken to review current policy options but also seek ways to enhance our resolve in addressing challenges in the implementation of the Cairo Plan of Action.

Whilst considerable gains had been made since Cairo, challenges remain and therefore we should re-commit ourselves in addressing them. Accordingly, this event also provides an opportunity to all stakeholders to work towards a new global agenda and identify measures that would ensure that population and development becomes an integral part of the global development agenda beyond 2015.

Mr Chairman,

In this regard, Namibia reaffirms her commitments to key international instruments ratified nationally such as the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, which guarantees the dignity and equality of all humankind.

Based on the seeming underperformance of the health MDGs, particularly goals 4 and 5, *Namibia* had launched the Campaign for Accelerated Reductions in Maternal and Neonatal Morbidity and Mortality, developed policies in key areas of Population, Reproductive Health and gender equality. To ensure a speedier implementation, we had further adopted a Maternal Child Health roadmap and a GBV action plan to specifically address the plight of vulnerable women and children who for far too long continues to suffer at the hands of man who in essence must be their protector.

Mr, Chairman,

Our efforts and many other inventions by important partners have resulted in positive impacts on many areas of population and development significance. With family planning services increasing to levels with a positive multiplier effect across most health areas, the fertility ratio had substantial declined from 4.2 to 3.6 children per woman, taking Namibia to levels that rank amongst the lowest in the southern African region. Further, we had also seen a drop in teenage pregnancies, improved access to sexual and reproductive

information which in turn contributes enormously to a reduction of HIV prevalence. In terms of Mdg 4, demand promotion via efforts such as community mobilization and sensitization, has positively led to more and more women delivering in health facilities, currently standing at 81%.

Mr Chairman,

With regard to financing, Namibia, in line with the Abuja commitments, continues to progressively expand the share of domestic resources allocated to the health sector, currently standing at above 10 % of the annual national budget of which a significant share, sadly only finances HIV/Aids related programs and activities.

Nevertheless, in spite of these gains, as a developing country riddled with challenges characteristic of middle income economies, we recognize that many more challenges continues to impede our efforts and amongst these are:

- **The need to integrate Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) services with emphasis on ensuring that such services are gender responsive and meet human rights standards.**
- **We need to accelerate the reduction of maternal and child mortality and morbidity;**
- **We must continue to promote gender equity, equality and empowerment of women while we address Gender Based Violence;**
- **We must continue to provide critical leadership to initiatives that work to promote zero new infections of HIV, zero HIV related deaths**

and zero discrimination;

- **We need to accelerate the reduction of teenage pregnancies and increase youth participation in the socio-economic development sphere,**
- **There is need for constant and continued synergies and dialogue between all stakeholders towards improved and sustainable socio - economic development.**

Namibia therefore reaffirms the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development and as such calls on all Member States to work intensely for the promotion of human life quality and dignity.

As we move beyond 2014 with the ICPD agenda, it is our view that this debate must necessarily converge with the eventual outcome of the negotiations of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, importantly as influenced by the Common African Position on Post 2015 Development Agenda.