



Government of the Republic of Zambia

STATEMENT

Delivered By

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On the

**Special Theme "the 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"**

at the

52nd Session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD)

New York, United States of America

April, 2019

Chairperson,
Excellences,
Distinguished Delegates,

My delegation wishes to congratulate you for convening the 52nd Session of the Commission on Population and Development and the successful adoption of the Political Declaration. I also take this opportunity to congratulate you and the other members of the Bureau on your election, and for steering the work of this commission. I wish to align this statement to the statements delivered by the Permanent Representative of the State of Palestine on behalf of Group 77 and China, as well as by the Permanent Representative of Nigeria on behalf of the African Group.

Zambia considers the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action as essential in realising her vision of becoming a prosperous middle-income country by the year 2030. The ICPD provides an integral linkage between population and development. Zambia would like to share the progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the ICPD.

We commend the Secretary General for the comprehensive reports which will spur and further enrich the discussions during this session. The reports emphasise that the Programme of Action promotes integrated development which underpin the principles of Sustainable development. This report highlights that the International Conference on Population and Development is essential and it calls for a paradigm shift of the population and development policies from focusing on human numbers to the quality of human lives. Improving the quality of human lives through investment in health, education, food, nutrition, shelter and clothing, among others, is an important national development priority for Zambia.

Chairperson

The theme for this year is important because it provides an opportunity for all of us to carry out an introspection. This forms the basis of coming up with the required efforts to accelerate the full implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Chairperson

The Zambian Government has made progress in improving the health of its people. The country is promoting the primary health care approach as the critical focus of the health sector response to national development.

To improve physical access, government is constructing more health posts to serve remote and underserved communities.

Zambia has intensified efforts towards strengthening maternal and newborn health care delivery by scaling up high impact interventions. The maternal mortality ratio reduced from 729 per 100,000 live births in 2002 to 398 per 100,000 in 2013/14. Zambian women are also having a higher (64 percent) access to skilled birth attendants than they had in 2001 (43 percent). Neonatal, infant and under-five mortality have significantly declined over the years. The infant mortality rate,

one of the key mortality indicators, reduced by more than half from 107 per 1000 in 1992 to 45 per 1000 in 2014.

Family planning remains a priority for the Government. The use of modern contraceptives among married women has shown an impressive growth from a CPR of 15 percent in 1992 to 49 percent in 2013/14). This reflects the success of family planning programs in Zambia. Despite the steady increase in the contraceptive use over the last two decades, there is still high unmet need for family planning.

Private Health Insurance (PHI) coverage in Zambia is low. To address the Health Care Financing, Government has enacted the National Health Insurance Act No. 2 of 2018 and has put in place a National Health Financing Strategy (2017-2027) in order to improve health financing and enhance Universal Health Coverage.

Chairperson

Regarding access to Education, a total of number of pupils in primary and secondary schools increased from 3,653,709 to 4,025,380, an annual average growth rate of 2.0 percent over the period 2011 to 2016. This is attributed to the continued efforts of the re-introduction of the Free Primary Education, the growing number of community schools and upgrading of primary schools into secondary.

Retention of learners in schools has been a huge challenge for Zambia. The dropout rates have reduced but are still a source of concern especially among girls. Retention of girls in school is important within efforts to reduce early marriages and teenage pregnancies and ultimately to reduce fertility. In order to reduce the dropout rates especially among girls, Zambia has put in place a number of policies and programmes. These include among others: *Girls' Education and Women Empowerment and Livelihood (GEWEL) Project; School Health Nutrition and Feeding programs; Literacy Programmes for Out of Schools and Adults; and the Re-Entry Policy.*

The proportion of girls that went back to school after taking leave due to pregnancies recorded an increase from 45.1 percent in 2014 to 55.6 percent in 2017.

Despite all these efforts, Zambia still has a number of challenges major among them is the low progression rates that still requires to be addressed.

Chairperson

Women's participation in decision making within the political arena remains low. The percent of women cabinet ministers has increased from 14 percent in 2014 to 16 percent in 2016. In addition, Zambia has a female vice president, the first in the history of the country.

Regarding Gender Based Violence, Zambia has made adequate provisions to deal with all forms of Gender Based Violence within the Anti – GBV Act and the Gender Equity and Equality legislation No. 22 of 2015. To curtail school gender-based violence, the Education Act No. 23 of 2011 and the National Child Policy of 2015 have provisions that prohibit Gender Based Violence.

To end Child marriage, Zambia has established institutions that are championing the fight against negative and harmful practices towards women and adolescent girls. Further, the Marriage Act establishes the legal age for marriage at 21 but also allows younger people to marry subject to written consent being given by parents or guardians, as appropriate in a given situation.

Chairperson

Zambian Government through several ministries and partners has put up measures for all adolescents and young people to access comprehensive sexuality education and youth-friendly SRH services. This is strengthening our national responses to the HIV epidemic and reduce new HIV and STI infections, early and unintended pregnancies and strengthen care and support, particularly for those living with HIV.

The Government with its partners are investing in effective, combination prevention strategies to build on current declines in HIV prevalence amongst young people in the country as well as addressing underlying structural factors including poverty and a lack of livelihoods

Chairperson

Zambia has been making efforts to strengthen social protection policies and programs over the years. The government has put in place measures to reduce vulnerability targeted at poverty reduction such as minimum wage, conditions of Employment Act for domestic, shop workers and casual workers. Further, there have been revisions on taxation policy to increase in the non-taxable income aimed at empowering the economically vulnerable. Furthermore, social security coverage has been widened to include formalization of domestic, shop workers and casual workers.

In 2017, about 242,000 households benefited from the social protection programs out of which 127,811 were headed by females while 83,990 were headed by males. The social protection programme provided assistance to 16,532 disabled females and 13,667 males. There has been a steady decline of poverty incidence in female headed households.

Chairperson

Zambia wishes to underscore that the nexus between population and development underscores that people are at the centre of sustainable development and are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature. It is therefore important to understand the prevailing population dynamics so that we continue to design policies and programmes which will form the bedrock for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. Zambia remains committed to the implementation of the ICPD.

I thank you.