



Republic of Malawi

TALKING POINTS FOR

HIS EXCELLENCY PROF. ARTHUR PETER MUTHARIKA,

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

AT THE

29TH SPECIAL SESSION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND

DEVELOPMENT (ICPD) PROGRAMME OF ACTION BEYOND

2014

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK

MONDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER, 2014.

- Mr Chairman, Malawi considers this session as an opportunity to advance efforts to ensure sustained economic growth and development. In this connection, we wish to thank the UN System, which under UNFPA, worked closely with Member States through the global survey process and the regional reviews on International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action beyond 2014”.
- Government of Malawi is pleased to report that after twenty years of implementation of ICPD Programme of Action, we have made remarkable progress in several areas including the following:
 1. Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development;
 2. Population Growth and Structure;
 3. Gender Equality, Equity and Empowerment of Women;
 4. Maternal Health, Reproductive Health and Rights;
 5. HIV and AIDS;
 6. Malaria;
 7. Education;
- For example, in the area of Poverty and Sustainable Development, Malawi developed the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy II (MGDS II), a blue print for the National development Agenda. Government has also revised the National Youth Policy to focus on six critical areas in youth development namely: Participation and Leadership, Health and Nutrition, Science, Technology and Environment. We have

developed and revised several strategies, policies and guidelines to address reproductive health issues namely Reproductive Health Strategy, Reproductive Health Policy, Reproductive Health guidelines, and Community Initiatives for Reproductive Health among others.

- Mr Chairman, in a bid to achieve a malaria free Malawi, we continue to give curative services to malaria patients and pregnant women. Key malaria interventions implemented include: intermittent preventive therapy (IPT) for all pregnant women, case management and indoor residual spraying (IRS) and use of long lasting treated nets (LLINs).
- Mr Chairman, you may wish to note that in recognition to the links between improved health, lowered fertility, demographic dividend and overall inclusive development, Malawi has localised the ICPD Programme of Action in the National Development Agenda, to ensure ownership and effective monitoring. In this regard, population issues have been prioritized as a key component of achieving socio-economic development.
- In order to build on the successes we have achieved to date, and to ensure continued integration of ICPD PoA in national development plans, we will continue to implement interventions as follows:

1. Develop, strengthen and implement effective, integrated, coordinated, and coherent national strategies targeting marginalized or disadvantaged groups, to eradicate poverty and inequality;
2. Adopt and implement legislation, policies and measures that prevent, punish and eradicate gender-based violence within and outside of the family;
3. Ensure social protection of older persons;
4. Ensure equal opportunities for women to positions of power equal to those of men in all sectors of public life;
5. Adopt and implement legislation, policies and measures that prevent, punish and eradicate gender-based violence within and outside of the family, as well as in conflict and post-conflict situations;
6. Eradicate all harmful practices, including child, early and forced marriages through integrated multi-sector strategies and through the promulgation and enforcement of appropriate laws;
7. Ensure social protection and income security of older persons, with particular consideration for older women and their participation in the design and implementation of policies, programmes and plans that affect their lives;

8. Enable full participation of persons with disabilities in social, economic and political life;
 9. Respect, protect, and promote the human rights of all people living with HIV, and enact protective laws facilitating access to health and social services to ensure that all persons living with, and at risk of, HIV can live free from stigma and discrimination.
- We are pleased to reiterate our support expressed in the context of the regional review of the implementation of the ICPD beyond 2014 especially the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Regional Plan of Action for further implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.
 - Mr Chairman, I thank you.