



**SPEECH OF THE CABINET SECRETARY, THE NATIONAL
TREASURY AND PLANNING AMB. UKUR YATANI ON THE
OCCASION OF THE 1ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ICPD25
HELD ON 27TH JANUARY 2021 AT THE KENYATTA
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE**

The Cabinet Secretary, Health, Senator Mutahi Kagwe

The Cabinet Secretary, Education, Prof. George Magoha

The Cabinet Secretary, Labour & Social Protection, Mr. Simon Chelugui

The Cabinet Secretary, Public Service & Gender Prof. Margaret Kobia,

The Cabinet Secretary, ICT, Innovation and Youth Affairs, Mr. Joe Mucheru,

The Chief Administrative Officers Present

The Principal Secretaries Present

The Director General NCPD, Dr. Sheikh Mohamed

The Danish Ambassador to Kenya, H.E. Ole Thonkes

UN Resident Coordinator ad interim and UNAIDS Country Director, Dr. Medhin Tsehau

The UNFPA Country Representative, Dr. Ademola Oljide

Ladies and Gentlemen

This morning we gather here to mark the 1st Anniversary of the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 conference held here in Kenya in November 2019; The World Literally marched to Nairobi *to Accelerate the Promise* we made in Cairo in 1994; that did not stop; *The March Continues*.

You will recall that this conference was co-hosted by the Government of Kenya, the Royal Danish Embassy and UNFPA. Allow me to appreciate the technical and financial support received from the Government of Denmark and UNFPA. As a nation, we remain truly thankful.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 was attended by 8,277 delegates from 186 countries. Various governments of the world sent a total of 2,513 delegates while the rest were from civil society groups and organizations and private sector.

The Nairobi summit on ICPD25 was geared towards accelerating the promise of the 1994 Cairo Summit's programme of action where **we made promises** to our women and girls, **we made promises** to men and women, **we made promises** to the vulnerable population, and **we made promises** to the youth. We took stock of these promises on:

1. Sexual reproductive health;
2. Financing momentum;
3. Demographic diversity;
4. Gender based violence and harmful practices; and
5. Service provision in humanitarian and fragile settings.

Dear Kenyans,

By Kenya successfully hosting the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25, Kenya must lead the way in implementing her part of the commitments made.

By so doing, Kenya will be the reference point for ICPD25 in the same manner that Cairo was the reference point for the first Global Conference on Population and Development.

The onus of achieving this status is therefore on every national and county government institutions, civil society organizations, development partners, and the general public who have a stake in the country's population programme.

Ladies and gentlemen,

During the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25, Kenya made seventeen commitments to advance the goals of the ICPD Programme of Action.

These commitments, which were presented by The President of the Republic of Kenya H.E Uhuru Kenyatta, revolve around

1. Health,
2. Education,
3. Youth empowerment and employment,
4. Enhancing social protection for older persons and other vulnerable populations,
5. Harnessing of the demographic dividend,
6. Generation and utilization of population data for planning and decision making,
7. Elimination of harmful practices including FGM and child marriage,
8. Elimination of gender based violence and discrimination,
9. Increasing financing for the population programme, and
10. Integrating population issues in all development plans.

I wish to reiterate that the 17 Commitments made by Kenya are progressively contributing to the national, regional and global development frameworks including the Kenya Vision

2030, Big 4 Agenda, Population Policy for National Development, African Union Agenda 2063 on the *Africa We Want*, and Sustainable Development Goals.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I note with appreciation that over the last one year, despite the COVID-19 pandemic slowing our implementation progress of the Kenya country commitments, we have made remarkable progress. Through The National Council for Population and Development, which is mandated to coordinate the implementation of the country commitments, we have developed the Country Report on Nairobi Summit on ICPD25, Action Plan for the Implementation of the Kenya Country Commitments, and the 2019-2020 Annual Report on Implementation of Kenya Country Commitments. These key documents will be launched today and availed for use and reference by stakeholders.

The Summit report highlights key issues that came from the various Summit sessions while the Action Plan is a translation of Kenya's seventeen commitments into specific costed actions that will be implemented between 2019/2020 and 2029/2030. The Annual report highlights key achievements made in the implementation of the country commitments during 2019-2020.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am impressed by the commitments of the various stakeholders towards the implementation of the Kenya country commitments. I am aware that at the end of the 2019/2020 financial year, the first annual report on the implementation of the Country Commitments had been developed in good time.

This report highlights the activities in the Action Plan that were implemented during the reporting period. Specifically, the report shows the targets and achievements for each activities that were implemented as well as the challenges faced and facilitating factors.

