A Statement by Finland

Mr. President, Executive Director Dr. Osotimehin, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Finland would like to thank the Executive Director for the report on UNFPA’s Funding Issues. We encourage UNFPA to continue its planned work presented in the report to mobilize resources. When the resources are decreasing it is important to concentrate on essential activity and priorities also emphasizing the role and support of regional offices. The task is challenging and requires also innovative financing and new thinking.

Finland’s annual contribution this year to UNFPA is 20 million USD. I would like to draw your attention to Finland’s new investment instrument and inform you that during the current government term, Finland will support efforts to mobilize investments for sustainable development in developing countries with 140 million € yearly during the next three years. The development policy investments can take the form of loans or equity investments.

The MFA of Finland has initiated together with another state agency, the Finnish Funding Agency for Innovation TEKES, a joint programme (BEAM) for supporting innovations for development. The idea is to support innovations by Finnish companies, universities and research institutions in cooperation with their civil society and other partners in Finland and developing countries; innovations that help improve the people’s welfare in developing countries. Innovations can be almost anything from new technologies, solutions, products and services to working methods, business models and social innovations. Finland is looking forward to cooperating with UNFPA on its innovation activities.

UNFPA will continue to be Finland’s key partner in strengthening women’s and girls’ rights and empowering them, especially girls and young women. Sexual and reproductive health and rights remain our key cooperation area with UNFPA. Finland emphasizes the need to strengthen these rights also in the future work with adequate funding.

In conclusion Finland fully supports the work of UNFPA and its continuous efforts to further enhance its ability to deliver on its mandate.

Thank you