



SPEECH BY THE CABINET SECRETARY, THE NATIONAL TREASURY AND PLANNING HON. (AMB.) UKUR YATANI ON THE OCCASION OF THE 2ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE ICPD25 HELD ON 16TH NOVEMBER 2021, 9.00AM AT SERENA HOTEL

The Cabinet Secretary for Health, Senator Mutahi Kagwe

The Cabinet Secretary for Education, Prof. George Magoha

The Cabinet Secretary, Labour, Mr. Simon Chelugui

The Cabinet Secretary for Public Service, Gender, Senior Citizens Affairs & Special Programmes, Prof. Margaret Kobia

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

The Chief Administrative Secretaries present

The Principal Secretaries present

The Chairman NCPD Board, Hon. David Ngugi

The Director General NCPD, Dr. Mohamed Sheikh

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

The UNFPA Country Representative, Dr. Ademola Olajide

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to join all of you today as we mark the 2nd Anniversary of the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 which was held from 12th to 14th November 2019.

I wish to appreciate my Colleague Cabinet Secretaries present here today for finding time to join us on this auspicious occasion to take stock of the progress we have made over the last 2 years of the ICPD25. This Anniversary provides all stakeholders in the Population and Development sector with an opportunity to reflect on the progress that the country has made and the work that lies ahead as we seek to improve the lives of all citizens.

The theme for this year's anniversary could not have come at a better time than now; **'Accelerating The Promise'; The Match Continues**. We must all purpose to live to the promises we made to the world; the promises we made to our women and our girls.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Moreover, You will recall that the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 aimed at securing both **political and financial commitment** of United Nations' Member States and other stakeholders towards accelerating the implementation of the Programme of Action agreed on during the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo.

We take note that the Discussions held at the Nairobi Summit were centered around the following key population and development thematic areas;

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.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

One of the main highlights of the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 was the presentation of commitments by United Nations member states and other stakeholders; The world made commitments to our women and girls.

Similarly, The President of the Republic of Kenya, His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta, made seventeen (17) commitments, on behalf of the country, to advance the goals of the ICPD Programme of Action.

These commitments were in the following areas:

- i. Health; and Education;
- ii. Youth empowerment and employment;
- iii. Enhancing social protection for older persons and other vulnerable populations; Harnessing of the demographic dividend;
- iv. Generation and utilization of population data for planning and decision making;
- v. Elimination of harmful practices including FGM and child marriage;
- vi. Elimination of gender-based violence and discrimination;
- vii. Increasing financing for the population programme; and
- viii. Integration of population issues in development policies, programmes, and plans.

Distinguished Guests,

In addition to contributing to the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, the seventeen Kenya country, will contribute towards the goals of Kenya Vision 2030, Big 4 Agenda Plan, Population Policy for National Development, African Union Agenda 2063 on the *Africa We Want*, and Sustainable Development Goals.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We take pride today that as we mark the 2nd Anniversary of the Nairobi Summit, Kenya has made progress despite the Covid-19 pandemic.

The 2020/2021 **Financial Year Progress Report On The Implementation of The ICPD25 Kenya Country Commitments**; This report highlights the achievements that we made in the last financial year in each of the 17 commitments as well as the challenges encountered during implementation.

Distinguished Guests,

I wish to underscore that the first step that we took as a Nation was to actualize the implementation of the country commitments was to develop an Action Plan that stipulated the key actions and activities that the country would implement under each commitment during the decade leading up to the year 2030.

During the 2020 - 2021 period, Kenya made the following key achievements, among others, in the implementation of the ICPD25 country commitments:

1. Reviewed the Population Policy for National Development (PPND) and the Kenya Demographic Dividend Roadmap;
2. Operationalized the National Social Protection Steering Committee;
3. Registered over 348,00 new members to the National Social Security Fund;
4. Capacity-built 142 Institutions on provision of quality and timely data for decision making;
5. Finalized negotiation of Bilateral Labour Migration Agreements with the United Kingdom and Saudi Arabia;
6. Completed and put in operation 119 new TVET institutions;
7. Three land mark declarations against FGM were made by the Pokot, Gabra and Samburu communities;
8. All County Gender Technical Working Groups were strengthened;
9. Provided 272 advisories to various institutions on opportunities for promoting gender equality and freedom from discrimination; and
10. The Process of integrating the ICPD25 indicators on a digital platform to ease monitoring and reporting was commenced.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

From the reports on the implementation of the ICPD25 Kenya Country Commitments that have been presented today by the various Ministries, I am gratified to note that the country is on course to fulfill the seventeen commitments. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, we have made progress on the country commitments; County Governments, Development partners, Civil Society Organizations, and other actors in the population and development sector have contributed significantly to the success that the country achieved both in 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 financial years.

On behalf of the National Government, I would like to thank all these institutions for supporting our efforts to improve the wellbeing Kenyans.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have made progress over the last two years as a Nation. We have travelled a rough path; but great work lies ahead of us as a nation. The work ahead is great and we need more energy to accomplish it. I call upon all the implementing partners and Development Partners to double their efforts and rally all the support required towards realizing the promises we made. The government of Kenya remains committed to ensuring we live up to the promises we made.

Finally, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we launch the 2020-2021 Progress Report on Implementation of ICPD25 Kenya Country Commitments and 2020-2030 Kenya Demographic Dividend Roadmap, I would like to call upon all stakeholders to continue supporting the implementation of the Kenya Country Commitments and the Demographic Dividend agenda both at the national and county levels. It is only through our collective efforts that we will achieve our development aspirations for the betterment of life for the citizens of Kenya.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS KENYA.