

SPEECH BY MR SAITOTI TOROME, CBS, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, STATE DEPARTMENT FOR PLANNING, DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE ICPD25 YOUTH COALITION ON TUESDAY, 14TH JUNE 2022 AT THE SAFARI PARK HOTEL, NAIROBI

Dr. Sheikh Mohamed, Director General, NCPD,

Mr. Mr. Anders Thomsen, Country Representative UNFPA,

Government Official Representatives present;

Representative from Danish Embassy in Kenya;

The Youth Coalition Members

Invited Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning!

- It gives me great pleasure to join you today for launch of the Youth Coalition on ICPD25. The 2019 Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 was a follow-up event after the grand 1994 ICPD held in Cairo, Egypt where UN member states committed to implementing the Programme of Action (PoA). As you are aware, the ICPD POA focus on sustained economic growth in the context of sustainable development; education, especially for girls; gender equity and equality; infant, child and maternal mortality reduction; and the provision of universal access to reproductive health services, including family planning and sexual health.
- The Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 was thus crucial for validating the Programme of Action through the reaffirmation of the sole commitment to **"Accelerating the Promise"**.

Ladies and Gentlemen

- During the Summit, His Excellency the President, made an urgent call for mobilization of both political and financial support to ensure the ICPD Agenda is achieved. This was in line with the objectives of the Summit which were to obtain

strong political commitment and financial momentum. The summit was co-hosted by the Government of Kenya, the Government of Denmark and UNFPA.

- Kenya was among the 132 countries that committed to accelerate the implementation of ICPD agenda to improve the quality of life. The Country made 17 commitments majorly targeting the youth.
- Within the five globally agreed thematic areas, Kenya committed to among others eliminate teenage pregnancies, new adolescent and youth HIV infections and harmful practices such as child marriages while at the same time ensuring universal access to friendly quality reproductive health services and information to the youth and adolescents by 2030. Elimination of mother to child transmission of HIV and severe morbidity such as obstetric fistula among women by 2030 was discussed during the conference.
- Under the thematic area on Creating Financing Momentum, the government committed to Increase health sector financing to 15 percent of total budget by 2030, as per the Abuja declaration; improve support to older persons, persons with disabilities, orphans, and vulnerable children to at least 2 percent of the Gross Domestic Product over the next 10 years.

Ladies and Gentlemen

- The third thematic area on Demographic Diversity and Sustainable Development carried the most commitments. These cover availability and access to high quality, timely and reliable population and related data at national, county, and sub-county levels; Integration of population issues into all policies and programmes relating to sustainable development; Harnessing the demographic dividend through investments in health and citizens' wellbeing; education and skills training; employment creation and entrepreneurship; and rights, governance and empowerment of young people by 2022 as outlined in the Kenya's Demographic Dividend Roadmap; Elimination of legal, policy and programmatic barriers that

impede youth participation in decision making, planning and implementation of development activities at all levels by 2030.

Ladies and Gentlemen

- In addition, this thematic area addressed the issues of education and employment through the Attainment of universal basic education by ensuring 100 percent transition of pupils, including those with special needs and disabilities, from early learning to secondary education by 2022 as well as raise the completion rate for basic education to 100 percent by 2030.
- Under the fourth thematic area on ending gender based violence and harmful practices, the government committed to End Female Genital Mutilation by 2022; Eliminate all forms of gender based violence, including child and forced marriages, by addressing social and cultural norms that propagate the practice while providing support to women and girls who have been affected and End gender and other forms of discrimination by 2030 through enforcing the anti-discrimination laws and providing adequate budgetary allocations to institutions mandated to promote gender equality, equity and empowerment of women and girls.
- The last thematic area had just one commitment of ensuring universal access to quality reproductive health services, including prevention and management of GBV, in humanitarian and fragile contexts by 2030.

Ladies and Gentlemen

- In order to ensure timely reporting on the commitments, His Excellency the President of Kenya tasked the National Council for Population and Development to track, monitor and report.
- The Government through the State Department for Planning has prioritised the ICPD25 Kenya Country commitments through mainstreaming them in the MTPIV and is in the process of incorporating them in the CIPDs.

- As we have heard from the previous speakers, youth engagement is very critical in the implementation and achievement of the above commitments. We must involve the youth in these significant actions.
- In conclusion, **ladies and gentlemen**, as we launch the ICPD25 Youth Coalition, I wish to confirm that the government will support every effort in ensuring that the commitments are achieved within the stipulated time.

ASANTENI SANA.