



PERU

**Twenty-ninth Special Session of the United Nations
General Assembly.**

**Follow-Up to the Programme of Action of the
International Conference on Population and Development
Beyond 2014**

Statement of Peru

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Mr President:

I express the greetings of the Government of Peru to all those taking part in this 29th Special Session of the UN General Assembly on the International Conference on Population and Development, which coincides with the commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the UN Population Conference in Cairo, held in 1994. We reaffirm our commitment to and identification with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and its five-year reviews. In addition, our political will remains committed to the objectives of the post-2015 Development Agenda.

The Peruvian State recognizes the vital importance of the Montevideo Consensus, a policy instrument resulting from the first Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean held in Montevideo in 2013, which affirms our obligation to advance the protection and exercise of women and men's human rights. In this framework, Peru's approval of the National Plan for Human Rights 2014-2016 shows its commitment to leading the mainstreaming of human rights and gender in public policies, contributing to the integration of the population in the country's sustainable development, and channelling resources to the people who need them most.

Concerning poverty and inequality

Peru is a country with a robust macroeconomic policy. In the last 12 years, overall poverty has declined nearly 30 points as a result of sustained economic growth, which has led to improved quality of life for the population, especially the poorest segment of the population. One of the most significant factors in the reduction in poverty is the increase in public spending on social programs that make targeted interventions.

The Ministry of Health is promoting care for poor and marginalized families, and through the Family Health Strategy has reached 139,297 families in the first quarter of 2014 (6% of families in poverty and extreme poverty in the country).

Universal Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services

Access to sexual and reproductive health services has been increasing since the 1990s; between 2000 and 2013 there was a 12% increase in levels of care for pregnant women, from 82.6% to 95.9%. This increase was also observed in neonatal care in health centres and in family planning, as a result of increased service coverage and the existence of specific programs, all of which has meant a reduction in maternal deaths (50% in the past decade), which was close to achieving the fifth Millennium Development Goal (Peru has met the Millennium Development Goal on child mortality ahead of schedule. The expected value for 2015 was 18 deaths per thousand live births, and in 2012 the figure was 17 per thousand live births). It should be emphasized that this progress is thanks to the actions taken in cultural adaptation and vertical delivery methods, together with the construction of 504 homes for expectant mothers, undertaken with the participation of the community especially in the Sierra and Amazon regions.

Comment [p1]: 95.9%-82.6% is actually 13.3%

In Peru, securing health services is part of a National Health Policy, including the free provision of sexual and reproductive health services, which has succeeded in meeting the demand for contraceptive methods and medical treatment with free medicines for sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS.

Teen pregnancy remains a persistent problem in the country, with 14 out of every 100 teenage girls between 15 and 19 already mothers or pregnant for the first time. To address this problem, the Multisectoral Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Plan 2013-2021 was approved; and an intensive program of comprehensive sex education is being developed in the country's educational institutions, together with other intersectoral actions to prevent early pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases in schoolchildren.

After 90 years of legal regulation of therapeutic abortion, the Peruvian government approved the "National Technical Guide for the standardization of the process for comprehensive care of pregnant women in voluntary therapeutic termination of pregnancies under 22 weeks with informed consent". There is also a public policy of protecting the rights of women in order to achieve the reduction of preventable maternal deaths, ensuring the exercise of the right to life, health, equality and autonomy in decisions. The regulation, in accordance with the Constitution, meets the recommendations of the Committees that monitor compliance with treaties ratified by the Peruvian State, and part of the commitments made in implementing the National Gender Equality Plan 2012-2017.

Promotion of the Rights, Needs and Demands of Boys, Girls, Teens and Young People

The National Plan of Action for Childhood and Adolescence (PNAIA) 2012-2021 has been approved and implemented, which regulates priority attention to this group at all levels of government. Meanwhile, several programmes have been implemented to restore the rights of children and adolescents, such as the National Yachay Programme which attends to children living on the streets, and the National Comprehensive Family Welfare Programme, which provides temporary shelter to children at risk and abandoned children in rural areas with higher levels of poverty.

With regard to access to comprehensive health services, to date there are 2,880 health facilities offering differentiated services for adolescents, enabling the provision of comprehensive care.

Over the last decade the country has adopted a National Youth Employment Policy, which promotes decent employment for young people through the National Youth Employment Programme "Youth to Work", the National Program for the Generation of Social Work "Employment Peru", and the "Responsible Peru" programme.

In the context of the PNAIA 2012-2021, Peru has been working on the Strategy for Sustainable Social Action in the Rio Napo - Loreto basin, a Multisectoral articulated space that generates sustainable development in rural areas in the Amazon so that children and adolescents can exercise their rights with equal opportunities.

Gender Equality

The Peruvian government has seen significant improvements in recent years in terms of equality and non-discrimination, with the formulation of national and sectoral policies aimed at reducing disparities between men and women, especially those who are vulnerable. Six laws came into force that improve the protection of the rights of women. These regulations address issues such as the definitive dismissal of teaching or administrative staff for acts of sexual violence; the irreconcilable nature of family violence; extensions to postnatal leave in certain cases; recognition of the inheritance rights of people living in de facto unions; the prevention, punishment and eradication of femicide; and making an offense committed due to discrimination an aggravating factor. Finally, sexual harassment in the street was recognized as a criminal offence.

Another advance was made in the proposed laws currently being considered aimed at protecting women and the family, as well as expanding the participation of women in the public realm: the Bill against Political Harassment of Women, the Bill on Alternation of Gender in Regional and Local Elections; the Bill on Political Parties (Alternation); and the Bill on the Imprescriptibility of Alimony.

