



President of the General Assembly,
Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
All other protocols respectfully observed

It is indeed an honour and great pleasure for me and my delegation to be

present with the distinguished delegates the

taken steps to integrate women, adolescence and youths RH issues in the

~~Health and National Population Policies and the Programme for Accelerated~~

Growth and Employment

reproductive health, population and development with other PPD member countries.

Mr. Chairman,

Government has invested significantly over the years in human resources

and financial resources in addressing population, health and development issues which have yielded positive results. For example, TFR has declined from 6.01% to 5.6% from 1993 to 2013; maternal mortality ratio has declined from 1050 to 730 and 433 per 100000 live births between 1990, and 2013 respectively; the under-five and infant mortality rates have declined from 135 to 54 and from 99 to 34 per 1000 live births respectively between 1990 and 2013.

Mr. Chairman

While counting successes in implementing the ICPD programme of action, we continue to face a number of challenges which include resources inadequacies and the youthfulness of the population.

The Gambia still remains one of the most densely populated countries in

implementation gap, enhance our capacity to monitor policies and improve transparency and accountability.

Mr. Chairman

It is worth noting that unless the international community and governments fulfil their funding commitments towards addressing population and development issues the developing countries in particular will find it difficult to tackle challenges posed by our populations especially the youthful generation.

still committed to managing the population resource in order to accelerate the pace of socio-economic development and ultimately improve the quality of life of all Gambians.