



PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

DELIVERED BY

**ALHAJI HASSAN BASHIR, CAN
ACTING CHAIRMAN
NATIONAL POPULATION COMMISSION**

AT THE

**52ND SESSION OF UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON
POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT (CPD)**

NEW YORK, APRIL 1, 2019

On behalf of my delegation, I congratulate the Chair and members of his Bureau for their appointment and for the excellent and transparent handling of the affairs of the Session. Please be assured of my delegation's support and cooperation throughout your tenure.

2. Nigeria aligns itself with the Statements delivered by the Distinguished Representatives of the State of Palestine on behalf of the G77 and China and that of my delegation on behalf of the African Group.

3. We take note of the Secretary-General's reports detailing the different components of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action (PoA) at 25 and recognize the importance of the theme of this session as it affords us the opportunity to appraise our performance and hold ourselves accountable for the fulfilment of the commitments made at Cairo in 1994 as well as advance the implementation of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

Mr. Chair,

4. Nigeria reiterates the importance of ICPD PoA Further Actions to address the *"Unfinished Agenda"* as fundamental for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this regard, we revised our National Policy on Population for Sustainable Development (NPP) in 2018 to align with the 2030 Agenda. Consequently, we have inaugurated N28 Billion Special Health Intervention Project in 2018 to strengthen health system and advance service delivery, launched the National Social Protection Policy in 2019 and; Revised our National Reproductive Health Policy to attain Universal Health Coverage in the country.

5. We also launched a robust Roadmap for Harnessing Demographic Dividend through investment in Youth, as well as a National Strategic Plan to end Child Marriage. Furthermore, Nigeria, since 2015, had promulgated the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act (VAPP) to protect persons against different forms of violence. To address our Reproductive Health Commodity Security, the Government has since 2018, increased its annual allocation from \$3M to \$4M.

6. Following the 2018 London Summit on Family Planning, Nigeria evolved a collaborating mechanism with line Ministries to implement age appropriate and culture sensitive sexual and reproductive health information for adolescents and youth through the Family Life Health Education curriculum and youth friendly services in health facilities and other outlets.

Mr. Chair,

7. As you may be aware, Nigeria estimated population is currently at over 198 million with an annual growth rate of 3.2 percent. The total Fertility Rate (TFR) remains at 5.5 per woman. Sixty three percent (63%) of the entire population is under the age of 25, Forty-two percent (42%) are under the age of 15 years, Fifty percent (50%) of the female population are in their reproductive years, while 54.8 percent of the population constitute the working age. In addition, persons 60 years and over currently represents less than 5 percent of the entire population, while overall life expectancy is 55.2 years.

Mr. Chair,

8. Nigeria recently concluded the field work of its national demography and health survey in 2018. While we await the outcome of that survey, early and child marriage still persists. Data available indicates that Unintended and unwanted pregnancies are common as 23 percent of the adolescent's girls age 15-19 years have commenced reproduction, putting women (especially young girls) at risk of maternal death which stands at 576 deaths per 100,000 live births. Sixty-one percent of women of reproductive age who had live births within this period received antenatal care from skilled providers. However, only 36 percent of them had their deliveries in health facilities and 38 percent of the deliveries were attended to by skilled birth assistants.

Mr. Chair,

9. From the foregoing, a major challenge we are experiencing is unavailability of timely information and robust disaggregated data for tracking progress at achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Although, NDHS has been conducted regularly with plans to conduct a census during the 2020 round of census, there is the need to build capacity, strengthen our statistical institutions and networks, provide infrastructure and modern technology to help us diversify the structure and timing of data collection in-between censuses and NDHS. Some of our critical concerns include addressing the needs of over 66 million adolescents and young people, ages 10-24 years (half of whom are girls) to gain access to comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) information and age appropriate services, address the contraceptive needs of 14

million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) affected by increasing insecurity, as well as the needs of over 13.2 million out-of-school children including school-drop-outs due to unintended pregnancies.

Mr. Chair,

10. In conclusion, Nigeria believes in the essence of the ICPD PoA as enabler of implementation of the 2030 Agenda and processes of achieving the SDGs. Nigeria remains committed to its aspirations and endorses the outcome of the review at 25.

11. We solicit partnership and collaboration with international development agencies to conduct a successful national census as well as reap the benefit of our demographic dividend.

I thank you.