



PARTNERS IN POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

4 September 2012

Statement by

Joe Thomas

Executive Director

**Second Regular Session of the Executive Board,
Of the United Nations Development Programme,
The United Nations Population Fund and
The United Nations Office of Project Services**

United Nations Head Quarters, 4-10 September 2012

Mr. President
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen

Mr. President

Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to make a brief statement on behalf of Partners in Population and Development (PPD), at this Second Regular Session 2012 of the UNFPA Executive Board. PPD would like to thank the UNFPA Executive Director for his comprehensive statement and updates on a number of important issues of organizational significance to UNFPA. PPD has a few remarks on some of the issues highlighted in the statement and the documentations of the session. I would also like to underline the longstanding partnership between UNFPA and PPD in serving the member countries.

PPD acknowledges the importance attached to the follow up efforts taken by UNFPA on the ICPD Beyond 2014 review and UNFPA engagement in the post-2015 MDGs. We are fully committed to this process and exploring meaningful avenue for partnership. To take our commitment on post ICPD 2014 forward, PPD and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of Bangladesh are jointly organizing an Inter-Ministerial Conference on “Evidence for Action: South-South Collaboration for ICPD Beyond 2014” in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 10 and 11 November 2012 coinciding with its Annual Governing Board Meeting. A detailed discussion on possible follow up to the historical London summit on Family planning is also envisaged in this conference

PPD also acknowledges UNFPA’s efforts to promote South-South Partnership, which is one of our key concerns. We hope, UNFPA may consider evaluating its efforts to promote ‘South to South Partnership’ as one of its strategic direction.

UNFPA remain as the champion of the Adolescents and Young People’s cause. The population dividend derived from informed population policies comes with greater responsibility to the health and wellbeing of adolescents and young people. We acknowledge UNFPA’s contribution in monitoring ongoing ‘Population Transition’, which brings out greater population stabilization. A greater number of ageing population emerging as a challenge for many developing countries. We request UNFPA to advice and guide on appropriate policies and programs to address the needs of aging population.

It is heartening to see that UNFPA maintains a solid trend of effective implementation of its programme work aligned with the strategic plan focus to the full benefit of the member

countries. The new country programmes submitted for approval of the Executive Board respond to the emerging issues of population and development in the member countries and are consistent with the strategic plan outcomes on reproductive health and rights, population and development, and gender equality. More importantly the programme interventions are geared towards strengthening of capacity of the national partner institutions, community-based organizations and delivery systems. This consistent emphasis on capacity development across all programme components and all countries is particularly noteworthy. My organization, Partners in Population and Development (PPD) is also actively supporting some of the countries like Egypt, Pakistan and South Africa in the areas of reproductive health and population and development. PPD strives to work with UNFPA Field and regional offices for greater impact and we will continue our strategic dialogue and partnership with UNFPA

Finally, I have a brief comment on the evaluation item on the agenda. An evaluation policy is a mirror image of the organizations commitment to accountability, transparency, and application of lessons learned from experience. The review of the evaluation policy carried out by the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services pointed to some critical gaps and anomalies which created certain operational challenges for the organization in maintaining a credible evaluation system and mechanism. PPD noted the management response of UNFPA on the evaluation policy review recommendations and considers it to be well thought out, appropriate and a comprehensive response to the recommendations. It reconfirms the strong commitment of UNFPA management to the principles of substantive accountability and to safeguard the quality, impartiality and independence of the evaluation function and of the evaluations it carries out. We look forward to the revised evaluation policy in 2013 reflecting all the reforms indicated in the management response.

Thank you very much for your kind attention