



नेपाल NEPAL

Statement by Dr. Badri Pokhrel, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health and Population, the Government of Nepal at the 47th Session of the Commission on Population and Development

New York, 10th April 2014

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Mr. Chairman,

First of all, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to you on your election to the Chair of this important Commission. I am confident that under your able leadership, we would be able to bring the Session to a successful conclusion. I pledge my delegation's full support to that end.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by distinguished representative of Bolivia on behalf of G77 and China.

Mr. Chair,

My delegation attaches high importance to the work of the Commission on Population and Development. As it is devoted to the assessment of the status of implementation of the Programme of Action the current session of the CPD presents a critical opportunity to advance our efforts to improve sexual and reproductive health and rights and our efforts to improve the lives of our people, with equity and dignity; and ensure sustained economic growth and sustainable development. We note the report of UNFPA on: "Framework of Actions for the follow-up to the ICPD beyond 2014.

In Nepal, most of the MDGs related goals are on track, however, there is big challenge to sustain the progress made thus far and quality of services. Our health and population policies and periodic plan give special priority to gender equality and women empowerment, sexual and reproductive health and rights, adolescent and young people, education, poverty eradication and

employment, aging, migration and urbanization. I am happy to share that the majority of health-related MDGs in Nepal have already been achieved except three indicators in MDG 5 including universal access to sexual and reproductive health services, the contraceptive prevalence rate and the unmet need for family planning, and one in MDG 6, the proportion of the population with advanced HIV receiving anti-retroviral combination therapy (ART). The targets related to poverty and hunger and universal primary education are likely to be achieved by 2015. However, the full achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment is a critical challenge that the Government of Nepal is committed to address progressively in its plans and policies.

Mr. Chair,

Nepal believes that gender equality cannot be achieved without guaranteeing economic, social, and political participation ensuring their sexual and reproductive rights of women and girls and boys without ensuring universal access to comprehensive, easily accessible, quality, gender-responsive health services throughout the life, and reaffirms its commitment to ensuring universal access to these services including safe abortion and comprehensive sexuality education through formal and non-formal education as well as information dissemination across the country in a progressive manner. In this connection, recognizing cultural sensitivity, Nepal commits to ensure that socio-economic, cultural practices that are harmful and have serious health ramifications do not impede free access to and utilization of health services for most marginalized and vulnerable women such as migrants, women with disability, conflict affected women and single women including sexual minorities.

Out of 26 million, more than three million Nepalese nationals currently in foreign employment, Nepal is committed to promote dialogue and establish cooperation between countries of their destination, in cooperation with private sector and civil society, to provide social protection to migrants, especially health care services and low cost money transfer options and providing financial literacy.

Mr. Chair,

In addition to implementing a long term Population Perspective Plan (2010 to 2031), Nepal is currently updating its National Health Policy of 1991 and also formulating a new umbrella

national population policy to improve the lives of individuals and uphold the principles of human rights as enshrined in the ICPD. Nepal's population being young in nature has been trying its best to achieve a balanced population growth through ensuring inter-generational participation in the decision making process that shapes their lives. The growing numbers of youths are not only the areas of our investment but also the main sources of demographic dividend. Against this backdrop, we reaffirm our commitment for the meaningful participation of youth and senior citizens to achieve their fullest potentials.

Despite our continued commitment, we have critical challenges. Nepal, with a very high cost economy and is beset with a host of challenges limiting its capability to bring about changes as planned. Limited means of implementation have been a major constraint. My delegation underlines the need to address the special challenges and constraints of LDCs and LLDCs and to ensure predictable resources so as to translate the lofty plans into action on the ground.

Finally, Nepal reaffirms its strong support for the Ministerial Declaration of the Sixth APPC and commitment to the full implementation of the Program of Action (POA) of all principles of ICPD. My country echoes voices and efforts of like-minded member states to strengthen our governance and accountability frameworks, increase greater collaboration with civil society, youth, private sector, and development partners, and deeper engagement with communities, especially men and boys for the prevention of violence against women and girls, in order to achieve and sustain social and development gains that we have achieved over the last two decades and take ICPD agenda beyond 2014 by putting women, girls and young people at the center of our common international development agenda.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

