

Chairperson and distinguished delegates,

of the Commission on Population and Development on your election, and to
thank you for your leadership role in the preparations for this session. We also

Last year our country hosted and participated in the Fifth General Assembly of the African Population Commission of the African Union, and fully supported its outcome document, the *Johannesburg Declaration*. We also hosted (with the

support of the African Union, the UNFPA, and UNESCO's MOST Programme) an international conference on *Demography and Development in Africa* (2001).

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Our constitution and local government legislation promotes integrated development planning across the three spheres of government, to support the

has to develop and annually update five-year strategic Integrated Development

Plan (IDP) for all spheres of jurisdiction, which consider the social

population. Also, women in rural areas tend to experience lower levels of

Our democratic government has prioritized access to social services since 1994,

of national GVA in trade, 75% of GVA in financial, real estate and business services, and 52% of GVA (community, social and personal services). There is a

We trust that this week's deliberations will yield an outcome that will propel the

International community to...

Department of the State...