Mr. President,

I would like to begin by expressing my delegation’s appreciation to Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin for his commendable leadership of the UNFPA last year. Likewise, thank you to all of the UNFPA officials and staff for your hard work and excellent cooperation with member states in 2013. My delegation fervently hopes that the outstanding foundation of dialogue that the UNFPA has established with member states will continue and strengthen this year.

That foundation will be particularly important as the funds and programs begin to articulate the 2014-2017 Strategic Plan. For the UNFPA, this year will mark the beginning of its transition to the new strategic plan, new business model and the integrated budget.

My delegation hopes that these changes will improve UNFPA’s ability to respond to the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of the UN’s operational activities for development. More importantly, my delegation hopes that these changes and especially the evidence-based strategy set out for the next four years will bring significant results to the efforts to improve the quality of lives of women, adolescents, and youth, around the world.

Mr. President,

Women and youth have a vital role in the implementation and achievement of sustainable development. Their participation and contribution in development are essential. Therefore, we need to prioritize on improving the situation of women and youth, and unlocking their potentials as drivers of development.

We need to strengthen our commitment to promote access of women and youth to quality education, basic services, economic opportunities and health-care services. We have to ensure as well that women and youth continue to get equal access to quality education, basic services, economic opportunities and health-care services in times of crises and complex emergencies.
My delegation therefore calls on UNFPA to continue to strengthen their humanitarian response and coordination with OCHA and partners in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and related stakeholders to ensure that when a crisis strikes, support, assistance and aid are well-targeted towards women and young people at all levels, from emergencies until recovery and reconstruction. My delegation supports UNFPA’s continued efforts to strengthen the organization’s humanitarian preparedness, response and capacity to support recovery.

Mr. President,

Although our efforts through the MDG framework and others contribute to the reduction of maternal mortality, every day about 800 women around the world die from preventable maternal death. Heartbreakingly, by the time this statement is delivered, somewhere in the world, statistically, 2 women might die of preventable maternal death.

My delegation therefore reiterates the call on further strengthening the efforts to make every wanted pregnancy and childbirth is safe. We need to continue to ensure that investments on women’s health are well targeted, well planned, well executed, adequately funded and yield results. Most importantly, we need to ensure that interventions on women’s health start from the early stage.

Mr. President,

This is going to be an even more critical year, as Member States of the United Nations will mark the twentieth anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). Since the ICPDs goals and objectives still remain valid, General Assembly adopted resolution 65/234, extending the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation beyond 2014.

In this context, the global intergovernmental review of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the ICPD beyond 2014, which will culminate in the General Assembly Special Session this year, plays a significant role in how population issues will be undertaken.

My delegation commends the UNFPA, in consultation with Member States and all relevant organizations, during the review. We hope that the ICPD review will produce a common framework for a coherent follow-up to its implementation beyond 2014, while fully respecting the Programme of Action adopted in Cairo 20 years ago.

Thank you.