

**Statement by
Jyoti Shankar Singh,
Permanent Observer to the United Nations,
Partners in Population and Development (PPD),
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Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA,
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Mr President,
Distinguished Delegates and Observers

Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to offer a few brief comments on the statement by the Executive Director of UNFPA and on some of the documents before the Board. As an intergovernmental organization of 21 developing countries dedicated to the promotion of South-South cooperation in population and development, PPD seeks to work closely with UNFPA in promoting and supporting the implementation of the ICPD goals, within the framework of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Strategic Business Plan of PPD, which is to be presented to its annual Board meeting in Rabat, Morocco in November 2007, has the same time-frame as that of UNFPA; and in the areas of training and research, reproductive commodity security and advocacy, PPD hopes that the activities it has undertaken and plans to pursue in the next four year period will contribute to the over all goal of capacity building at the national level, which PPD fully shares with UNFPA.

Allow me to mention a few of recent PPD activities and plans in these three areas.

Over the course of last several years, PPD has built up a network of major training and research institutions in developing countries. In May this year, experts from 17 of these institutions met in Shanghai, China at a consultative meeting organized by PPD, China Training Centre and UNFPA for exchange of information and for formulation of selected course modules on population and development which could be adapted by these and other institutions for training and research purposes. With further consultations, five such course modules have now been prepared and submitted to the institutions for their use and we are hopeful that UNFPA will assist these and other institutions in their future training programmes through support for exchange of experts and students, and development of curricular material.

A number of PPD member countries also plan to organize short-term training courses in cooperation with PPD secretariat. China, for example, will organize, in cooperation with PPD two such courses this year, involving 100 students from developing countries. Under a memorandum of understanding signed last year with PPD, China will continue to support the organization of two such events annually until 2010. Other recent training programmes organized by PPD in cooperation with national institutions include those in Morocco, Jordan and Egypt.

In the area of reproductive health commodity security, PPD seeks to provide a forum for regular consultation among generic drug manufacturers and at their request will issue later this year a handbook providing guidance on how such manufacturers could meet international standards for manufacture and export of reproductive health commodities. PPD is also working with China and some other countries on provision of reproductive health commodities and equipment to selected African countries.

PPD organizes at both international and regional levels policy dialogues among ministers and senior officials on themes relating to integration of ICPD and goals and MDGs, integration of reproductive health and HIV/AIDS services, gender equality, and adolescents needs in reproductive health. The next international forum on these issues is scheduled to take place in Rabat, Morocco in conjunction with the PPD Board meeting, on 19-22 November. The newly established Africa office of PPD in Kampala, Uganda., which is headed by Dr Jotham Musinguzi of Uganda, plans to organize such policy dialogues for African countries on regional and sub-regional levels.

Let me conclude by saying that PPD members fully realize and accept that South-South cooperation is primarily a responsibility of developing countries themselves. However, in promoting and supporting activities in this area, PPD has greatly benefited from regular support and cooperation of UNFPA and we are happy to note that under its Strategic Plan as also its Global and Regional Programmes, UNFPA will continue to encourage and support south-south activities including those through PPD. We are hopeful that interested bilateral agencies and foundations also will support south-south cooperation aimed at further capacity building in developing countries.

Thank you, Mr President.