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**REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**

**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
ZAMBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**Hon. Emerine Kabanshi**

***Minister of Community Development, Mother and Child***

***Health at the***

**29<sup>TH</sup> GA Special Session on the Follow-up to the ICPD**

**POA**

**NEW YORK  
22<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2014**

**Mr. President,**

Zambia commends the Secretary General and You, Mr. President for convening this 29<sup>th</sup> Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations on the implementation of the 1994 Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.

Zambia wishes to note the Secretary-General's report A/69/62 "Framework of Actions for the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development Beyond 2014" as well as the Index Report on the interactive debate of the 47th session of the Commission on Population and Development.

We are pleased to have contributed to the global survey for the ICPD beyond 2014 review which, highlighted progress made and challenges that still daunt the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.

**Mr. President,**

We reiterate our support for the views expressed in the context of the Africa regional review of the implementation of the ICPD beyond 2014 where we joined in the adoption of the regional plan of action for implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the importance of harnessing Africa's demographic dividends given its youthful population.

**Mr. President,**

Zambia has registered positive economic growth averaging 5.6 percent per annum over the past ten years. Progress is being made in reducing HIV prevalence, maternal and infant mortality, increasing women and youth empowerment and primary school enrolment. However, challenges still remain in providing universal access to sexual and reproductive health information and services, high teenage pregnancies, reduction of poverty and economic inequality, among others.

As part of remedial measures to the observed challenges, Zambia has put in place various policies and programmes to advance the economic and social status of women, and young people especially girls, through the Citizen Economic Empowerment fund and Youth Development fund.

The Government policies and strategies which include the National Population Policy, National Health Policy, National Gender Policy, National Youth Policy, Reproductive Health and the Re-Entry Policy for girls who become pregnant, have enhanced the women and girls social economic status, though much more remains to be done. Zambia has also made a firm commitment to increasing family planning uptake especially for rural women, in addition to access to Sexual Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights through the launch of the 8 year Family Planning Scale-up Plan and Adolescent Health Strategy.

The Government has further developed the National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS) in order to lay a foundation for evidence based decision making in the implementation of the strategies mentioned above. The strategy is also intended to holistically harmonize data collection and monitoring and evaluation systems in the country.

Mr. President

Zambia reaffirms its commitment to the resolution of the 47<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Population and Development that called for the full implementation of the Programme of Action and the key actions for its implementation beyond 2014. These include sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, population and development, education and gender equality and equity which are integrally linked to the eradication of poverty and the achievement of sustainable development.

Mr. President

Zambia looks forward to having a post 2015 development agenda which embraces the principles of the ICPD and calls for full operationalization of population dividend elements for the benefit of our women, young girls and the youth.

Zambia acknowledges the support rendered by our Cooperating Partners including the United Nations

Population Fund (UNFPA) in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the ICPD.

I thank you.