



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

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**Statement by  
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***First Regular Session of the Executive Board of the United Nations  
Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and  
the United Nations Office of Project Services***

***United Nations Headquarters, 1-3 February 2012***

Mr. President,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

*Mr. President,*

Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to make a brief statement, on behalf of the Partners in Population and Development (PPD), at this First Regular Session 2012 of the UNFPA Executive Board. PPD would like to thank the UNFPA Executive Director for his comprehensive statement made this morning to this session.

At the outset, PPD would like to congratulate Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin for his outstanding stewardship of UNFPA in his first year at the helm. He has not only achieved a smooth transition of executive leadership at UNFPA, but has also laid a solid foundation for the successful implementation of the Fund's current strategic plan by fine tuning its development results and management results frameworks. The renewed focus on delivering high-impact country programmes with sharper focus and increased efficiency is to be commended. As stated in the Executive Director's document for this session on Institutional Budget Estimates for 2012 -2013(DP/FPA/2012/1), the Fund has developed "a road map for the remaining years of the strategic plan, to operationalize the

priority recommendations of the midterm review by identifying the processes, organizational structure, systems and resources needed to achieve increased development impact and operational effectiveness.” The budget proposals made for 2012-2013 period are all very well in line with that envisaged road map.

As is well known, the world stands today at a crossroads. The world population has reached its most recent milestone, a total of 7 billion in late 2011, which represents nearly a three-fold increase in world population, from 2.5 billion in 1950. World population continues to grow and is projected to reach 9.3 billion by 2050 according to the most recent United Nations estimates. Given the critical relevance of this continued population growth for the eradication of poverty, achievement of sustained economic growth, fostering of social development, implications for climate change and the promotion of sustainable development, a stronger commitment to and more effective implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action in the context of MDGs is more urgent now than ever before. In this regard, the seven themes that UNFPA has underscored as urgent issues to be addressed in a world of seven billion, namely, poverty and inequality, women’s and girls’ empowerment, reproductive health and rights, young people, ageing of population, environment and urbanization are all critical building blocks to promote sustainable development in the future.

As we approach the twentieth anniversary of the ICPD Programme of Action, in 2014, it would be important for all stakeholders, including individual countries, international organizations, civil society organizations, foundations and others to bring to the forefront progress made in implementing the Cairo agenda, as well as in identifying the outstanding constraints to effectively address the critical themes mentioned above, as inputs into the operational review of the ICPD Programme of Action. PPD is planning to contribute the experiences of its member countries into that process. The upcoming session of the Commission on Population and Development to be held in late April 2012 would offer an excellent opportunity to begin discussion on this important agenda, as the international community begins to reflect and contemplate on ICPD beyond 2014 and the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015.

*Mr. President,*

Permit me to state a few words about South-South cooperation. As emphasized in the background paper on Middle-income countries prepared jointly by UNDP, UNFPA, UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-WOMEN and WFP for the joint meeting of the Executive Boards of Funds and Programmes held earlier this week, South-South and triangular partnerships are relevant for peer learning as well as knowledge, experience and technology sharing-alongside the voluntary provisions of financial assistance. For the last decade and a half, PPD, as an intergovernmental initiative, with 25 member countries, created for the purpose of expanding and improving South-to-South collaboration in the fields of reproductive health, and population and development, 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 advocacy for population and development.

In this context, I would like to highlight two initiatives successfully completed by PPD during the year 2011. First, it organized an International Conference in Pretoria, South Africa, in early November 2011 on population dynamics, climate change and sustainable development jointly with the Government of South Africa and UNFPA. PPD believes that, as we prepare for the Rio plus 20 Conference to be held in Brazil in June 2012, the Pretoria Declaration adopted at the Conference could be useful in understanding the linkages between population dynamics and sustainable development. Judging from the current draft of the Outcome document, population issues and concerns need to be better highlighted in it.

Second, PPD undertook the publication of *Innovative Practices in Population and Reproductive Health* jointly with the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation at UNDP and UNFPA and launched the publication in Pretoria in the margins of the International Conference. This publication brings together a compilation of successful experiences of ten PPD member countries in implementing some of the key recommendations of the ICPD Programme of Action, particularly as they relate to family planning, reproductive health, women's empowerment, HIV/AIDS, and population, environment and development planning. Also, PPD has noted the call of several countries on Monday in the joint session of the Executive Boards to share successful country experiences under the rubric of South-South cooperation, and PPD will therefore try to document similar experiences of member countries in other priority areas of the Cairo agenda.

*Mr. President,*

In closing, the Partners in Population and Development would like to acknowledge that it has continually benefitted from technical and financial support provided by UNFPA in the past, and looks forward to continued collaboration with UNFPA to promote South-South cooperation among developing countries in the future.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.