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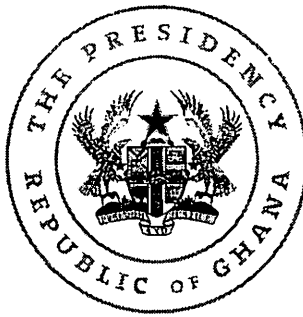
I bring you greetings from the Government and people of Ghana and take this opportunity to welcome the Report of the Secretary-General, A/69/62 entitled “Framework of Actions for the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development Beyond 2014”, as well as the Index Report on the interactive debate of the 47th session of the Commission on Population and Development.

Ghana is pleased to have contributed to the global survey for the ICPD beyond 2014 Review. We have made considerable progress in implementing the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.

We have actively participated in several ECOWAS, AU and other international thematic ICPD beyond 2014 Review Processes. These include the engagement with parliamentarians in Cote d’Ivoire and Sweden, civil society organizations in South Africa, the religious forums in Istanbul, Turkey and Ministerial meetings in New York to mention but a few.

My participation in this special session today demonstrates Ghana’s commitment to the ICPD and our continuing engagement with the outstanding issues within the ICPD Programme of Work, particularly those related to women and young people.

Ghana has over the past 20 years made significant progress in the implementation of the ICPD programme of Action. As my Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection emphasized in an earlier meeting held here in New York, Ghana recognizes the importance of women as both agents and beneficiaries of social development and change.



There have been significant improvements in institutional mechanisms as well as policy frameworks for women's empowerment and the promotion of gender equality and equity.

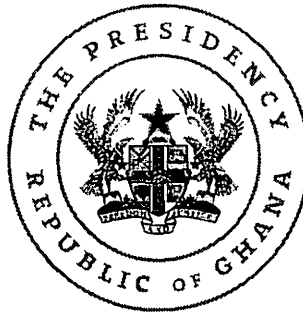
Access to health care and services, and geographical coverage, especially in the rural areas, has increased through the expansion of community-based Health Planning and Services (CHPS). There has been continuous expansion of functional CHPS zones in all Regions in Ghana. The number of functional CHPS zones increased from 868 in 2009 to 1,675 in 2011. The community-based Health Planning Services (CHPS) initiative has also brought primary health care and reproductive health services closer to the people.

Trends in the maternal mortality ratio in Ghana have shown a consistent decline since 1990. Maternal mortality has reduced to 350 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2010 and is projected to fall to 185 deaths per 100,000 live births by 2015.

To further reduce this before 2015, several mechanisms have been put in place. I have personally committed myself to the implementation of CARMMA, the Campaign for Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa. CARMMA which is an initiative of the African Union Commission to curb the continent's high rate of pregnancy-related deaths has made significant strides in Ghana.

Additionally, the Government launched the MDG5 Acceleration Framework (known as MAF) in 2011 to guide national interventions to accelerate the reduction of maternal mortality in the country.

In terms of development of health infrastructure, just a few weeks ago, we announced the construction of fifteen (15) polyclinics costing €37 Million Euro, in one of the most deprived regions and another in the most populous region



to tackle primarily, issues of maternal health. The construction of the new health facilities will help improve access to quality healthcare delivery.

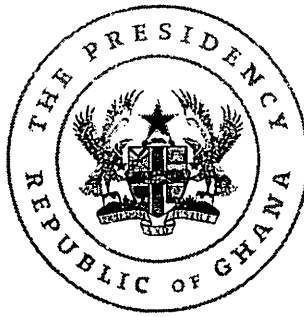
Family planning centres have been set up in health centres to counsel people on family planning and prevention of sexually transmitted infections. The Ghana Health Service also conducts an annual review of its operations to manage performance and determine where new or improved strategies are required for better maternal health outcomes and service delivery.

The gains have not been made by Government alone. The private sector is also contributing to improve access to healthcare services. One example is the 'Reducing Maternal Morbidity and Mortality' programme in Ghana. Its objectives are to support government to achieve a 39 percent contraceptive prevalence rate and reduce maternal mortality due to unsafe abortion.

R3M partners have provided long acting and permanent methods (LAPM) to 106,126 women, comprehensive abortion care services to 133,291 clients. This resulted in averting 254,000 unintended pregnancies, 1250 maternal deaths and 161,000 unsafe abortions.

The Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana (PPAG), over the years, has expanded to cover a whole range of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services. PPAG's has delivered services and programmes through 1,356 service points, including 11 permanent clinics, 54 mobile clinics and over 1,000 community-based service points (CBSs).

I have demonstrated my unrelenting support to the issues of young people through the launch of Ghana's Youth Policy and Action Plan. The Youth Empowerment Synergy (YES-Ghana) has been selected to lead the design and implementation of the Big Idea project in Ghana. The Big Idea is a project



grounded on the belief that opens data in the hands of young people can effectively drive national and local level accountability and development.

We are seizing the opportunity created by the high-profile post-2015 development agenda process, and capitalising on the concurrent global movements in open governance and the data revolution. The project will equip young people with knowledge, skills and platforms to effectively interpret and use data in order to mobilise citizens to take action, and hold their governments accountable for the issues that are most important to young people and their broader communities, within the framework of the MDG targets and indicators.

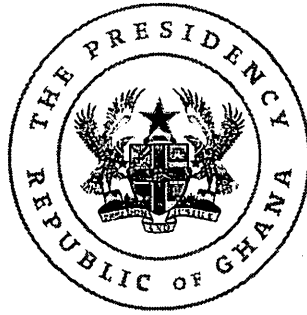
Our country's development policy framework, the Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA) which ended in 2013 and its successor has "people" as its central focus and seeks to improve human capital through health and education and creation of sustainable jobs.

The National Development Planning Commission was strategically selected to coordinate the ICPD review process in Ghana and I am sure that the review recommendations will be part of our next policy development agenda which is being finalized.

We agree that the current development challenges we face across Africa requires strategic and systematic approaches and global leadership. Leadership by the UN and other regional bodies is critical for positive, inclusive, social and economic growth.

Distinguished participants,

We are fully committed to the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.



We commit to the outcome of our Regional Review and its findings and recommendations. We call for the inclusion of the findings and recommendations of the Secretary-General's Report with its transformational vision in the Post 2015 Development Agenda.

In conclusion, my country Ghana is proud to re-affirm our commitment to the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and I, at this highest political level, renew my Government's support for actions required for the full achievement of the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action, particularly those that will ensure that our women do not die whilst giving life and that every young person's dream of a decent life is realized.

Thank you

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