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**STATEMENT
BY
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THE GAMBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE
COMMISSION FOR POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

**NEW YORK
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Chairperson,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates.

I have the honour to align my delegation with the statement delivered by the Republic of Congo on behalf of the Africa Group.

The Gambia reaffirms its commitment to the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. The Gambia has one of the fastest population growth rates (3.1%) per annum in sub-Saharan Africa. In 2021, it has an estimated population of 2.1 million with projected figures indicating that the population will be 3.5 million and 4.5 million by mid-2035 and mid-2050 respectively. Due to high rural-urban migration, more than 50% of the population lives in the western part of the country which constitutes an urban sprawl. Women account for over 51% of the population, adolescents aged 15-24 years and youth age 15-35 years account for 21.4% and 38.5% of the total population respectively.

Mr. Chairman,

The Gambia has registered much progress in reducing poverty and creating the enabling environment for improving the lives of its people. However, despite the progress made in recent years, poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition still continue to be a challenge. This is partly

The Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) in The Gambia which supports community organization and specific food security activities such as water harvesting, improved and diversified production including poultry, small ruminants, aquaculture, mushrooms, exotic fruits, cashew and rice to achieve local food security.

The Agricultural Transformation Programme (ATP) which has the objective of defining a sector investment plan that supports agriculture production enhancement to achieve sustainable food security, reduced malnutrition and cereal import balance. This will eventually lead to enhanced economic growth through increased contribution of the agricultural sector to the Gambian economy.

The Government of the Gambia also recognizes nutrition as a critical component of sustainable human, social and capital development, as nutritional well-being is a prerequisite for a healthy and productive living. The Government of The Gambia places nutrition high on the national development agenda as enshrined in the National Developme

