Thank you, Mr. President, Deputy Executive Directors of UNFPA, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Deputy Executive Director, Madame. Laura Londen, for delivering her comprehensive, informative and substantive statement, which included UNFPA’s funding issues.

I must express my concern over the possibility of the UNFPA revenue shortfall affecting the implementation of the UNFPA Strategic Plan 2014-2017. Japan managed to maintain its contributions to UNFPA despite fluctuations in foreign exchange rates, and calls upon the other Member States to make the utmost efforts to contribute to UNFPA’s crucial activities.

I also expect UNFPA to implement its activities effectively and efficiently by continuing to allocate its financial and human resources appropriately.

I acknowledge that UNFPA has been making efforts to enhance resource mobilization, including new activities to strengthen partnership with the private sector based on its resource mobilization strategy. I strongly expect UNFPA to continue to explore new and innovative ways to perform its role and to meet the expectations of the communities it works with.

Mr. President,

At the end of last month, Japan held the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) in Nairobi, Kenya for the
first time the conference had been held on the African continent—hosted by the Government of Kenya, and co-chaired by the African Union Committee and in collaboration with the UN. Our Prime Minister Shinzo Abe attended and co-chaired the conference.

At the Conference, we focused on the issue of promoting resilient health systems to improve quality of life and enhance preparedness against public health emergencies, in recognition of the recent Ebola and Yellow Fever outbreaks, among others. We also discussed the importance of capacity building in each country in order to tackle public health emergencies and achieve Universal Health Coverage.

UNFPA’s activities to support women and young people are particularly important for the sustainable development of Africa, and in this connection Japan welcomed the attendance of Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director of UNFPA at TICAD VI.

This coming December, Japan will hold the third World Assembly for Women (WAW! 2016) and invites Dr. Osotimehin to attend and contribute to the discussion.

In conclusion, Japan will continue to make every effort to promote international health based on the needs of women in collaboration with UNFPA.

I thank you.