Chair,

We would like to thank the Executive Director for his presentation today and for the Annual Report.

The Annual Report, including the many appendices, and the Statistical and Financial Review together provide good information about UNFPA’s follow up of the priorities of the Strategic Plan. We are pleased to note the systematic approach taken to ensure that all parts of the organization adapt to the new business model. In our view, differentiated modes of engagement, depending on country contexts, is the way to go for the entire UN system in the Post 2015 area, and we hope that UNFPA’s experience with the new model can be helpful for the rest of the system.

We welcome the systematic reporting on the results framework of the Strategic Plan, and are encouraged by the overall achievement in 2014. Progress was below targets on some indicators but we note that the development was usually going in the right direction. Over-performance on some indicators is also a part of the picture. In this regard, we recognize that UNFPA is working in challenging environments, not only in terms of countries with the highest needs but often also culturally. It may be that it is challenging to strike the right balance between being ambitious and realistic in target setting. Moreover, the challenge with a good results framework is that shortcomings become apparent. Norway would like to underline that it is acceptable that results are not always in accordance with plans. The prerequisite is good project management and risk analyses. However, we do appreciate the openness that UNFPA demonstrates by reporting on challenges that the organization has faced. Likewise, we welcome the extensive reporting on how UNFPA works with a wide range of partners at global and country levels to achieve results.

Looking ahead to next year’s annual report, we would encourage UNFPA to make the narrative part of the main report more results focused and analytical, with clear references to the results framework and the theories of change document as well as by making active use of evaluation findings.
Chair,

Norway commends UNFPA for its consistent work for rights-based family planning, both at the global level through its leading role in the FP 2020 initiative and at country level. Likewise, we appreciate UNFPA's commitment and constructive efforts in advocating for the 'unfinished agenda' of MDGs 4, 5 and 6. In this regard, we acknowledge UNFPA's solid work with the ICPD review, which resulted in the continuation of the ICPD agenda beyond 2014 and fed into the Post 2015 process.

In order to accelerate progress in maternal and child health, it is Norway’s view that consolidated financing is a good way to go. We therefore appreciate the contribution of UNFPA to the development of the business plan of the Global Financing Facility. We count on UNFPA’s continued strong engagement in country led processes to ensure that family planning and sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights are given the highest possible priority in the country plans.

Norway commends UNFPA for its continuous strive to achieve gender equality and empowerment of girls and women and for the persistent focus on adolescents and youth. With regard to UNFPA’s own work, we are pleased to see an integration of the rights and needs of young people in the outcome areas as well as targeted interventions such as comprehensive sexuality education. At the global level, UNFPA’s provision of new evidence on adolescents and youths, in particular through the State of World Population report *The power of 1.8 billion*, has been an important contribution in the Post 2015 process.

We further support UNFPA’s increased involvement in humanitarian settings, including its important role in combating gender-based violence. We have noted with interest that the reporting for 2014 shows that achievements in terms of increasing national capacity to provide sexual and reproductive health in humanitarian settings were well above the targets. It is further encouraging that the independent evaluations of the country programmes for Lebanon and Turkey confirmed that UNFPA was capable of adapting quickly to the changed circumstances caused by the influx of Syrian refugees. We also recognize that UNFPA in 2014 took further steps to improve own preparedness and that of partners, including in collaboration with the Norwegian Refugee Council.

Chair,

Finally, I would like to comment on funding. We are pleased to note that UNFPA last year was able to generate more core as well as non-core resources and that the share of core resources is still at a reasonable good level compared to most other agencies. With reference to the draft resource mobilization strategy distributed recently, we regret that UNFPA has not included global thematic funding at the outcome level as a modality. We would be interested in knowing the reason for this. To us, this funding modality is substantially more ‘core-like’ than the present thematic trust funds of UNFPA.

Thank you.