To prevent, punish and eradicate violence against women, the National Programme against Family and Sexual Violence has comprehensive care strategies such as 200 Emergency Centres for Women, the 100 emergency line, and women's shelters. With the aim of dealing with and preventing cases of femicide the "Inter-institutional route for dealing with femicide, attempted femicide and high-risk partner violence" was approved, involving joint actions for the administration of justice and social support for victims of domestic violence.

With regard to strategies to promote women's autonomy in all its dimensions, the project "Innovative Strategies for the Participation of Women in the Digital Economy 2012-2014" is aimed at strengthening the capacities of women entrepreneurs in the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in their businesses. This aligns with the "Dialogue for favouring political and economic autonomy of women in Peru" project, which assembles various sectors of the state and is carried out with technical assistance from CEPAL.

Aging, Social Protection and Socio-economic Challenges

The country's demographic profile is undergoing a change that reflects the aging population in Peru. Currently, a large number of older people lack the basic conditions for subsistence; this trend is steadily increasing and is projected to increase.

In response, the Peruvian government, through the National Solidarity Pension Assistance Programme 65, has provided a non-contributory pension for people over 65 living in extreme poverty, while the National Dignified Life Programme has attended 367 elderly people living in the street.

Territorial Inequality and Spatial Mobility

The country has pursued a strategic, integrated, effective and efficient territorial management and ordering process to ensure human development throughout the country. To achieve this, it is adopting sustainable development strategies and strategies that encourage urban consolidation, the growth of small and medium-

sized urban centres and the sustainable development of rural areas, including the adoption of labour-intensive projects, training of young people for non-agricultural jobs, and effective transport and communication systems.

With regard to health the country is promoting the development of Integrated Primary Care Networks with the creation of Legislative Decree No 1166-SA in the territorial framework, to ensure the integrity and integration of services and to be able to respond to the needs of the population.

Environmental Vulnerability

Peru promotes the environmental sustainability of the country, conserving, protecting, recovering and securing environmental conditions, ecosystems and natural resources. It also includes among its key policies and strategies the sustainable use of resources and the prevention of the degradation of the environment, ensuring that the interrelationships between population, resources, environment and development are fully recognized, properly managed and established in a harmonious and dynamic balance with biodiversity and healthy ecosystems.

Of particular interest is the vulnerability of Peru to climate change, especially since our country will organize at the end of this year, the Twentieth Conference of the Parties of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP20). Climate change in Peru particularly affects the most vulnerable populations such as women, children and older adults, as well as the poor whose economic activities are weather dependent, such as small farmers. The challenge is to incorporate the variable of climate change in development planning and poverty reduction actions at all levels and sectors. In that sense, actions for adaptation and disaster prevention are also priorities. Adapting to climate change demands solutions to structural problems such as poverty and social exclusion.

International Migration

Peru maintains cooperation mechanisms between countries of origin, transit and destination to address the causes and challenges of irregular migration, aimed at achieving migration that occurs in human, orderly and safe conditions through bilateral labour mobility schemes, while safeguarding the human rights of migrants.

The Peruvian government is strengthening mechanisms to encourage the return of nationals residing abroad, promoting the adoption of a new General Aliens Law which incorporates Peru's international human rights obligations, and is in the process of preparing a law that incorporates the humanitarian visa in Peru.

Peru is a country where human trafficking and the sexual exploitation of minors are not tolerated. Our government has initiated a campaign against trafficking called "Peru united against trafficking and the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents", a commitment that demands proactive action by the state and the defence and restoration of human rights of victims. The Ministry for Women and Vulnerable People has a Single Care Protocol for Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation, which was developed with the participation of public and private institutions.

Indigenous People and People of African Descent

Comment [p2]: this is covered in next section

By enacting the Law on the Right to Prior Consultation with indigenous or native peoples and its regulations, Peru became the first country in the region to create legal instruments to comply with ILO Convention 169.

Further advances to highlight are the specialized policies undertaken by the Peruvian State in favour of indigenous or native peoples, such as the National Health Strategy for the Health of Indigenous Peoples; Protection and respect of the rights of indigenous peoples in isolation and in a situation of initial contact; Promotion and use of indigenous languages, and encouraging learning.

Similarly, Peru maintains an Official Database of Indigenous Peoples and holds information from the 2nd Census of Indigenous communities in the Peruvian Amazon, a census that collects information about the characteristics of indigenous communities, disaggregated by ethnic group, department, province and district, poverty, infant mortality, migration and language.

Multidisciplinary teams, such as AISPED (Integral health care for excluded and dispersed populations), take medical attention to dispersed populations and ethnic groups, to date amounting to 168 in the country.

People of African Descent

The Peruvian government approved the National Plan for the Exercise of the Rights of the Afro-Peruvian population, with the aim of implementing public policies to reduce the vulnerability, mistreatment and invisibility of Afro-Peruvians. The most important points of this plan include the inclusion of the ethnic category “Afro-Peruvian” on national censuses, the creation of an anti-racism ethical code, drawing up a national program for the promotion of the rights of the Afro-Peruvian population and the implementation of a national academic program on rights and public policies for the benefit of this population.

Mr President, ladies and gentlemen. Peru is and will continue to be committed to population policies that promote human rights and that fulfil the national motto created upon the formation of our Republic: to continue to advance “Steadfast and Happy through the Union”.