



नेपाल NEPAL

Please check against delivery

**Statement by Hon'ble Mahendra Bahadur Pandey, Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Government of Nepal at the Twenty-ninth Special Session of the General Assembly on the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development
New York, 22 September 2014**

Mr. President,

I thank you, Mr. President, for steering this meeting on an issue of paramount importance to all of us.

Mr. President,

The Secretary-General's report reveals that the world has made significant gains in achieving women's equality, health and life expectancy, educational attainment and reducing discrimination and violence against the vulnerable segments of population human rights protection systems. Despite the progress, there are considerable gaps in many countries, in particular the LDCs, to achieve the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action of the ICPD. The population growth rate and increasing trends of migration and urbanization have been creating demands which outpace the economic growth rate and development gains in these countries. It is therefore high time to make objective assessment of the progress, and galvanize political support for actions at the national, regional and global levels.

Nepal has been implementing its programs in accordance with the principles and objectives of the ICPD, having participated in global survey on the ICPD beyond 2014 review. Guided by the principles of the ICPD, Nepal has been implementing a long term Population Perspective Plan (2010 to 2031) to mainstream population and development issues in national and sub-national development policies, plans and programmes. A new comprehensive population policy is underway.

Our views on population and development under the ICPD process are like follows:

- Total elimination of poverty should be at the core of all efforts in the people-centric development which we have aimed at.

- Improved social and human development due to implementation of MDGs and other measures directed to the promotion and protection of the rights of more vulnerable sections of the populations like women, children, disabled persons and the elderly people have definitely brought positive results, and they should continue. The rights to development should also be equally recognized as an integral and inalienable part of all human rights to make development sustainable and holistic in approach.
- Countries like Nepal have a higher proportion of working age population constituting a 'demographic dividend' which should be acknowledged as an asset for development globally.
- The role played by migrant workers in the development of the countries of destination and origin needs better appreciation globally, and suitable measures taken to protect their fundamental rights.
- The goals set in population and development activities should be matched by means of implementation through multi-stakeholders participation, and the galvanized efforts particularly focused to address the needs of the poorer countries including LDCs.

I thank you very much.