

"Implementation of the Programme of Action (PoA) of the ICPD, with emphasis on changing age structures and sustainable development"

- In the first round of interventions, each panellist would offer general remarks on the topic of the panel, from your respective areas of expertise. To the extent possible, linking to some of key areas of the PoA and to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

My plan is to be as real as possible and not technical

When we talk Demographic Dividend, we are talking about the possibilities of accelerating economic growth by declining birth and death rates to subsequently shift the age structure of the population

Africa has an amazing number of young people. These numbers can be a blessing or a curse depending on whether the rights of young people are fully protected and fulfilled.

This can be done by providing accurate and timely information through comprehensive sexuality education

I worked with Professor Fred Sai, the Chairman of the 1994 Cairo Conference, for a year. This was the man who presented the Programme of Action to the International Conference on Population and Development. One thing he kept echoing throughout my period of

basis for reaping the demographic dividend is ensuring access to family planning and reproductive health services (Goal 3 of SDGs), alleviating poverty (Goal 1) and securing the full human rights of women and young people (practically all the goals) because population issues are sustainable development issues.

Lower fertility increases the potential for females to further their education, gain employment and hence empowerment.

So we know what to do and it sounds pretty easily summed up so what exactly has been the challenge since or before 1994. What has stalled progress, especially in Africa?

- In the second round of interventions, panellists will devote this to respond to the NVPs.

A lot has been done but a lot more needs to be done

We need social protection systems that work - are the current systems enough?

When we look deeper into the age structures, we see big issues of gender stuck in them. Till now