

BURKINA FASO

*Permanent Mission
to the United
Nations*



Unité - Progrès - Justice

**29TH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE UNITED NATIONS ON THE FOLLOW-UP
TO THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**



**FOLLOW-UP TO THE PROGRAMME
OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

STATEMENT BY BURKINA FASO

Delivered by:

**Madame Nestorine Sangare/Compaore
*Minister for Women and Gender Promotion***

New York, 22 September 2014

(Check against delivery)

Mr. President,

Twenty years after adopting the ICPD Programme of Action, Burkina Faso has recorded considerable progress towards achieving its aims and objectives. To quote some of these:

- sustained economic growth, averaging 6% per year since 1994;
- a 39% reduction in maternal mortality;
- improved access to reproductive health services and care, in both urban and rural settings.
- increased gross rate of school enrolment, from 33.8% in 1993 to 81.3% in 2012;
- progress in the parity index between boys and girls enrolling in school, from 0.67 to 0.99, an increase of 0.32.

Notwithstanding the progress made in the past 20 years, it must be recognized that there are still many challenges to be met on the economic, social and demographic levels.

On the economic level, inclusive economic growth within the framework of sustainable development remains a priority objective, with the aim of a rapid reduction in poverty and income inequality.

On the social level, there needs to be more focus on:

- reduction of maternal and infant mortality;
- improved access to sexual and reproductive healthcare services for young people and couples, as well as combating harmful cultural practices such as early marriages and female genital mutilation;
- promotion of universal primary education, as well as secondary education and technical training;
- access to decent employment for young people and the creation of opportunities for self-employment;
- gender promotion and the empowerment of women.

On the demographic level, controlling rapid population growth remains a priority for the Government, with the adoption of a new National Population Policy, specifically addressing fertility and migration issues, as well as the inclusion of population issues in development plans and programmes.

Faced with these challenges, we will need continuing, intensified and revised support from the international community in order to achieve the objectives pertaining to population and sustainable development. Burkina Faso also welcomes the commitment of the World Bank and the United Nations Population Fund, who have responded to the call to action from the Sahel by launching the project "Realizing the Demographic Dividend in the Sahel".

My delegation reaffirms its commitment to the 1994 ICPD Programme of Action and the sovereign right of each country to implement the recommendations of the Programme of Action or other initiatives, in accordance with national laws and priorities, and fully respecting the diverse religious, ethical and cultural values of the population, in conformance with universally recognized human rights.

My delegation takes the opportunity of this special session to commend the work of the United Nations Population Fund on the ongoing implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action beyond 2014.

Thank you for your attention.