

## **7<sup>th</sup> African Population Conference of the Union for African Population Studies (UAPS)**

### **Closing Ceremony**

**Friday, 04 December 2015**

#### **Remarks by Anastasia Gage, IUSSP President**

Honorable Minister, Mr. J.T. Radebe, Statistician General of South Africa, Mr. Pali Lehohla, Deputy Director General Social Policy, Department of Social Development, Dr. Wiseman Magasela, Chief Director: Population and Development, Mr. Jacques Van Zuydam, Outgoing President of UAPS, Prof. Jean Francois Kobiane, Incoming President of UAPS, Prof. Samuel Codjoe, President of the National Organizing Committee of the 7<sup>th</sup> African Population Conference, Prof. Clifford Odimegwu, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

At the kind invitation of Statistics South Africa and the government of South Africa, the XXVIII IUSSP International Population Conference will take place in Cape Town, South Africa at the Cape Town International Conference Centre from 29 October to 4 November 2017. The International Population Conference is a major global event that draws population specialists, program managers, policy makers, academicians, donor agencies, and government officials from around the world.

The IUSSP and the South African National Organizing Committee expect over 2000 participants. The conference will include over 240 regular scientific sessions, poster sessions and training sessions as well as side meetings and exhibits. All researchers and population specialists are cordially invited to submit a paper or poster proposal, and to attend this conference.

The 2017 International Population Conference will provide a unique package of networking, learning, and fun. The host country, South Africa, has been in the driver's seat of many social and policy changes. If you are wondering whether you should attend the 2017 International Population conference in Cape Town, let me give you a few reasons why you should.

By attending the 2017 IPC, You will be able to:

- (1) Select from hundreds of sessions presented by researchers, program managers and policy makers.
- (2) Connect with population specialists from across South Africa and around the world to discuss areas of mutual interest. Meet with population experts and leaders face-to-face. The IPC will offer a great opportunity to network, form new relationships and strengthen existing ones.
- (3) Share ideas, strategies and successes as you expand your own professional learning community.
- (4) Examine ways to advance learning by gathering solid theories, models, and ideas you can take back to your own research, programs, and organizations.
- (5) Discover the latest population-related publications, products, and services in the exhibit hall. These exhibits will enable you and other researchers, program managers, and policy makers to keep abreast of all advances in the field and state-of-the art research methodologies.
- (6) In addition, if you are a student, you can show off their work, gain new ideas from other researchers, and get your creative juices flowing.
- (7) Last but not least, you will be able to have fun. Conferences are fun. Have you ever been to Cape Town? At the 2017 International Population Conference, you will make amazing connections and make even more amazing friends and colleagues.

In short, the 2017 IPC will help you to grow professionally and force you to challenge yourself. Attending the conference would be a great way to invest in yourself and your organization,

There will be limited funding to support participation in the conference. However, only IUSSP members are eligible for funding. So if you are not yet an IUSSP member, now is your chance. You are advised to go online, register, and pay your membership dues. It is very important that you do so because the 2017 International Population Conference is an event that you would not want to miss. Please note that membership is free for students.

Before I close, I would like to congratulate UAPS and the National Organizing Committee of the 7<sup>th</sup> African Population Conference for a successful event, despite the challenges that were encountered early on. As the saying goes, challenges only make us stronger. I am confident that UAPS is well on its way to becoming a much stronger organization. Congratulations again and thank you for your attention.