Statement by the First Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Italy
Mr. Paolo Campanini

Executive Board UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS
UNFPA Segment - Annual report of the Executive Director

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Thank you, Mr. President.

I would like to thank the Executive Director and his excellent team for their hard and greatly appreciated work. For Italy, the empowerment and human rights of women and girls, together with the end of discrimination and violence, are a cornerstone of the transformative new post-2015 development agenda. For this reason, and in recognition of the important work done by the Fund, in 2015 Italy has increased its financial contribution to UNFPA’s regular resources by 20%.

We are pleased with the positive results achieved in the first year of the strategic plan and we recommend that the Fund strengthen its global and regional offices in order to improve the delivery of services at those levels.

I commend UNFPA in particular for its progress in initiatives to counter female genital mutilations and child, early and forced marriage. And I wish to thank the Fund and its staff for the extraordinary organization and opportunity offered to Italy and other members of the Steering Committee of the Joint Programme on female genital mutilations during the field visit to Ethiopia, where we were able to engage with local communities and national authorities. The positive results achieved by this Joint Programme have reinforced our decision to confirm our contribution for 2015 at the same level as last year.

Mr. President,

For proper planning and implementation of the Fund’s activities, it is essential to have a regular collection and analysis of data. Therefore, we welcome UNFPA’s work to strengthen statistical instruments. To this end, Italy has adopted a specific plan of action that aims to help the statistical institutions of partner countries to strengthen their capacities.

On the administrative side, Italy acknowledges the important steps taken by UNFPA to improve its organizational efficiency, such as aligning the Fund with the QCPR recommendations and improving the programme monitoring and evaluation function. We welcome the work carried out by the Independent Evaluation Office: the systematic use of the evaluation results to support organizational decision-making should be considered a priority.
With regard to other challenges identified in the report – namely, planning, coverage and human and financial resources – we support the proposed recommendations. Finally, with regard to the broad area of human resources, we commend the management for carefully considering hiring qualified staff and for its special attention to the issue of staff performance. We also acknowledge the increase in the number of partnerships with the private sector and foundations and the funding they provide.

I thank you, Mr. President.