

REPUBLIC OF NIGER



STATEMENT BY H.E. ISSOUFOU MAHAMADOU,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NIGER,
TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND
DEVELOPMENT.
NEW YORK, 22 SEPTEMBER 2014.

September 2014

Mr. President,

I would firstly like to congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of this twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations and assure you that, throughout your mandate, you may count on the support of Niger, whose commitment to the objectives set out by the International Conference on Population and Development remains more unflinching than ever.

The participative and inclusive approach used in the preparation of the important report of the Secretary-General, ICPD+20, guarantees the suitability of the programmes and actions planned for the coming years.

My delegation wishes to commend the Secretary-General, his partners and all the relevant actors who participated in the process, in which Niger took an active part.

The report submitted for our attention emphasizes concerns that match our national priorities, including respect for and protection of human rights, particularly regarding reproduction, universal access to sexual and reproductive health and education, including sex education, and the elimination of violence towards women and girls.

This report is therefore a valuable basis that will allow us to work more effectively on drawing up the global post-2015 development agenda.

Mr. President,

Twenty years after the adoption and implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, Niger has made significant progress towards achieving the objectives in the areas of governance, health, education and promoting dignity and human rights.

However, strong population growth of 3.9 per cent per year, resulting in the doubling of the population in fewer than 18 years, remains a formidable challenge for our country.

In that regard, we are committed to promoting strong and accelerated economic growth through suitable economic and social policies and investment in human development, enshrined in the Renewal Programme implemented by the Government. We have resolved to explore all options to confront this challenge, including the demographic dividend.

Mr. President,

Niger has strong expectations for the global post-2015 development agenda. We believe that several elements should serve as a basis for drawing up strategies within this framework, relating to:

- Strengthening the application of institutional texts on dignity and human rights;
- Reducing inequality between different population groups;
- Economic policies for sustainable growth based on technical and professional education for young people and their employment;
- Strong actions aimed at young people, who make up a significant section of our population, particularly regarding their sexual and reproductive health.

Mr. President, the programmes that will be developed should take into account the social and cultural diversity of our different countries.

THANK YOU