

**Statement to be delivered by the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs
and International Cooperation, Hugh Hilton Todd at the
55th Session of the Commission on Population and Development
April 25-29, 2022**

**Theme: Population and sustainable development,
in particular sustained and inclusive economic growth**

04:00 mins

Mr. Chair,

Seven years ago, we the Member States of the United Nations made a solemn pledge

This pledge is premised on the recognition that people are the most important and valuable resource of any nation and should be given the opportunity to make the most of their potential. Consequently, we must ensure that our people are at the centre of our sustainable development strategies to facilitate inclusive economic growth at all levels.

As we reflect on the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, I take this opportunity to affirm challenges such as poverty, increased urbanization, gender inequity and inequality, illiteracy, unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, among others, intersect and compound global efforts to achieve sustainable development. In this context therefore, we must continue to strengthen capacity at the national, regional

and international levels to advance the objectives of the Programme of Action. More importantly, cooperation, as it relates to financing, remains critical in this respect.

Mr. Chair,

The Government of Guyana is deliberate about executing people-centred development policies. Guided by the contract made with the people of Guyana, we are prioritizing inclusive economic growth focused on adequate employment, significant entrepreneurial activities, and a sustainable and diverse economy underpinned by seaurial activities

pillars of sustainable development – social well-being, sustained economic growth and environmental preservation. In this context, please allow me to highlight a few of the important initiatives that my government has been undertaking to harness the interrelationships between population and sustained economic growth in the context of sustainable development.

First, recognising that food systems are critical not only to the elimination of hunger and the reduction of poverty but is also linked to the achievement of several of the Sustainable Development Goals. Guyana is pursuing ambitious plans to reduce food insecurity, capitalizing on its abundant natural resources and the potential to increase local agricultural output. Further, President Mohamed Irfaan Ali, has extended thip

existing housing schemes with the goal to deliver more than 50,000 house lots by 2025. Efforts are also being made to decentralise critical housing and water services across the country, by establishing additional offices across the various administrative regions, *inter alia*.

Third, conscious that

acknowledging the negative impact that the pandemic has had on learning, the Government of Guyana is providing tangible support for learning, from nursery to tertiary levels. This support includes the provision of twenty thousand (20,000) online scholarships concentrated in excess of one hundred and eighty-seven (187) areas of study from more than fifteen (15) reputable academic institutions across the world.

Finally, Mr. Chair,

girls. Consequently, empowerment of this segment of the population is high priority and is part of the substantial investments being undertaken across both social and economic sectors. The Government of Guyana is ensuring that all of its policies and plans are gender mainstreamed, thereby promoting the integral involvement of women in decision making. Moreover, numerous initiatives are being undertaken

that address challenges such as domestic violence, poverty and employability, sexual and reproductive health, among other social issues.

Please allow me to conclude my remarks by underscoring the need for international cooperation and concerted global effort to strengthen implementation of the

I thank you.