



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

*Please check against delivery
8 September 2011*

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

United Nations Headquarters, 6-9 September 2011

Madam President,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Madam President,

Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to make brief remarks, on behalf of the Partners in Population and Development (PPD), on the comprehensive statement made by the Executive Director, Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, at this Second Regular Session 2011 of the Executive Board.

At the outset, PPD would like to congratulate Dr. Babatunde and UNFPA for the excellent report on the Midterm Review of the UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2008-2013 (DP/FPA/2011/11) prepared for discussion at this session of the Executive Board. The process that UNFPA has followed in undertaking this review, which was both extensive and intensive, bears testimony to the quality of analysis and appropriateness of proposed actions contained in the report. The document is well written with conceptual clarity, analytical rigour, institutional candor and strategic vision. The suggested directions contained in the report augur well for a more effective and efficient UNFPA in the future. The PPD is thus pleased to support and endorse the future directions emanating from the Mid-term Review of the Strategic Plan.

The situational or contextual considerations reflected upon in the document are very pertinent. As the report makes it clear, many key elements of the ICPD Programme of action remain presently incomplete and several of the MDGs are still far from being met, especially MDG 5 on improving maternal health. Furthermore, in the context of poverty alleviation, as well as of sustainable development, the role of divergent population dynamics has become even more crucial in many parts of the world, like for example, high fertility and rapid population growth in many Least Developed Countries (LDCs), the preponderance of young people in many countries, rapid population ageing in other countries, and migration and urbanization in most developing countries. The Mid-term Review has rightly considered the emergence of these divergent trends in its reconsideration of the thrust and priorities for future directions of the Fund's strategic plan.

PPD fully endorses the main conclusion of the Mid-term Review that, while UNFPA should be proud of many of its achievements, its full potential is yet to be realized. In this regard, PPD would like to commend UNFPA for underscoring the key challenges of strategic focus, fragmentation and clarity on its role in the context of development results framework. Similarly, further strengthening of principles of results-based management (RBM) and evidence-based programming within the organization for the management results framework, noted in the report, is also well taken.

The future directions for the 2012-2013 period of the current Strategic Plan are all very well laid out in the report. The new goal identified in paragraph 33 and conceptualized in Figure 4 of the report is a potent approach in linking the emerging substantive issues in population and

reproductive health with operational focus of the organization. It could serve as a powerful tool in the future for harmonizing substantive policies, operational procedures and management tools.

As PPD sees it, the key principles identified by UNFPA for revising the results framework like “consolidate by prioritizing” and “avoid doing everything everywhere” could be the game-changers in the future. The seven outcomes proposed for it are all valuable. Additionally, the PPD notes with appreciation the special attention that is being accorded in the report to capacity development and South-South cooperation in the discussion of outcomes to be pursued in the future. As an organization committed to capacity development through South-South cooperation, the PPD looks forward to continued collaboration with UNFPA on these important elements.

PPD also believes that proposals contained in the report to achieve operational excellence are all well thought out. The four outputs dealing with strengthened RBM and evidence-based programming, streamlined stewardship of resources, high-performing professional staff at UNFPA and secured and stable funding for the Fund are all essential in improving and sustaining efficiency and effectiveness of UNFPA in the future.

In closing, PPD would like to support the Fund’s new directions and would like to underscore the importance of the availability of regular resources to UNFPA for the effective implementation of its Strategic Plan.

Finally, Madam President,

PPD would like to join UNFPA in paying tribute to both Ms. Mari Simonen and Ms. Purnima Mane for their outstanding service to UNFPA and the United Nations. I have had the privilege of working with them for a number of years and fondly remember their personal integrity, intellectual capacity and institutional competence. I wish both of them our very best for the future.

I thank you for your attention.