New Zealand Permanent Mission
to the United Nations
Te Māngai o Aotearoa

UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board
Annual Session, New York

New Zealand statement

Delivered by H.E. Carolyn Schwalger,
Deputy Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations

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Mr President

New Zealand joins others in congratulating UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin on his leadership over the past year. It has been an important year for UNFPA, which has:

- Continued implementation of the new Strategic Plan;
- Responded to an escalating number of humanitarian crises worldwide; and
- Accelerated achievement of the health-related Millenium Development Goals.

This year represents the first year of reporting against the current Strategic Plan. New Zealand applauds UNFPA for the further improvements in its performance reporting, and for the progress achieved in each of its focus areas.

Today, I would like to highlight the development results achieved through commodity management systems and through the integration of sexual and reproductive rights into national policies and programmes.

We also welcome the crucial contribution of UNFPA in providing sexual and reproductive health services to people affected by conflict and disaster in Syria, Iraq and South Sudan.

To respond to Ebola, UNFPA supported contact tracing efforts and provided emergency reproductive health kits, clean delivery kits, blood transfusion sets and other critical equipment.
New Zealand also welcomes UNFPA’s progress under the Organisational Effectiveness component of the annual report. This includes the improvement in the quality of new country programme documents, the sound implementation rate of evaluation recommendations and the role being played through South-South cooperation.

We acknowledge the progress made in adjusting country plans so that these align with the strategic plan, and look forward to learning more about how country transitions to adapt to the strategic plan are progressing. While alignment with the plan should be the norm, we appreciate there will be specific country situations where some flexibility is appropriate.

UNFPA’s annual report on evaluation will be discussed later in this session, but as New Zealand will not be speaking under this item, please permit me to make some observations now.

We welcome UNFPA’s strong commitment to developing a robust evaluation system and the improvements made during 2014. These include further enhancements in country programme evaluation and Monitoring and Evaluation capability.

New Zealand encourages UNFPA to continue to work on making its monitoring and evaluation system as strong as possible, to provide the best possible overview of UNFPA’s performance.

Finally, Mr President, I assure you of New Zealand’s continued support for Executive Director Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin and his team.