



SENEGAL

**SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY
MR EL HADJI MAGUETTE SEYE,
AMBASSADOR, DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL**

On the occasion of the special session to evaluate the implementation
of the Programme of Action of the United Nations International
Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)

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747 THIRD AVENUE • 21ST FLOOR • NEW YORK, NY 10017 • TEL: (212) 517-9030 • FAX: (212) 517-3032

Mr. Chairman,

It is a particular pleasure for me to participate in this special session marking the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Programme of Action of the United Nations International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

Without doubt, there could be no better opportunity to evaluate the implementation of this Programme of Action and to renew the political commitment necessary to fully realize the objectives that it pursues.

This happy occasion also gives me the opportunity to convey Senegal's thanks to Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and all Partners for their unceasing efforts to improve the living conditions and wellbeing of populations.

Mr. Chairman,

The adoption of the ICPD Programme of Action twenty years ago was the starting point for greater awareness of population issues on the part of the international community in the national development programmes of States.

The outcomes achieved have been encouraging on the whole, especially in terms of the reduction of extreme poverty, the enrolment of children in schools, women's empowerment and also the decrease in infant mortality, which has happened irreversibly in sub-Saharan Africa with a rate of 121 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2012 as compared with 186 in 1990.

Although considerable progress has been made, it is universally acknowledged today that efforts still need to be made to substantially and sustainably mitigate certain failings and harmful practices which continue to affect some segments of our populations, especially women and girls.

Despite the progress made, maternal mortality remains high. The same is true of early marriage, female genital mutilation, urbanization and housing issues and international migration flows, which remain worrying.

These prerequisites, which must be resolved, fully justify taking population dynamics into account in sustainable development objectives and also justify the General Assembly's decision to extend the implementation of this Programme of Action beyond 2014.

These actions will bring the advantages of prioritizing population issues in the post-2015 development agenda and of enabling our States to continue to implement it wisely.

For this reason, my delegation invites the various stakeholders to make more resources available to States to enable them to consolidate the efforts made and to tackle emerging challenges in order to take advantage of the demographic dividend.

Mr. Chairman,

In terms of achievements in the implementation of this Programme of Action, the State of Senegal has devised and implemented relevant policies, in particular the “**Emerging Senegal Plan**”, and created appropriate institutional structures to increase the consistency and effectiveness of the State’s activity in relation to population issues.

This resolute commitment on the part of my country to gaining better control of demographic phenomena as part of an integrated development approach has enabled it to achieve satisfactory results.

Senegal has gently begun its demographic transition. The Total Fertility Index (TFI), which was 6.6 children per woman in 1986, fell to 5.3 children per woman in 2013 and is forecast to decrease to 3.4 children per woman in 2035. The crude birth rate (CBR) stood at 38.3 in 2010, while mortality decreased in general.

This progress has been facilitated in particular by the implementation of a national action plan for family planning and the efforts made to improve the provision and availability of healthcare services, the rational distribution of healthcare facilities and the implementation of additional measures to reduce the cost of medicines.

Also worthy of note is the absolute priority given to education, youth employment and the fight against HIV/AIDS, which has been reflected in a low rate of prevalence estimated at 0.7% since 2005.

Mr. Chairman,

As part of this process, Senegal has adopted other positive measures such as reducing financial barriers to access to reproductive health services and expanding the range of methods of contraception, and adopting measures to promote gender equality.

There have also been other happy experiences such as **universal healthcare coverage**, the **Family Security Allowance** for poor families and the **community godmothers scheme**, which is intended to improve maternal, neonatal and infant health through awareness-raising.

Of course, despite the advances I have described, our country still faces major challenges related to reproductive health which must be dealt with by implementing programmes to maintain and build on achievements. To achieve this outcome, we must work to implement the ICPD Programme of Action by strengthening preventive strategies, courses of action and cooperation in this field.

Mr. Chairman,

To conclude, my delegation would like to reaffirm the commitment of the Government of Senegal to the continued implementation of the recommendations made in relation to population issues.

Thank you.