STATEMENT

BY

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AT THE

51ST SESSION OF THE
COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

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Mr. Chair,
Members of the Commission,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
All protocols duly and respectfully observed,

It is indeed an honour and great appreciation to deliver a statement on behalf of The Gambian delegation to share with the distinguished delegates the experience and best practices of The Gambia on the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) with focus on sustainable cities, human mobility and international migration.

The world today is witnessing a serious migration crisis that is caused mainly by years of political instability and poor economic performances. This conference, therefore, could not have come at a better time than now.

Mr. Chair,

The high rate of migration in The Gambia, both internal and international, has affected the structure and pattern of settlements. A large majority of internal migrants settle in urban agglomerations, where there is a high concentration of employment opportunities and social amenities, which act as pull factors.

Over the past four decades, the urban population in The Gambia has shown an increasing trend and currently more than half of the population (57.8 per cent) lives in urban areas. This is above the continental average of 42 % by a large margin.

The concentration of a largely youthful population of The Gambia in the urban areas, has resulted in rising unemployment and urban poverty. The worst incidence of urban poverty can be seen in the Greater Banjul Area, where the
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According to the recently launched National Development Plan (2018 – 2021),
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unplanned urban expansion has resulted to settlements in erosion and flood
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