



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA BISSAU TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCE M.

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MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND COMMUNITIES

ON THE OCCASION OF THE SPECIAL SESSION ON THE FOLLOW-UP TO THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION
OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

NEW YORK, LE 22 SEPTEMBRE 2014

Mr. President,
Mr. Secretary-General,
Heads of State and Government;
Leaders of Delegations;
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mr. President, I would like first of all to extend my warmest congratulations on your election as President of the 69th Session of the General Assembly and to assure you of the full cooperation of the Guinea Bissau delegation throughout this session.

On behalf of my country, I have the great honour of welcoming 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 summary report on the general debate at the 47th session of the Commission on Population and Development.

Our country's participation in the global consultation preceding the ICPD Beyond 2014 Review gave us the opportunity to analyse the progress made in implementing the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.

We have been able to assess the challenges that are still to be met to improve our citizens' quality of life. We recognize that there is still much to be done to ensure equality and fairness, as well as to protect the environment for future generations, at both national and international levels.

At the national level, we are committed to change. We have a very ambitious agenda for our country, which will require a collective commitment and both internal and international efforts.

To this end, I would like to share with you our vision of the challenges that we have set ourselves:

- 1- We commit ourselves to achieving national growth rates in the double digits over the next four (4) years, in a stable, sustainable and inclusive way, through:
 - developing programmes aimed at reducing economic vulnerability and poverty and at promoting diversification of income sources; and
 - strengthening programmes which can ensure both food security and production diversification in a structured manner, through development of SMIs and SMEs.
- 2- We are committed to ensuring the right to reproductive healthcare through:
 - Greater access to information on reproductive healthcare and sexuality, access to high quality healthcare services for reproductive health, family planning, HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections, through improved availability of infrastructure, equipment and medicines, as well as human resources.

- 3- We commit ourselves to the development of training and empowerment programmes for young people, giving them access to employment opportunities and ensuring real gender equality and equity;
- 4- Among other things, we also commit ourselves to improved management of natural resources and environmental protection.

On the international level, we want to emphasize that we entirely share the conclusions of the review on the considerable advances, in terms of poverty reduction and economic growth, since the International Conference on Population and Development. We also agree that much remains to be done, for the people of our country who still cannot meet their basic needs and on the major barriers which stop many people from enjoying their human rights.

We also share the conclusion on the current situation around inequality, income and wealth, which is untenable and threatens future economic growth, cohesion and social security, and the people's capacity to adapt and innovate in response to changing environmental conditions. These topics have relevance for the discussions at the World Climate Summit tomorrow and during the following general debate.

The SG's report comprehensively addresses the conditions needed to improve capacity and resilience and to ensure sustainable development. We are pleased to see that the analytical approach used in the report is based on human rights and equality. We share the report's conclusion that investment in individual human rights, capacity and dignity, across the different sectors of the ICPD and at all stages of life, is the cornerstone of sustainable development.

The SG's report also highlights the increased inequality in wealth and income and the struggle to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women. It strongly emphasizes the need for lifelong learning and capacity building, particularly for young people. It urges us to tackle the inequality of access to sexual and reproductive healthcare, and calls on Member States to strengthen healthcare systems, in rural as well as urban areas, because of their important implications for development policies.

At the same time, increasing diversity of household structures and ways of life mean that we need to plan and build viable cities and strengthen the links between urban and rural areas. The impact of population dynamics at micro and macro levels means it also needs to be integrated into development planning at national, regional and international levels.

We agree that the challenges to development mean we need systematic participation by all stakeholders in forming responses to them; this will require global partnership and leadership through the United Nations.

To this end, we are pleased to reiterate our support, as expressed during the regional review of the implementation of the ICPD beyond 2014, when we joined in adopting the regional action plan for follow-up to the ICPD Programme of Action.

We are fully committed to the follow-up to the ICPD Programme of Action, taking into account the results of our regional review and the conclusions and recommendations of the ICPD Beyond 2014 Review.

We call for the conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary-General's Report, and the results of the regional review, to be included in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate the strong commitment of Guinea Bissau to stand with the international community in reaffirming support for the ICPD Programme of Action, as well as the progressive vision presented in the Secretary-General's report.

THANK YOU.