

Statement by
Ambassador Samuel Isa, Deputy Permanent
Representative of Ethiopia to the UN
at
57th Session of International Commission on
Population and Development (ICPD);

New York,
02 May 2024

Thank you Chairman,

The SDGs highlight the vital link between population dynamics and development outcomes. Factors like population size, growth rate, and migration patterns significantly influence progress towards SDG targets, particularly in healthcare, education, gender equality, urbanization, and environmental sustainability. The implementation of the ICPD impacts at least the implementation of 10 SDGs. Addressing challenges related to population and development requires collaborative efforts and international cooperation to implement effective policies and strategies.

Mr. Chair,

In line with United Nations Charter, the ICPD Programme of Action unequivocally affirms the sovereign right of each country to determine its own development path, in accordance with its national laws, development priorities, and cultural heritage, while respecting diverse religious and ethical values, and upholding universally recognized human rights. However, this fundamental principle is often undermined, as the international community continues to grapple with tendencies of undue interference in the political and cultural affairs of sovereign nations.

As stated in Principle 2 of the Programme of Action of the ICPD, people are the most important and valuable resource of any nation. Population policies that view population growth as a problem to be solved through fertility reduction measures need to be carefully balanced with the intrinsic worth and dignity of every human being. Such approaches are necessary to appreciate the value and potential of each person, and strengthen the very foundation of human rights and dignity.

Mr. Chair,

Ethiopia's Home-Grown Economic Reform, launched in 2018, aims to foster efficiency and introduce competition in key growth enabling sectors like energy, logistics, and telecom, and address macroeconomic imbalances. The Government of Ethiopia has also launched a 10-Year Development Plan, based on our 2019 Home-Grown Economic Reform, which runs from 2020 to 2030.

We are committed to achieving sustainable development and harnessing the demographic dividend through inclusive and equitable population and development

National Green Legacy Initiative