

GHANA



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**STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED
BY THE HEAD OF DELEGATION**

**AT THE
52ND SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION
ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT,
1ST - 5TH APRIL, 2019, NEW YORK**

**REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE PROGRAMME OF
ACTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT AND ITS
CONTRIBUTION TO THE FOLLOW-UP AND REVIEW OF
THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

MR. CHAIRMAN,

EXCELLENCIES, DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Government of Ghana. Ghana aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the G77.

The 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) was a ground-breaking conference for sustainable development, placing human rights and dignity at the center of the global development agenda. The ICPD Programme of Action (ICPD-PoA) and its follow-up commitments have provided direction to population policy and programming over the past 25 years at different levels.

As part of the process to review 25 years of implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, national and regional reviews have been undertaken and this global review crowns the entire process. In the Africa Region, Ghana was privileged to host the conference to review Africa's follow-up commitment to the ICPD+25/(AADPD+5) regional report on five years of implementation of the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development (AADPD+5) in October 2018. Among others, delegates from all over Africa including civil society organisations agreed that poverty and inequality still persist in Africa and should be addressed; reproductive health challenges including maternal morbidity and mortality still require urgent attention; nutrition and early childhood development should receive more attention; irregular migration of the youth from Sub-Saharan Africa should be

addressed utilising innovative approaches; countries should set up and strengthen institutions that coordinate all population issues, guided by appropriate implementation, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms; and linkages between regional blocs should be used to promote south-south cooperation. As the way forward, countries in the region should remain committed to the outcomes of the regional review and accelerate the implementation of interventions to achieve the objectives and targets of the AADPD and ultimately an improved quality of life for the people.

Mr. Chairman,

Ghana reaffirms her commitment to implement global and regional development obligations including the follow-up commitments and review outcomes of the AADPD, the Agenda 2030 and the AU Agenda 2063. We are fully aware of the overlays in global and regional development agenda, all of which ultimately aim at sustainable development, and the need to integrate their implementation as the surest way of “leaving no one behind”. In view of this, the Government of Ghana has consciously incorporated these commitments into the national development planning processes to accelerate implementation and achievement of targets. The current medium-term national development policy (2018-2021): “Agenda for Jobs: Creating Prosperity and Equal Opportunity for All”, has its key policy objectives and strategies linked to specific goals and targets of the Agenda 2030 and the AU Agenda 2063.

Accordingly, Ghana is implementing a number of interventions to achieve the goals and objectives of the AADPD/ICPD PoA, the Agenda 2030 and the AU Agenda 2063. For instance, in line with harnessing the demographic dividend for national development, Ghana is implementing a free senior high school intervention to increase access to secondary education, and expansion of technical and vocational education and training. Furthermore, the country has developed and adopted national guidelines for comprehensive sexuality education (CSE). These guidelines are to ensure that, adolescents are exposed to age- appropriate, scientifically proven and culturally -sensitive comprehensive sexuality education. The guidelines are being used to review the school curricula for in-school and training for out-of-school youth. In addition, there is the piloting of clinical methods of family planning for paid up members of the national health insurance scheme in six districts located in three regions of Ghana to make a case for improved access to family planning services. Furthermore, government has taken several initiatives to create jobs for the youth including the *Nation Builders' Corps* and the *Planting for Food and Jobs* programmes which aim at addressing graduate unemployment, with a focus on public service delivery in areas such as health, education, agriculture, governance, technology and domestic revenue mobilization.

There are a number of challenges to the implementation of some commitments made by government as funding remains one of the biggest constraints. In order to overcome this challenge, the President of the Republic of Ghana, His Excellency, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, has drawn up and is leading a '*Ghana Beyond Aid*' agenda that emphasises

efficient domestic resource mobilization to sustain implementation of interventions to achieve national, regional and global development targets. Notwithstanding this agenda, official development assistance (ODA) to many developing countries including Ghana still remains critical to achieving global commitments.

We acknowledge that tracking the implementation of the AADPD/ICPD PoA and follow up commitments as well as other global and regional agenda require strong data systems at both national and sub-national levels. In addition to the establishment of a Ministry of Monitoring and Evaluation to monitor specific government programmes, the national medium term development policy, includes a clear monitoring and evaluation framework to facilitate quarterly and annual reporting on programmes and indicators. The Ghana Statistical Service has already conducted five post-independence censuses and is preparing towards conducting the sixth in 2020. The discussions leading up to the next census border on how to collect data on variables that are relevant to tracking progress in national, regional and global, development indicators. Ghana has volunteered as a nation to be assessed on its progress with the SDGs under the Voluntary National Review process. The national statistics agency in collaboration with the coordinating agency for national development, have launched an SDGs tracking platform that provides information on specific SDGs targets for which Ghana has data and will report on, in July this year at the HLPF. Information from several national surveys including the demographic and health survey (DHS), the multiple indicator cluster survey (MICS), the maternal health survey (MHS), and the living standards measurement survey (LSMS) have made it possible

for Ghana to track and report on many basic indicators, which are in line with the indicators of the Agenda 2030 and AU Agenda 2063.

In conclusion, we wish to emphasize the need for strong partnerships among government, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academia, development partners, UN, donors and other interest groups for the successful implementation of the follow-up commitments and outcomes of the regional reviews of the AADPD/ICPD PoA, the Agenda 2030 and the AU Agenda 2063. In Ghana, the recent re-constitution and inauguration of the board of the agency responsible for coordinating population issues, creates a strong platform for fostering and strengthening partnership among stakeholders to work towards achieving the goals and targets of sustainable development as reflected in the AADPD/ICPD PoA, AU Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030.

Finally, I would like to recognise the strategic and paramount role of UNFPA who since 1972 have been our most dependable partner in population issues and from 1994, in the implementation of the PoA of ICPD.

Thank you