

Statement by  
Jyoti Shankar Singh,  
Permanent Observer to the United Nations,  
Partners in Population and Development,  
At the Executive Board of UNDP and UNFPA,  
New York, 11 June 2007

**Mr President,  
Distinguished Members of the Board,**

**Thank you for giving me this opportunity to make a few comments on behalf of the Partners in Population and Development (PPD) - an intergovernmental alliance of 21 developing countries dedicated to the promotion and strengthening of South-South cooperation in population and development.**

**The goals and objectives of our own Strategic Plan for 2008-2011, which will be submitted for final approval to the PPD Annual Board meeting later this year, are similar to and complement the two draft UNFPA documents before us – its Strategic Plan as well as its Global and Regional Programme, 2008-2011. Through policy dialogues, training, research, and sharing of information and technical services, we aim at helping developing countries build up their capacity to fully implement the ICPD goals and the MDGs by 2015; and, given our small size and limited resources, we are conscious of the need to focus our efforts on a few selected areas. I would like to cite here three of these.**

**The first is to update or introduce at selected training and research institutions course modules on population and development themes within the framework of the ICPD goals and MDGs. In this context, a survey was undertaken earlier this year at 17 institutions in 11 African, Arab and Arab countries to identify needs and gaps in teaching and research, followed by a consultative meeting of experts from these institutions (which was held in cooperation with the Government of the People's Republic of China and the China Reproductive Health Training Centre in Taicang, China from 10-13 May 2007) to propose specific action on how to meet these needs and fill the gaps.**

**A meeting in Dhaka, Bangladesh next week is expected to finalize course modules on historical and institutional perspectives, population and poverty, population policy and development, reproductive health and rights, and gender issues. Several institutions have already indicated their willingness to utilize the proposed course modules in their academic year 2008-2009. PPD plans to include more institutions as the project moves forward; and we are very hopeful that UNFPA, which has supported the PPD efforts in this area, will consider providing, in its framework of its country, regional and global programmes, increasing support to various training and research institutions in the areas of 1) training of trainers 2) deputing experts on a temporary basis to institutions in need 3) provision of fellowships and 4) production and dissemination of appropriate teaching and research material.**

The second is to establish a regular forum for dialogue among major generic drug manufacturers from several developing countries and help them meet international standards for sale and supply of generic drugs and contraceptives. A handbook providing relevant information is now under preparation and will be released later this year. PPD is also working with several of its member countries to provide equipment and commodities to countries in need; and China has signed memoranda of understanding with PPD to support fellowships through PPD for training in China, to provide six African countries with equipment worth approximately \$ 0.5 million to each country, and to donate contraceptive supplies worth \$1.2 million. China plans to provide an additional \$0.5 million worth of contraceptive supplies to Africa later this year. I understand Indonesia also plans to provide technical assistance on a bilateral basis to Africa this year.

The third is the organization of policy dialogues relating to specific themes for ministers and senior officials. Indonesia, China and India have hosted the most recent of these policy dialogues; and PPD is proposing to organize, in cooperation with UNFPA, a policy dialogue among African ministers and parliamentarians on HIV/AIDS in Kampala, Uganda later this year. The newly established African Programme Office of PPD which is based in Kampala will be in charge of organizing this important event. An international policy dialogue on Universal Reproductive Health Services also will be organized on 6-7 November 2007, in conjunction with the next Board meeting.

UNFPA was instrumental in creating the PPD and, under the leadership of Ms Thoraya Obaid, continues to provide support to major activities of PPD including those mentioned above. We note with satisfaction that the draft documents submitted to this Board refer to the importance to be given by UNFPA to the modality of South-South cooperation in the next programme cycle. We would hope that the final versions of these documents will expand on the specific role UNFPA plans to play in the area of South-South cooperation.

We in PPD have greatly benefited from UNFPA support and cooperation. We look forward to sustained and continuing support from UNFPA in the future. On our part, we are ready and willing to support and participate fully in further strengthening of UNFPA's role in this area.