The report will provide a baseline status for the activities in the Action Plan for the subsequent years.

One of the achievements that Kenya made after the Nairobi Summit was to release the 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census results as part of the commitment to increase availability and use of population data for decision making. During the course of 2020 the country also embarked on the development of various monographs based on the results of the 2019 census. These monographs will be finalized and availed for use in 2021. Further, Kenya has begun the process of planning the implementation of the 2021 Kenya Demographic and Health Survey which will provide crucial information on the demographic and health situation of the country's population. This information will be used to advance the population programme in Kenya.

Dear Kenyans,

Over the years our country has had a number of population policies that have helped to steer the Government's population programme. The current policy known as *Population Policy for National Development* has guided our population programme since 2012 when it was launched as *Sessional Paper No. 3 of 2012*. Last year, the Government through the National Council for Population and Development embarked on a process of reviewing this policy in response to the new development frameworks that have come up. These frameworks include African Union Agenda 2063, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Big 4 Agenda, and the ICPD25 Kenya Country Commitments. So far, consultative forums on the population policy have been held in all the 47 counties and their inputs are being incorporated in the review. This on-going consultative review of the population policy will no doubt enhance our efforts to improve the wellbeing of our population as envisaged in Kenya Vision 2030.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The development and launch of the 1st Annual Progress Report on ICPD25 Kenya Country Commitments 2019/2020 is coming at a time when Kenya is serving as the rapporteur to the African Population Experts Committee (APEC) Bureau. APEC Bureau was established in 2015 to advise the Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Health, Population and Drug Control (STC-HPDC) on a Common African Position on Population and Development matters. This launch is also coming at a time when the country has embarked on preparation of the Kenya Country Statement for the upcoming 54th Session of the Commission on Population and Development Scheduled to take place in New York, USA from 19th to 21st April 2021. The theme of this session will be “**Population, Food Security, Nutrition and Sustainable Development**”. Kenya’s 1st Annual Progress Report on ICPD25 Kenya Country Commitments will inform the development of the African Common Position on Population and Development as well as the Country Statements that will be presented by African Member States during the upcoming United Nations 54th Session of the Commission on Population and Development.

Dear Kenyans,

As Kenya continues with the implementation of its 17 Commitments, it will be important to learn from other countries who have done well in advancing the ICPD Programme of Action. The Partners in Population and Development forum (South-South Cooperation), of which Kenya is an active member, provides us with a valuable opportunity to learn and borrow lessons from other countries who have succeeded in various development aspects such as; attainment of demographic dividend, lowering incidences of morbidity and mortality especially among women and children, providing education and skills training that are relevant to the needs of the economy, and combating harmful practices. Kenya will therefore engage actively with Partners in Population and Development in an effort to fulfill its ICPD25 Country Commitments.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we implement these commitments, we continue working closely with County Governments through the Council of Governors; we continue to create awareness on the commitments and ensure their inclusion in the County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) and Annual Work Plans (AWPs). It is important to note that without the counties playing an active role in the implementation of the country commitments, the nation will have limited success in attaining the targets in the ICPD25 Action Plan.

Another important factor in fulfilling the ICPD25 Kenya Country Commitments is availability of financial resources. Unfortunately, the advent of COVID-19 in the country last year has constrained the available resources with more resources being taken up by the fight against the pandemic. To mitigate this, the Government has come up with a post COVID-19 Economic Stimulus package to support businesses that have been hit by the pandemic. The economic stimulus package will provide credit guarantees, loans to small businesses, help prop up tourist facilities, offer temporary employment programs for young people, farm-inputs subsidies, and rehabilitation of roads, schools, and water facilities. Through this package, the Government will also speed up payments of cash transfers to the elderly, disabled persons, orphans and vulnerable children. These actions will contribute to the implementation of the ICPD25 Kenya Country Commitments. Further to this, the Government will in the coming years endeavor to increase resources to the country's population programme, through domestic financing, as promised during the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25.

Finally,

Let me reassure all of us that we remain steadfast as a nation in ensuring Kenya lives up to its commitments. The Government of Kenya, will, through The National Council for Population and Development provide unprecedented financial and technical support to ensure we keep the promise.

As a Nation, We Will Leave No One Behind.

The first anniversary commemoration of the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 has provided Kenya with an opportunity to launch and publicize the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 Kenya Country Report, ICPD25 Action Plan for Implementation of Kenya Country Commitments, and the 2019/2020 Annual Report on the Implementation of Kenya Country Commitments. These documents will now be available for use and reference by organizations and individuals within and outside Kenya.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS KENYA