

## **Statement by Hon'ble Upendra Yadav**

Various policies, plans, and programs are being implemented to increase the quality of life of every citizen, creating a just, inclusive, equitable, and egalitarian society.

- To address evolving population dynamics;
- To leverage the demographic dividend;
- To mitigate pressing challenges posed by rapid urbanization, internal and external migration, and;
- To address the huge challenges being posed by climate change impacts and natural disasters.

We need to provide every citizen with opportunities to live in dignity and realize their full potential.

Further, our continued efforts to achieve progress in the implementation of the ICPD Program of Action as well as SDGs, have seriously been hampered by multiple crises and challenges including the COVID-19 pandemic, growing conflicts and geopolitical tensions, and numerous external shocks.

Climate crises and disasters have deeply impacted the lives and livelihoods of our people across the country.

Nepal possesses the youngest and most dynamic working population in history now.

Yet, massive investment in education, health, technology, entrepreneurship, capacity building, and employment opportunities is critical to reap the benefits from this demographic dividend.

Similarly, as an LDC, LLDC, and climate-vulnerable country, Nepal is facing multiple structural and other challenges in development.

I would, therefore, call upon the development partners and international community to enhance their support

- to accelerate our development endeavours,
- to bridge policy, institutional, technological, resource, and capacity gaps and constraints facing us, and
- to help achieve both the SDGs and ICPD POA.

**Madam Chair,**

To conclude, I reiterate the commitment of the Government of Nepal towards a rights-based, inclusive, innovative, and sustainable approach to population and development.

Nepal