Mr. President

At the outset we would like to thank the Executive Director for his earlier statement and for his strong commitment to leading UNFPA by personal example.

The Executive Director highlighted the critical tasks for the UNFPA in the coming year including its work on ICPD and the Post 2015 Agenda; implementing the new Strategic Plan; while ensuring critical programme services are provided to all who require them including in humanitarian situations.

Central to all of these priorities is the role of evaluation.

In that regard we wish to welcome the recently appointed Director of the Evaluation Office and to thank the Director for Oversight Services for the Transitional Biennial Budgeted Evaluation Plan, 2014-2015 and in particular for the transparent and consultative way that it was prepared.

The evaluation plan will help demonstrate accountability to Board members both on the results achieved by UNFPA, as well as supporting evidence based decision making and contributing lessons learned to the knowledge base of UNFPA and its many partners.

The proposed thematic evaluations of UNFPA’s support to quality family planning services; to adolescents and youth; and to data availability are central to UNFPA’s role and to inform our approach to the Post 2015 agenda.

We welcome the fact that indicative costs are provided and that there is a clear distinction between corporate and programme level evaluations - particularly important for a decentralized organization such as UNFPA.

We also consider the proposed evaluations as vitally important through their contribution to the Mid Term Review of the Strategic Plan.

Although we accept that capacity is limited for the moment, we look forward to hearing about plans to develop new methodologies in particular moving from outcomes to assessing impacts, given that much of the nature of the organisation’s work should be quantifiable.

We also recommend the further professionalisation of the evaluation function throughout the organisation during the term of the Plan.

Finally, allow me to briefly welcome the evaluation of the Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation / Cutting. We fully endorse the recommendation on a second phase of the programme and trust that the full implementation of the recommendations will lead to the achievement of the ambitious targets to tackle this blight on the lives of millions of women and girls. END