

**BANGLADESH**

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Statement by

***H.E. Mr. Masud Bin Momen, Ambassador and Permanent Representative,
Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations at the First Regular
Session 2016 of the Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS***

UNFPA Segment

New York 27 January, 2016

Mr. President,

1. On behalf of the Bangladesh delegation I congratulate you for your election as the President and convey my delegation's support to all the newly elected members of the Executive Board. I also convey my sincere thanks to Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director of the UNFPA for his outstanding leadership in steering the organization very successfully.

Mr. President,

2. My delegation has followed the Executive Director's opening statement with keen interest and we believe substantial progress has been made in carrying forward the ICPD Programme of Action to reduce poverty, improve people's lives and advance sustainable development. Overall, the statement provided an excellent overview of efforts made by UNFPA over the years which focuses the results and progress achieved and the challenges being faced in implementing the Programme of Action of the ICPD and other Internationally Agreed Development Goals especially the newly adopted SDGs.

Mr. President,

3. We think, UNFPA need to be fully engaged in the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, working with Member States, the United Nations, civil society and other partners to protect and advance the ICPD agenda; accelerate the achievement of Goal on improving maternal health, including reducing

maternal mortality and achieving universal access to reproductive health; and to ensure that the ICPD agenda is at the centre of the post-2015 development framework.

Mr. President,

4. We are happy that UNFPA received an unqualified audit opinion from the United Nations Board of Auditors for its financial statements for the year that ended on 31 December 2014. The report of the United Nations Board of Auditors (A/70/5/Add.8) acknowledges UNFPA's financial integrity. This affirms the continued efforts of UNFPA to accord the highest priority to resolving the concerns of the Board of Auditors and continuing the momentum in building a culture of accountability

Mr. President,

5. The world witnessed an unprecedented increase in the number and complexity of humanitarian crises in 2015. The capacities of development partners were stretched by conflicts, displaced populations and refugees issues, disasters and the Ebola epidemic & earthquake. These crises also offset development gains, cost many lives and compounded the suffering of millions of people. We commend UNFPA's response to 34 humanitarian crises, including the Ebola outbreak in West Africa and five Level 3 emergencies, in Central African Republic, Iraq, Philippines, South Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic.

Mr. President,

6. United Nations General Assembly resolution (67/226) on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR) of operational activities for development underscore, inter alia, that regular resources are the bedrock of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system and that increasing financial contributions to the United Nations development system, particularly to regular resources, is key to achieving internationally agreed development goals. The resolutions urge countries in a position to do so to substantially increase their voluntary contributions and, to contribute in the form of multi-year commitments in order to improve the predictability of resources. We echo with UNFPA for an

increase of its regular resources, as they afford neutrality, promote flexibility and enable the organization to respond more effectively to the development needs.

Mr. President,

7. The Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia are facing enormous challenges to meet the ICPD Development Goals and targets set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action due to funding constraints. Later this year in May we will have the midterm review of the Istanbul Programme of Action. UNFPA need to find ways to ensure the stability and predictability of resources towards accelerating the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action.

Mr. President,

8. In the context of South-South Cooperation, Partners in Population and Development (PPD) remained active in the areas of Reproductive Health (RH), Population and Development. Last November PPD organized a high-level ministerial meeting in Dhaka titled "Dhaka Call to Action 2015" for 'Shaping Healthy Future for Every Woman, Every Child, Every Adolescent' through optimizing South to South Cooperation for shaping healthy futures for citizens of the Global South within the framework of SDGs. The conference highlighted the need for strengthening Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) and Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) programmes through integration and consolidation to improve inclusive access and delivery-efficiency in alignment with the UN Secretary General's 'Every Woman Every Child initiative', and to optimize utilization of fiscal resources, services and health infrastructure.

Mr. President,

9. In closing, Mr. President, we would like to assure UNFPA leadership that the government of Bangladesh attaches high priority to its programming activities fully guided by the spirit of national ownership as well as partnership with all the stakeholders towards realizing ICPD Programme of Action and SDG.

I thank you.