

Statement by
Mr. Israel Choko Davies, Minister Plenipotentiary
Permanent Mission of the Republic of
Liberia to the United Nations
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Chair,
Excellencies,
Distinguished colleagues/participants

Mr. Chair, accept my warmest congratulations on your leadership. At the outset, I would like to thank, on behalf of my delegation (Government of Liberia), the Secretary General, the Chairman and Secretariat of the Commission on Population and Development for the enormous efforts invested in the organization of this Fifty First Session, which is being held under the theme "Sustainable cities, Human mobility and International Migration"

Mr. Chair,

The theme for this session is particularly significant in recognition of the fact that Urbanization, human mobility and international migration are closely interlinked to the process of development and truly reflects the integrated nature of the sustainable development goals (SDGs). Hence, we must endeavor to ensure that our cities and communities are inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, in the face of population shifts, whether internal or global, as mirrored in goal 11 of the SDGs.

In this regard, we would like to underscore and welcome the recommendations proffered by the Secretary General in his report on sustainable cities, human mobility and international migration. The recommendations are all encompassing and deserve our collective action(s). They highl

Mr. Chair, Liberians were once on the move due to civil upheaval, but today, we are, no more, and we remain grateful to all of our friends who stood by us during such difficult period. This is all the more reason we empathize with those who are forced to migrate due to unfortunate reasons; sometimes under perilous conditions.

Chair,

The Fifty First Session not only offers an opportunity to consider the nexus between urbanization, human mobility, international migration and how they impact sustainable development, it also provides a platform for collective action(s) in advancing the implementation of the programme of action of the ICPD.

As we seek ways and means to enhance the implementation of the key actions of the programme, we must all be guided by the five principles enshrined in this ambitious document. Principle two (2) places human beings at the core of concerns for sustainable development. We believe that this must be the basis for our collective interventions and steps towards the implementation of the actions of the programme at all levels.

Chair, we wish to make the following additional inputs which we believe are germane to the further implementation of the Programme of Action:

1. Funding Commitment (resource mobilization)

Important as the basis for our actions is the need for adequate mobilization of resources at the domestic and international levels to enhance the implementation of the key actions, targets and goals of the programme. This requires commitment at all levels.

As indicated in the Program of Action, many of the goals require additional resources. We welcome the Secretary-General's recommendation contained in his report on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the further implementation of the Programme of Action. As it relates to costing, the recommendation called for expanding beyond the following four components of the ICPD namely: Family planning services, Basic reproductive health services, Prevention of sexually transmitted diseases (HIV/AIDS) and Basic research, data and population and development policy analysis.

Further, as noted in the SG's recommendation, we want to emphasize the importance of the need to also mobilize additional resources for social and economic matters, such as strengthening the health sector, providing universal basic education and eliminating disparities, improving the status and empowerment

of women, generating employment, and addressing environmental concerns and poverty eradication.

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