

PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF COTE D'IVOIRE TO  
THE UNITED NATIONS



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PROGRAMME OF ACTION

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**Madame President,**

Like the preceding delegations, I would like to express the congratulations of the Côte d'Ivoire delegation on the enlightened management of the debates and to assure you of our full cooperation in making this work a success.

**Madame President,**

Côte d'Ivoire has made significant advances in areas covered by the ICPD Programme of Action, although these have been slowed by the decade of political and military crisis that the country has undergone.

In the area of education, progress towards universal education in Côte d'Ivoire is shown by an increase in the gross rate of primary school enrolment from below 72% in 1998 to 94.7% in 2013, with a 41% increase in the parity index.

In terms of health, actions to combat HIV have helped cut the prevalence rate to 3.7% in 2012, against 4.7% in 2005. The mortality rate for children under 5 years of age has fallen by 27%, from 149.5 per 1,000 in 1994 to 108 per 1,000 in 2012.

Maternal mortality, after a decrease from 597 in 1994 to 543 per 100,000 live births in 2005, has unfortunately risen again, to 614 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2012.

The use of modern contraception has almost tripled from 5.7% in 1994 to 14% in 2012. Unmet family planning needs, although still high, are clearly in decline.

These results, among many others, are due to institutional reforms and operational measures which put the people at the centre of the development process.

Several laws have also been introduced. These include:

- a law against all forms of violence towards women, including female genital mutilation;
- an amendment and supplement to the law on the criminal code against sexual harassment, forced labour and early or forced marriage; and
- a law enshrining equality within couples.

Several strategic documents have been implemented. In particular:

- the National Development Plan 2012-2015;
- the National Population Policy;
- the National Health Development Plan;
- the National Environmental Action Plan;
- the National Development Plan for the Education and Training Sector;
- the National Youth Policy;

**Madame President,**

The population profile of Côte d'Ivoire is affected by a high fertility rate, estimated at 5 children per woman in 2012, and with 13% of adolescent girls giving birth.

Population growth, at 2.7%, is still one of the highest rates in the world. The school drop-out rate remains high, especially for girls, due to socio-cultural pressures and the widespread problem of early pregnancies.

There are threats to biodiversity due to climate change, soil and land degradation, ocean acidification and chemical pollution, with their links to decline in rainfall, water supply and forest cover.

To meet these challenges, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire is working to:

- establish universal health cover, to give the population better access to healthcare services;
- increase effectiveness and availability in the healthcare system;
- improve access for women and young people to reproductive health services and family planning;
- promote self-employment and the economic integration of young people;
- reduce maternal and infant mortality;
- ensure sustainable management of environmental resources;
- improve political and economic stability, to favour investment and job creation;
- push ahead with the existing major national programme, "Zero pregnancy in school".

**Madame President,**

Côte d'Ivoire is working to lay foundations for progress up to 2020, a major cornerstone of which is the challenge of increasing the demographic dividend through securing the strategic investment necessary for a strong and prosperous economy.

My delegation therefore reaffirms the commitments our country has undertaken at the international and regional level, in compliance with our institutional and statutory documents, development priorities, moral code, cultures and beliefs of our people.

In addition, Côte d'Ivoire commends the support it has already been shown by the international community and encourages it to increase this support in order to achieve the objectives which were agreed following the major conferences and international meetings on population and development.

Our shared resolve to create a more just and fair world will unquestionably rely on the promotion of human rights. Côte d'Ivoire welcomes the Report by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, "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 its appendix on the discussions at the 47th session of the Commission on Population and Development.

Keen to promote sustainable development, my country reaffirms its commitment to implement the ICPD Programme of Action beyond 2014, and supports taking into account the results and recommendations in the Secretary-General's Report when discussing the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

**Thank you for your kind attention.**