



**Partners in Population and Development  
A South-South Initiative**

Check against delivery

---

**Statement by  
Harry S. Jooseery  
Executive Director  
Partners in Population and Development**

***First Regular Session of the Executive Board  
of the United Nations Development Programme  
and  
the United Nations Population Fund  
United Nations Headquarters, 31 January -3 February 2011***

Madame President,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

**Madame President,**

Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to make a statement, on behalf of the Partners in Population and Development (PPD), at this First Regular Session 2011 of the UNFPA Executive Board. The Session is a historic event for all the stakeholders of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) as it marks the end of an era that will be so well remembered for the high competence, clear effectiveness and great charm that Dr.Thoraya Obaid, the former Executive Director brought to the position of the Executive Director of UNFPA. PPD wishes to express its immense gratitude to Ms.Obaid for her decade-long outstanding service as the head of the agency and for her unwavering support for South-South Cooperation. We wish her all the best in her retirement.

This Session also represents the beginning of a new era for the Fund with the leadership of Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin as the Executive Director of UNFPA. Dr.Osotimehin is an internationally trained and recognized physician, a distinguished academic, a global policy and strategy adviser, a seasoned senior manager, an excellent national leader of gender, health and HIV issues of Nigeria and till most recently, the eminent Minister of Health for his country. His record of accomplishments, at both the national and international levels, in a wide array of fields is truly exceptional. Dr. Osotimehin's start of leadership at UNFPA augurs very well for population and reproductive health issues in general and for UNFPA in particular. We wish him plenty of success.

**Madame President,**

PPD would like to make a few comments on the Executive Director's comprehensive statement. With much enthusiasm and commitment, the PPD would like to express its strong support for the substantive and management orientations that the Executive Director has just outlined to us. In our view, the proposed orientations would not only help support the efforts of developing countries in achieving the goals of ICPD and the MDGs, but would also help make UNFPA even more efficient and effective in its operations.

While much has been achieved globally in implementing the ICPD Programme of Action, progress has been uneven among different countries of the various regions and across specific substantive and thematic areas. PPD believes that a stronger and more focused action would be required in the future to fully achieve the goals and objectives of the ICPD Programme of Action. PPD would like to inform the Executive Board that, in collaboration with the Government of Indonesia, it recently organized an International Conference on “**Promoting Family Planning and Maternal Health for Poverty Alleviation**” in Yogyakarta, the Republic of Indonesia during 26-27 October 2010. Among the many issues discussed, the Conference examined human, financial and other constraints that limit progress towards achieving goals set at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the Millennium Development Goals and targets. After deliberations, the Conference adopted the Yogyakarta Declaration containing a number of recommendations to accelerate progress towards achieving the ICPD Goals and the MDGs, laying particular emphasis on improving access to maternal health and family planning services and reducing poverty and promoting sustainable development.

PPD believes, like so many other countries and institutions that the ICPD Programme of Action remains valid and relevant for many more years to come. Thus, PPD is very pleased that the UN General Assembly decided on 22 December 2010 to extend the ICPD Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation beyond 2014 and to ensure its follow-up in order to fully meet its goals and objectives. Furthermore, PPD welcomes the General Assembly’s directives to “assess the status of implementation of the Programme of Action and to renew political support for actions required for the full achievement of its goals and objectives,” as well to “undertake an operational review of the implementation of the Programme of Action on the basis of the highest-quality data and analysis of the state of population and development.”

The Partners in Population and Development notes, with much satisfaction that the General Assembly also accorded to UNFPA the responsibility for the undertaking of the operational review of the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. PPD and its entire alliance of 25 countries from the South are committed to the further implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action and looks forward to contributing to that operational review by collaborating with UNFPA.

As the international community prepares for that 2015 operational review, PPD believes that the following issues, among others, deserve urgent and stronger attention namely, the target of achieving universal access to reproductive health by 2015; the re-rendering of the centrality of family planning and maternal health in population programmes; addressing issues of adolescents and youth; the mutual linkages between population dynamics, reproductive health and poverty alleviation; the role of population dynamics in sustainable development, particularly in climate change and environmental challenges; and the

interrelatedness of gender equality and women's empowerment with reproductive rights and health, and with population dynamics. As the Executive Director's statement made it clear, UNFPA plans to give priority attention to most of these issues in the future.

**Madame President,**

Ladies and gentlemen, as many of you know, the Partners in Population and Development (PPD) is an intergovernmental initiative created specifically for the purpose of expanding and improving South-to-South collaboration in the fields of reproductive health, population, and development. The PPD was launched at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), when ten developing countries from Asia, Africa and Latin America (Bangladesh, Colombia, Egypt, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Thailand, Tunisia and Zimbabwe) formed an intergovernmental alliance to help implement the Cairo Program of Action (POA). Its current membership comprises 25 developing countries (Bangladesh, Benin, China, Colombia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, South Africa, Thailand, Tunisia, Uganda, Viet Nam, Yemen and Zimbabwe) and is growing. I would like to thank the Government of Bangladesh for hosting PPD Headquarters in Dhaka since its inception.

For the last decade and a half, PPD has been working closely with UNFPA at global, regional and national levels in support of the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). PPD is encouraging and supporting in its member countries and others south-south cooperation activities through training and capacity building, through knowledge sharing by documenting innovative practices in population and reproductive health, and through information exchange, policy dialogue and advocacy for population and development. In undertaking these activities, PPD has greatly benefited from technical and financial support provided by UNFPA, and would like to put on record its appreciation for UNFPA's strong commitment to promoting South-South cooperation in population and reproductive health programmes, at global, regional and country levels. PPD looks forward to continued collaboration with UNFPA, under Dr.Osotimehin's leadership, to promote South-South collaborations among developing countries, as highlighted by the representatives of Brazil, Bangladesh and Russia.

**Madame President**

Before closing, PPD would like to take advantage of this opportunity to make a few brief remarks on some of the UNFPA agenda items coming up in this session, later on during the week.

- First, PPD wishes to extend its support for approval of the country programmes of Burkina Faso, Zambia, Somalia, Indonesia, Maldives and Uruguay;
- Second, PPD supports the joint efforts of UN Funds and Programmes in mainstreaming gender through the work of the agencies and envisaged collaboration with UN-Women; and
- Third, PPD notes the encouraging progress that is being made by the UN system in delivering as one in individual country contexts.

**Madame President,**

In closing, the Partners in Population and Development would like to express its strong confidence in the new Executive Director Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, to lead the UNFPA in championing the cause of population and reproductive health at all levels, like all his illustrious predecessors Dr. Thoraya Obaid, Dr. Nafis Sadik and the late Mr. Rafael Salas, have done so admirably in the past.

Thank you very much, Madame President.

-----