

In the name of Allah the Merciful, May Peace and Salvation be upon him.

**Statement by Lamina El Qotob EMMEMA, Minister of Social Affairs, Children and Family to the Special Session of the International Conference on Population and Development on 22 September 2014 in New York.**

President of the General Assembly;  
Ladies and Gentlemen, Delegation Chiefs;  
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First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to commend the report of the United Nations Secretary-General, who has touched upon the most important subjects of this interactive dialogue of the forty-seventh Session of the Commission on Population and Development.

Mr. President of the General Assembly;  
Ladies and Gentlemen;

The Islamic Republic of Mauritania, like other countries of the world, has worked hard to implement the work programme of the Commission on Population and Development, under the wise direction of his Excellency the President of the Republic, Mr. Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, the current President of the African Union, who devotes particular attention to the implementation of this programme in Mauritania and across the African continent. This determination has been reflected in the implementation of multiple strategies and policies including the National Population Policy Statement of 2012 and the third phase of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Framework (2011-2015), which aims at fulfilling the objectives set in the work programme of the Commission on Population and Development.

The State's overall strategy pays particular attention to the development of the social sectors, such as education, with great importance placed on literacy, the education of girls, health – including reproductive health – employment and gender. It also takes into account the specific needs of the most vulnerable sectors of society, dealing with issues such as sexual equality, the protection and promotion of women's rights, the empowerment of women, the fight against all forms of violence against women and girls, employment of young people, as well as the protection and promotion of disabled people and the elderly.

While progress has certainly been made, great efforts are still needed to reach our objectives which are designed to improve people's quality of life, establish justice and equality, and preserve the environment for the benefit of present and future generations.

And here, we reach the conclusions of the report of the United Nations Secretary-General which state that, despite the progress made in global economic growth and poverty reduction since the first International Conference on Population and Development, large sections of the population can still not meet their basic needs, and lack access to social welfare and public services such as health, education and decent work.

Unless these challenges are met, they will continue to present an obstacle to the economic prosperity of populations, to their security and to their social cohesion.

With this in mind, we confirm Mauritania's support for the Addis-Ababa Declaration on Population and Development in Africa Beyond 2014. We also reaffirm our commitment to implement the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, acknowledging its alignment with our regional report, and with the recommendations of the United Nations Secretary-General as to the issues regarding population and development beyond 2014.

On this occasion, we call for the incorporation of the conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary-General's report and the Declaration on Population and Development in Africa Beyond 2014 into the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

To conclude, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania is proud to lend its voice to those of the Group of Arab States, Africa, the Group of 77 and China, and the international community, in once again reaffirming its engagement and its support for all population and development issues contained in the historic programme of the International Conference of Population and Development held in Cairo and reflected, through a prospective vision, by the report of the United Nations Secretary-General, all while respecting our cultural and religious distinctiveness.

Thank you.