



UGANDA

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AT

**THE 47TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON POPULATION
AND DEVELOPMENT**

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Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Participants,

On behalf of the delegation of Uganda, I wish to commend you for your leadership in guiding our meeting and to assure you of our support during this 47th Session of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development.

We see this meeting as a great opportunity to share Uganda's achievements and challenges regarding the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), ICPD Beyond 2014 and to reflect on the lessons learned as we elaborate the post 2015 development agenda, including Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Mr. Chairman,

Uganda reaffirms its commitment to the full implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation beyond 2014.

We also affirm our commitment to the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development in Africa Beyond 2014, in accordance with national laws and policies, and the Abuja Actions towards the elimination of HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in Africa by 2030.

Uganda recognizes the crucial linkages between the implementation of the ICPD PoA and the achievement of internationally agreed development goals including the MDGs. It is against this background that Uganda has put in place governance structures, sound policies, legislation and adequate institutional frameworks that have enabled the country to implement the ICPD Programme of Action.

My government's partnership and good working relations with UNFPA and other partners have helped the country in making significant progress towards achieving the goals and objectives of ICPD. We appreciate this support.

Mr. Chairman,

Briefly, let me highlight some of the achievements Uganda has scored in the implementation of the ICPD-PoA. Uganda has reduced poverty levels with the proportion of the population below the poverty line falling from 39% in 2002 to 22% in 2012. Uganda also achieved the MDG target of halving the population living on less than US 1.25 per day in 2010, five years ahead of schedule. This has led to improved socio-economic welfare of our people.

Since 1990, the campaign against HIV/AIDS epidemic spearheaded by the country's top leadership, resulted in a dramatic reduction in HIV/AIDS infection and transmission from a high rate of 18% in 1990s to about 6.4%. Additionally, Uganda has increased access to ARV treatment to 62% of people living with HIV in need of these drugs.

Uganda has registered increased involvement of women in policy and decision making processes. We have affirmative action in form of legislation that demands 30% of all elective positions be reserved for women. As a result, 40% of leadership positions in the country are held by women. We have several key Cabinet portfolios held by women and the current Speaker of Uganda's Parliament is a woman.

Uganda ratified the UN convention on Rights of persons with disabilities, and put in place a national Policy on disability and Persons with disabilities Act 2006. Persons with disabilities are represented in Parliament by five members and over 1200 councilors at local governments' decision making structures.

Mr. Chairman,

In the education sector, the country has registered tremendous progress with primary education enrollment rising from 2.7 million children in 1996 to 8.2 million in 2009. As of 2012, the net enrollment was estimated at 90% with the ratio of girls to boys in schools being close to one to one. We have universal primary and secondary education.

The collection and utilization of population data has also increased and government has already committed adequate funds to facilitate the National Population and Housing Census to be held in August this year.

Furthermore, in an effort to reduce the high unmet need for family planning currently standing at 34%, the Government has continued to increase its budget allocation to Family Planning doubling it in the FY 2013/2014. Consequently, government has ensured reproductive health commodity security and waived tax on such items hence increasing the contraceptive prevalence rate from 15% in 1995 to 30% in 2011. Uganda will be launching its costed scale up plan for family planning before the end of this year.

Uganda has a youthful population which constitutes 78% of the entire population. Government has therefore put in place Youth Livelihood Programmes to help young people access interest free soft loans to engage in income generating projects, thereby create employment opportunities.

The Government has also put in place Persons with Disabilities Grants which help persons with disabilities to run income generating projects and social protection programmes to improve the welfare of persons with disabilities and older persons, among others.

In addition, population and development concerns have been integrated in key national policy and planning frameworks including the National Development Plan and Uganda's Vision 2040 as well as Local Government Development Plans. Importantly, the country is now putting in place a framework for Uganda to invest in key sectors that will enable the country to harness the demographic dividend in the years to come.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, I wish to point out that these achievements notwithstanding, the country continues to face some challenges.

These include the high unmet need for family planning at 34%, and a relatively high maternal mortality ratio of 438 per 100,000 live births, which the government continues to address with our resources and support from partners.

Given the emerging demographic trends and patterns, Uganda underscores the critical importance of ensuring that the sustainable development goals being elaborated prioritize empowering the youth. We should have action-oriented targets on investments in high-level education, provide appropriate skills and decent employment opportunities for young people through effective policies and programmes that generate employment and improve livelihoods.

Finally, Uganda underscores the need for the post-2015 development agenda, including the SDGs, to be people-centred, transformative, build on the foundation laid by the MDGs, and carry forward the unfinished business. The development agenda should also advance the implementation of the ICPD PoA beyond 2014.

Thank you for your attention.