Thank you, Mr. President and thank you, Dr. Osotimehin. We find ourselves at another critical moment in time when what we strive to make certain today will not only have an impact on the sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights for generations to come, but also for sustainable development as a whole.

This year has brought tremendous challenges in both the rising demand and cost for assistance across the globe. UNFPA’s leadership has been essential to successful outcomes. Those successes include ensuring that Nigerian girls receive much-needed psychosocial services after their release from Boko Haram; providing obstetric care and gender-based violence prevention in post-earthquake Nepal; and ensuring sexual and reproductive health services during the protracted humanitarian crises in regions all over the world. We also stress that the post-2015 development agenda currently being negotiated must include sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights.

In this regard, the United States applauds UNFPA’s robust participation in the Post-2015 Development Agenda processes. As we move into the negotiation phase, we encourage UNFPA to remain an active advocate for sexual and reproductive health, including universal access to voluntary family planning, which is essential for promoting health, economic growth, and development across the globe.

Mr. President, humanitarian emergencies continue to increase in frequency, severity, and complexity. As resources are stretched to address these crises, I commend UNFPA for maximizing the use of its funds, focusing on the areas with greatest potential for impact. Last January, we supported increasing the annual Emergency Fund allocation and the establishment of the humanitarian response reserve to enable UNFPA to assist countries during the acute phase of an emergency until additional resources can be mobilized or to sustain essential programs during protracted situations. My delegation is hopeful that both of these measures will ensure needs are met while the new resource mobilization strategy takes hold. UNFPA is uniquely positioned to address people’s reproductive health need. We encourage UNFPA to pursue greater contributions from program countries, looking beyond traditional donors for greater financial stability.

We also recognize the strengthened technical relationship between the United States Agency for International Development and UNFPA at headquarters, regional, and country levels. Working
closely as co-chairs of the Family Planning 2020 (FP2020) Country Engagement Working Group and serving as co-focal points in most FP2020 pledging countries, USAID and UNFPA are working together to achieve the global goal of increasing access to family planning by an additional 120 million women and girls by 2020.

Mr. President, we also commend Dr. Osotimehin and UNFPA for what Forbes magazine calls the “herculean” vision to improve data collection to further address the needs of the most vulnerable, especially adolescent girls and crisis affected populations despite cultural sensitivities. Timely and good quality data is key to ensuring the right decisions are made to protect those most in need.

Finally, the United States values UNFPA’s continued work to complete the unfinished business of the ICPD Program of Action and Millennium Development Goals 5A and 5B. We also appreciate UNFPA’s support and investment in the largest cohort of young people in history as countries realize the demographic dividend, especially for the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Efficient, effective, and accountable oversight and organizational management are critical for achieving these goals.

Finally, we are pleased to see the extraordinary progress made during the first year of the Strategic Plan reaching nearly 80 per cent of the global and regional interventions output targets.

Mr. President, I would like to close by expressing again our appreciation for Dr. Osotimihin’s leadership in advancing UNFPA’s goals and objectives. The U.S. government stands in solidarity with your mission, your efforts, and your continued hard work.

Thank you.