Kingdom of Tonga Statement

Mister. Chair, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the Kingdom of Tonga I would like to express our sincere gratitude for the host and organizers of this event. It is indeed an honored for me to deliver the statement and representing the Kingdom of Tonga. The national motto, God and Tonga are My Inheritance enshrines sustainable development as a way of life.

Mister. Chair, The Kingdom of Tonga would like to reaffirm its commitment to the 2013 Ministerial Declaration and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.

Our national and related ICPD priorities and the 2030 Agenda re-enforces Tonga’s commitment to ensure the sustainability of the economy, strengthening resilience against the impacts of climate change and natural disasters, improve the quality of services and affordability to the community, and achieve progressive and sustainable economic growth.

Tonga with a population of approximately 100,000 has experienced a decline in population over the past decades. This decline is attributed to a decrease in the fertility rate, resulting in negative annual population growth, also the increase in out-migration contributed to this trend. Significant progress has been made in relation to low maternal and child mortality, high literacy rate and declining poverty rate.

Tonga recognizes the need for equal opportunities for all, including access to employment, political leadership and social services and our commitment for all men, women and children to live in an environment free from all forms of violence and exploitation.

Tonga, faces natural disasters of unprecedented severity and frequency and has been ranked as the second most at risk country in the world to natural disaster. All Tongans will forever recall the January 15th 2022 volcano eruption and tsunami that cut access to basic essentials for people and sadly loss of lives. Tonga is committed to reduce the risks and the harmful effects of natural disasters, particularly through risk informed development efforts, by enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response.

Mr. Chair,
Although significant progress has been made, Tonga has one of the world’s highest rates of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) globally. NCDs account for approximately 80% of deaths in Tonga. We must provide continuous support to reducing NCD-related deaths by one-third by the year 2030. Low contraceptive use, high unmet need for family planning and adolescence pregnancy are areas that needed accelerated attention and actions.

Tonga acknowledges that the journey is long mindful of the capacity and resource constraints faced however, we aim to achieve the national, ICPD related priorities and the 2030 Development Agenda, through genuine and durable international and regional partnership with development partners, donors and local stakeholders.

I thank you!