



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

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**Statement by
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the United Nations Population Fund
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Mr President,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to make a few comments on behalf of the Partners in Population and Development (PPD) on the introductory statement made this morning by UNFPA Executive Director Ms Thoraya Obaid. The Partners, as most of you know, is an intergovernmental organization of 25 developing countries dedicated to the promotion of South-South cooperation in population and Development.

I would like to begin by joining the Executive Director in expressing our support for and solidarity with the victims of the massive earthquake in Haiti and note, with appreciation, the emergency assistance being extended by UNFPA to the people and Government of Haiti.

May I now comment on the references by the Executive Director to the recently concluded commemoration of the 15th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). The commemoration in 2009 provided an important opportunity at international, regional and national levels to examine the progress made towards achieving the goals and objectives of ICPD, in the broader context of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and focus on the opportunities and challenges ahead in meeting these goals and objectives by 2015. Though no global intergovernmental conference on population was organized by the United Nations in 2009, a very large number of conferences, seminars and expert meetings on themes relating to ICPD were convened by a variety of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations; and UNFPA, as expected, sponsored or supported many of these activities.

A look at the conclusions and recommendations of these events, most of which are available on UNFPA website, suggests that though a great deal has been accomplished in the past 15 years, particularly in implementing the broad-based concept of reproductive health, including family planning, reducing infant and child mortality, and improving the educational opportunities for children, especially young girls, a great deal more remains to be done.

There has been practically no progress in reducing maternal mortality; and limited availability of financial and human resources has seriously hampered progress towards universal reproductive health services and development of integrated or coordinated services in the areas of family planning, reproductive health and HIV/AIDS.

It would be extremely useful to analyse the major conclusions and recommendations from all of these meetings, taking due account of regional and

national variations and differences, and of the results of operational research on various ICPD themes, with a view to suggesting where priority action needs to be taken in the next 5 years. I assume UNFPA is planning to undertake such an analysis; and an early dissemination of the findings of such an analysis will be of immeasurable help not only to UNFPA but also to all other organizations active in population and development, in charting the road ahead.

Having been founded during the ICPD in Cairo, the Partners celebrated its own 15th anniversary in 2009; and its record of activities, undertaken in cooperation with national governments, UNFPA and several foundations, suggests that South-South cooperation is becoming an increasingly important modality of international cooperation on population and development. South-South cooperation in our field, particularly relating to training and research, exchange of information, commodity security and policy dialogues is solidly based on the vast range of expertise and experience available in developing countries; and though limitation of resources has limited PPD's range and scope of activities, we are very hopeful that our activities and programmes will expand in the coming years, with increasing support from our members and involvement of non-member countries.

We have always enjoyed close cooperation with and support from UNFPA in undertaking greater utilization of the capacity and experience available in developing countries and in promoting capacity building as needed; and we are very hopeful that we will continue to benefit from such cooperation and support in the coming years.

Thank you, Mr President.