Thank you. Mr. President.

At the outset, I would like to thank Executive Director Mr. Osotimehin for his comprehensive statement.

My delegation values UNFPA’s tireless efforts and its vital role in support of advancing gender equality and promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights. In a world increasingly defined by the 2030 Agenda, the work and mandate of UNFPA is as important and relevant as ever.

My delegation shares the view that in order to meet the SDGs commitment to ‘leave no one behind’, the international community needs to reach those furthest behind, many of whom live in fragile circumstances.

In this regard, the ROK government has been focusing its development cooperation efforts on those in greater need of support, and as part of these efforts we have recently launched
“the Better Life Girls Initiative” to support girls, one of the most vulnerable groups.

Under this initiative, the ROK government will allocate 200 million US dollars for the next five years to provide wider education opportunities and health services for the most vulnerable girls in partner countries. We believe that providing quality education and health services for girls is the best investment for securing a sustainable future.

We recognize UNFPA as a strategic partner for the implementation of this initiative. Therefore, the ROK government has expanded our partnership with UNFPA in supporting access to sexual and reproductive health services for the most vulnerable girls in the African region. We are also pleased that the collaboration between ROK and UNFPA has continued to grow in recent years and expand in the area of maternal health, population dynamics and humanitarian assistance.

Mr. President,

In order for UNFPA to implement the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, it needs adequate, predictable and flexible funding. However, we note with concern the continued decline in
contributions to UNFPA core resources over the past years. Recognizing the importance of stable and flexible funding to achieve the 2030 agenda and SDGs, we wish to acknowledge UNFPA's efforts to deepen the donor base, as well as expand innovative partnerships with the private sector for resources and expertise. My delegation will also make further efforts to increase our contribution while continuing to look into new ways to strengthen our partnership with the UNFPA.

Thank you. /End/