



UGANDA

Permanent Mission of Uganda
to the United Nations
New York

Tel: +1 (212) 949 - 0110
Fax: (212) 687 - 4517

STATEMENT

BY

**HON. DR. CHRIS BARYOMUNSI
MINISTER OF STATE FOR HOUSING,
MINISTRY OF LANDS, HOUSING AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

**AT THE 52ND SESSION OF THE UNITED
NATIONS COMMISSION ON POPULATION
AND DEVELOPMENT**

Monday, April 1, 2019

Check Against delivery

**Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates**

I wish to congratulate the Chairperson of the UN Commission of Population and Development together with the Bureau for organizing the 52nd Session of CPD. Uganda aligns its statement with the statements made by the State of Palestine on behalf of G77 and China and that by the Federal Republic of Nigeria on behalf of the African Group.

The theme of this 52nd Session of CPD ***“review and appraisal of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and its contributions to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”*** is pertinent to Uganda’s efforts towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We in Uganda associate ourselves with the 2013 regional outcome as reflected in the *Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development*, which provides guidance on the implementation of the unfinished agenda of the **ICPD Programme of Action**.

Chairperson,

The full implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action remains a key priority to Uganda’s broad framework on population and development matters. It is for this reason that Uganda has continued to implement targeted interventions aimed at achieving the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action as well as other internationally agreed instruments such as Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in its efforts to harness the demographic dividend. Furthermore, Uganda recognises the importance of South-South cooperation modality in population and development.

In this context, I would like to report that Uganda has witnessed improvements in its health indicators as follows:

- Infant Mortality Rate has declined from 122 per 1,000 live births in 1991 to 43 per 1,000 live births in 2016;
- Maternal Mortality Ratio declined from 506 per 100,000 live births in 1991 to 336 in 2016;
- Life expectancy has increased from 43 years in 1991 to 63 years in 2014.

Uganda has also registered progress in the key sector of education. Following the adoption of the Universal Primary Education (UPE) in 1997, Uganda has witnessed a sharp rise in its primary school enrolment rate, rising from 2.3 million children in 1997 to 8.7 million by 2016. Uganda has also achieved gender parity at primary school level. Government is scaling up efforts to ensure that inclusive and equitable quality education that promotes lifelong learning opportunities for all is provided at all education levels with emphasis on vocational and technical education.

Chairperson,

In spite of this progress made, a number of challenges still remain. Uganda still has a high fertility rate of 5.4 children per woman. This has resulted in a predominantly young population with a high child dependency ratio as well as unfavorable population age structure which is not conducive for poverty eradication and sustainable development. Teenage pregnancy is another challenge in Uganda. This is a result of early marriages, cultural practices and poverty, among others.

Chairperson,

In response to the challenges mentioned above, the Government of Uganda has undertaken the following key actions:

- Reviewed the **2008 National Population Policy** to reduce fertility, transform the population age structure; reduce child dependency and harness the demographic dividend. In this regard, Uganda has established multi-sectoral coordination mechanism (Steering Committee) to ensure effective implementation of the Roadmap for harnessing the Demographic Dividend;
- Developed Family Planning Costed Implementation Plans at national and district levels as a strategy for domestic resource mobilization;
- Regarding skills and youth entrepreneurship, Uganda has established the Youth Livelihood Programme and the Youth Capital Venture Fund to ensure that youths access credit and engage in job creation and skills development.

Chairperson,

The Government of Uganda reiterates its commitment to the full implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and working closely with our development partners and other stakeholders. In this regard, Uganda is very much looking forward to participating in the upcoming Nairobi Summit in November 2019.

Thank you.