

Statement from 22 September 2014 by the Republic of Burundi to the twenty-ninth Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations on the adoption of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD+2014)

His Excellency the President of the twenty-ninth Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations;

Distinguished Delegates;

- 1) First of all, allow me to bring you the fraternal greetings of his Excellency Mr. Pierre NKURUNZIZA, President of the Republic of Burundi and to compliment you on your exceptional supervision of our assembly.
- 2) Burundi takes this opportunity to welcome the report of the Secretary-General, A/69/62, entitled “Framework of actions for the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014”, as well as the Annex (Index) of the report on the forty-seventh session of the Commission on Population and Development.
- 3) Burundi is pleased to have contributed to the global survey of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and is satisfied with the considerable progress that has been made in its implementation.
- 4) The Government of Burundi would like to illustrate this point by referring to the following results:
- 5) **Regarding Human Dignity and Rights:** The Government of Burundi shares the vision of the Secretary-General who, in his report,

states that the elimination of discrimination and human rights violations, the eradication of extreme poverty, and social inclusion are all central to the realization of dignity and human rights for all. Burundi will continue to promote and protect the right of young people to access high-quality education at all levels, including those who have left school, while ensuring the support of girls and boys, both at primary and secondary school and in higher levels of education. Burundi has a national gender policy and is in the process of adopting a specific law which deals with the prevention, protection and repression of gender violations.

- 6) I would not know how to approach this human rights chapter without drawing attention to the marked progress already recorded by the Government of Burundi in the promotion and protection of the rights of the Batwa people. Indeed, the Batwa are well represented in the largest State institutions including the National Assembly, the Senate, the Land and Other Assets Commission, the General State Inspectorate and the East African Legislative Assembly.
- 7) **Regarding health** in general, and sexual and reproductive health in particular, substantial progresses have been made. Especially in the reduction in maternal mortality, which dropped from 910 per 100,000 births in 2005 to 500 per 100,000 births in 2010, due, among other factors, to the policy of free health care provision for pregnant and delivering women, initiated by His Excellency Pierre NKURUNZIZA, President of the Republic of Burundi, as well as to the increase in access to modern contraception. The percentage of births attended by trained staff increased from 22.9% in 2005 to 74.2% in 2013, and the contraceptive prevalence rate rose from 8.4% in 2005 to 30.8% in 2013.
- 8) **The promotion of universal access to sexual and reproductive health** among young people and adolescents has been significantly improved by the integration of Sex Education in primary school

programmes and the establishment of an innovative approach: “social and community networking for health service provisions for the Sexual and Reproductive Health of Adolescents and Young Persons”.

- 9) **With regard to population and development:** The Government has adopted a National Population Policy Declaration, and has taken population dynamics into account for the planning of national and local development, thus demonstrating – with the RAPID model – how and why the country should harness the demographic dividend for sustainable and inclusive development.
- 10) I will take this opportunity to launch a heartfelt appeal to partners of Burundi to double efforts to provide it with the technical and financial means to ensure universal and fair access to quality health care, including universal access to sexual and reproductive health, and to guarantee reproduction and family planning rights.
- 11) The Government of Burundi shares the relevance of the findings of the review of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014, which show that, despite substantial progress in poverty reduction and in economic growth, much has been overlooked – including the inability to: meet basic needs, get a fulfilling job, and to access social welfare, public services and education – and that there are still great obstacles preventing many people from benefiting from their human rights.
- 12) The Government of Burundi notes that the Secretary-General’s report comprehensively discusses the ways to enhance individual capacity and resilience to ensure sustainable development. Burundi shares the conclusion of the Secretary-General’s report that the foundation of sustainable development lies with lifelong sector-wide investment in individual rights, skills and human dignity.

- 13) Burundi acknowledges that the development challenges with which the international community is faced demand the systematic participation of all stakeholders in the elaboration of responses to these challenges, which require global partnership and leadership throughout the UN.
- 14) In the years to come, the tasks to be comprehensively carried out by Burundi include: the elaboration and strengthening of the adoption of appropriate laws, policies and national programmes which guarantee and protect human rights, dignity and equality with sector-wide inclusive and durable economic and social development as the goal; the harmonization of national laws with ratified international instruments, acceleration of the implementation of national, regional and international engagements in the field of gender equality.
- 15) Specifically: the acceleration of progress towards universal access to quality sexual and reproductive health services and towards obtaining sexual and reproductive health rights by ensuring complete information and education for adolescents and young people; the adoption and application of policies and strategies to reduce maternal, infant and neonatal mortality; increasing the contraceptive prevalence rate to at least 60% by 2025.
- 16) In this regard, the Government of Burundi is pleased to reiterate its support, expressed during the forty-seventh Session of the Commission on Population and Development, and remains fully engaged in the pursuit of the implementation of the future Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.
- 17) The Government of Burundi asks that the conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary-General's report be included in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

- 18) My country is proud to join the international community and to reaffirm its support for the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014, and for the innovative vision presented in the report of the Secretary-General.

Thank you for your kind attention.