



**57<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Population and Development**  
**Statement by**  
**H.E. Mohan Pieris**  
**Ambassador & Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations**

Mr. Chair,

Thank you for giving me the floor.

Today, as we are celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the inception of the historic International Conference of Population and Development, it is incumbent upon all of us to revisit the progress made in the implementation of the same and

leaders of the world face today is to reduce poverty and inequity, and improve people s lives without compromising the environment and the well-being of future generations.

Hence, when recognizing the importance of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the ICPD and its contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we should also assess the new realities of the world. Today, in the post-pandemic era, we are facing scourge of ongoing conflicts in the world, their spillover impacts on all the other regions, in addition to the triple planetary crisis, scarcity of food and water, access to decent jobs and sustainable energy.

Mr Chair,

Our advancements in health, and education among others, have contributed to a decline in the fertility rate moving to replacement levels of fertility and achieving life expectancy above 70 years. As a result, we are experiencing a rapid pace of population aging in Sri Lanka with 1 in 5 people projected to be above the age of 60 years by 2030. We are committed to addressing this demographic shift by promoting women and youth engagement in economic activity, redesigning our social protection system to provide universal coverage, promoting healthy aging and safeguarding reproductive rights and choices for all.

Mr. Chair,

We are cognizant that despite the progress made in the ICPD, several gaps remain in the implementation. In this regard, voluntary commitments made by the Member States to further the 2030 Agenda are of high importance.

In conclusion, Sri Lanka reiterates its commitment to the ICPD. It is our strong belief that reviewing the progress made by the ICPD at this milestone would provide us with the catalyst to determine the road map of the ICPD and focus on our priorities in a pragmatic and meaningful manner. Sri Lanka is committed to realizing these aspirations for the betterment of our societies and the planet we live, in the times to come.

I thank you

