Mid Term Review of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development

Agenda Item 2. Review of progress towards the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the key actions for its further implementation and its recommendations of the Asia Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development.

National Statement for Papua New Guinea (5 mins)
Delivered by the Honourable Richard Maru, BTECH, MBA, OBE, MP
Minister for National Planning

1. Mr Chairman and distinguished representatives, on behalf of Papua New Guinea, I thank you for updating us on the review of progress towards the implementation of the Programme of Action for implementation and its recommendations of the Asia Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development.

Papua New Guinea is happy to report on its efforts as part of the Mid Term Review of progress made towards the implementation of the Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in this Meeting.

2. PNG is a member of the global family committed to achieving the global 2030 Agenda and the seventeen key pillars aligned with the ICPD Programme of Action. Mr Chairman, Sustainable Development Agenda is centered around people and the sustainability of their livelihoods. Localising 2030 Agenda has been the theme of member countries to plot their country’s development strategies of which Papua New Guinea is committed to achieving these goals.

3. Papua New Guinea has embraced these agendas by localizing the SDG goals into its 5 year Medium Term Development Plan (2018-2022) and its Development Vision 2050. Human centric indicators of health, sexual and reproductive health, education, gender equality, adolescents and young people, aging population, migration are critical areas of focus for sustainable development.

With a population of 8 million people and growing at the rate of 3.1 per cent annually, issues of equitable consideration for inclusive and sustainable growth are part of the Government’s development agenda.
Having a healthy population is critical to address mortality status of the country. PNG has progressed to improve its maternal mortality from 470 deaths per 100,000 live births to 217 per 100,000 live births in 2016. The country is aiming to improve further in the medium term through its human development interventions.

In terms of infant mortality, PNG has progressed from 77 per 1000 live births in 2011 to 44 per 1000 live births in 2016.

Under five mortality rate, PNG had 57 per 1000 live births in 2006 (this is from the 2006 DHS report) and with the strategic interventions of government in the areas of improved health cares services to the rural areas and training of skilled health workers, we aim to improve this statistics significantly (Currently, we are conducting our DHS which is aimed to be completed by mid-2019) that will reflect the latest status of this indicator.

For Sexual and Reproductive health services, the review shows low access to contraception and family planning services leading to low contraceptive prevalence rate with adolescent birth rate at 14% per 1000 women. Overall progress is slow but the Government through the Department of Health is providing sexual and reproductive health and family planning services to women, young people, couples and individuals.

Deliberate intervention by Government in the provision of compulsory free education, and education of girls has resulted in improvements in overall net enrolment including proportion of girls enrolled in schools, which has increased from 53 percent in 2011 to 68 per cent in 2014.

Mr Chairman, PNG has a very young aged population of 40% of the total of 8 million people. Of this, 20 per cent of the youth population that leave school each year find space to further their education into tertiary institutions while 80% find their way to engaged in other sectors. This creates a growing challenge for the Government to address the issues of unemployment, migration and other social issues related to youths population.

Mr Chairman, with these challenges, PNG is committed to improve on these development indicators by way of direct government interventions through the policies, legislation frameworks and resource allocations to unlash the potentials the country has in the areas of agriculture, natural resources and human capital. Focusing on rural development, opening up of rural areas through regional and district roads connectivity, provision of technical vocational training programmes, and opening up of district markets create impetus for an inclusive and sustainable growth for the country to achieve the global moto of “Leaving No-One Behind”. This includes effort to address the inclusiveness of the marginalized population including the aging population and people with disabilities.
Mr Chairman, PNG is ahead of integrating its data systems and monitoring of the performance of its development indicators through the country’s strategy of Development of Statistics and Monitoring and Evaluation Frameworks. We believe this will strengthen the country’s efforts to achieving effective reporting and monitoring against its development indicators.

We look forward to receiving the outcome of this review meeting that will guide us to use the recommendations to accelerate the ICPD Programme of Actions to achieve our country’s Medium-Term Development Plan whilst achieving the Global Agenda 2030.

Thank you.