Mr. President,
I congratulate you, on your continued prudent and efficient stewardship of the Board. I thank Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin for his efficient and outstanding leadership as Executive Director of the UNFPA and convey our deep appreciation for his comprehensive statement before the Board this morning.

Mr. President,
My delegation has followed the Executive Director's opening statement with keen interest and we consider greater progress has been made in carrying forward the ICPD Programme of Action to reduce poverty, improve people's lives and advance sustainable development. Overall, the statement provided an excellent overview of efforts made by UNFPA over the years which focuses the results and progress achieved and the challenges being faced in implementing the Programme of Action of the ICPD and other Internationally Agreed Development Goals especially the MDGs.

Mr. President,
We think, UNFPA need to be fully engaged in the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, working with Member States, the United Nations, civil society and other partners to protect and advance the ICPD agenda; accelerate the achievement of Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 5 on improving maternal health, including Target 5A on reducing maternal mortality and Target 5B on achieving universal access to reproductive health; and to ensure that the ICPD agenda is at the centre of the post-2015 development framework.

Mr. President,
The Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia are facing enormous challenges to meet the ICPD and MDG targets due to a decrease in attention and funding during the last decade. UNFPA need for ensuring the stability and predictability of resources towards accelerating the achievement of ICPD goals and finishing MDGs on the one hand and implementing the Programme of Action on the other is more important now than ever before to ensure means of implementation in forthcoming SDGs.
Mr. President,
In the first year of the strategic plan 2014-2017, UNFPA needed amplified organizational efforts to achieve the unfinished business of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). As mentioned the plan also includes a set of reforms to improve delivery of results: a strengthened results framework, a new business model and improvements to funding arrangements.

With one year remaining until the end of the Millennium Development Goal time frame, we need to achieve a number of targets. These include halving of extreme poverty; a two-thirds reduction in mortality of children under 5; increasing of primary school attendance in developing regions to 90 per cent; and narrowing of the enrolment disparity between boys and girls. However, progress on Goal 5, which is central to the UNFPA strategic plan, lagged behind. Although in Bangladesh we have achieved the parity in school enrollment The maternal mortality ratio (target 5a) has declined by 45 per cent versus the target of 75 per cent, and fact is that approximately 800 women continue to die each day from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth. In addition, reproductive health services (target 5b) are far from universally accessible. So the journey is very long to achieve the goals as envisaged in the document of the nations.

Mr. President,
It is also alarming that, the world population is projected to reach 8.4 billion by 2030, with poor families and low-income countries accounting for much of this growth. High mobility and migration continue to fuel growth in urban areas, which add more than 1.3 million people each week. The social and economic development gains achieved so far in the 21st century are at risk from inequality and urban poverty. And for this increased populations we need more hospital, more schools, more food, more shelter and many more.

In the report of Executive Director, it is mentioned that the number of young people aged 10 to 24, 1.8 billion, is the largest in human history. One third of them are adolescent girls with unique needs, challenges: and hopes for the future. In many developing countries, this segment of the population presents both challenges and a one-time ‘demographic dividend’, an opportunity to trigger rapid economic growth and social advancement, if we can fit these population with needed skills to newly generated employment opportunities.

Mr. President,
The world witnessed an unprecedented increase in the number and complexity of humanitarian crises in 2015. The capacities of development partners were stretched by conflicts, disasters and the Ebola epidemic & very Nepal's earthquake. These crises also offset development gains, cost many lives and compounded the suffering of millions of people. UNFPA responded to 34 humanitarian crises, including the Ebola outbreak in West Africa and five Level 3 emergencies, in Central African Republic, Iraq, Philippines, South Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic. In Nigeria, UNFPA assisted the 57 Chibok school girls who escaped from Boko Haram, providing psychosocial support and reproductive health services to their families and communities.
Mr. President,

United Nations General Assembly resolution (67/226) on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR) of operational activities for development underscores, inter alia, that regular resources are the bedrock of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system and that increasing financial contributions to the United Nations development system, particularly to regular resources, is key to achieving internationally agreed development goals. The resolutions urge countries in a position to do so to substantially increase their voluntary contributions and, to contribute in the form of multi-year commitments in order to improve the predictability of resources. We echo with UNFPA for an increase of its regular resources, as they afford neutrality, promote flexibility and enable the organization to respond more effectively to the development needs of countries.

Mr. President,

Bangladesh being the current President of the Eighteenth Session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation hold very recently the regional conference in Dhaka and urged for a strong emphasis on the south-south and triangular cooperation. As an active supporter of this modality, Bangladesh is also honored to host the Partners in Population and Development (PPD) Secretariat in Bangladesh, a South-South initiative which was born out of the ICPD process. PPD has been doing a remarkable job to foster south-south co-operation in the areas of population and development, reproductive health and rights, and gender equality.

Mr. President,

Bangladesh being LDC, has made noteworthy progress in the attainment of MDGs during 2000-2014, our government, is pursuing some strategic approaches like targeted transfer of resources, improved access to health and education for women and children, active partnership with internationally acclaimed national NGOs and civil societies, which contributed to Bangladesh human development take-off. Serious issues like prevention of HIV/AIDS are addressed through multi-sectoral approach with the involvement of the highest political level. This is yielding positive results for which it is not endemic in the country. Due to pragmatic policies, there has also been a remarkable progress in the reduction in fertility and mortality rates, decline in malnutrition, polio eradication, and reduction in iodine deficiency disorders.

Mr. President,

Despite all these efforts, improving maternal health is a major concern and we want to see more UNFPA support for the government in addressing this issue. Bangladesh is one of the six countries with the highest maternal mortality that contribute towards half of all maternal deaths worldwide. The Government of Bangladesh, which is very committed and has put in place all institutional mechanism to improve the health system, requires necessary resources as well to create an impact on the ground.

In closing, Mr. President, we would like to assure UNFPA leadership that the government of Bangladesh attaches high priorities to its programming activities in the country and it is fully guided with the spirit of national ownership as well as partnership with all the stakeholders including the international community towards the goals of realizing ICPD Programme of Action and MDG goals.

I thank you.