Statement by
H.E. Mr. Masud Bin Momen, Ambassador and Permanent Representative,
Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations in New York
at the Second Regular Session 2016 of the Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS
on September 07, 2016.
Agenda item 5: UNFPA Country Programme and related matters: Presentation and approval

Mr. President,

I would like to begin by thanking all the distinguished members of the Executive
Board for their positive consideration and approval of Bangladesh Country Programme
Document 2017-2020. This would mark a new phase of renewed partnership between
Bangladesh and UNFPA. On behalf of the people and the Government of Bangladesh, I
would like to express our heart-felt gratitude and sincere thanks to all the members of the
Executive Board for their positive consideration and support.

Mr. President,

I would also like to take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation for the
UNFPA Executive Director Dr Babatunde Osotimehin for his leadership and guidance in
finalizing the country programme document (CPD) for Bangladesh. Bangladesh is
committed to realizing the ICPD Programme of Action in the country. We are happy to
have the UNFPA beside us in our efforts to improve our people’s lives. UNFPA may
remain assured about our all-out support for UNFPA to implement its programme in
Bangladesh.

Mr. President,

We acknowledge the valuable contributions that have been made by both the
distinguished Deputy Executive Directors and the Regional Director towards preparing the new country programme document. We commend UNFPA Country Office in Bangladesh for bringing the country programme document at this level for the consideration and approval of the Executive Board. We now look forward to forging a greater partnership with the UNFPA for implementing the CPD.

Mr. President,

As we had informed the Executive Board during the last Annual Session, the present country programme responds to our needs to realize our vision to become a middle income country by 2021. It is commensurate with our national priorities articulated in the Seventh Five Year Plan for 2016-2020 as well as the UNDAF (2017-2020). The CPD is closely aligned with the principles of the Joint Cooperation Strategy signed between the Government and its development partners to promote aid coordination. It would accelerate the pace of implementing SDGs in Bangladesh. We appreciate that the CPD has focused on areas where UNFPA has a distinct comparative advantage within the United Nations system.

Mr. President,

Bangladesh is a populous country with 51% of the population under 24 years of age and 32% under 14. As a result, we enjoy the benefits of having a very young and active labour force. However, we are yet to provide employment for all. Lack of employment and poverty are leading the young unemployed people to fall into the prey of militancy and anti-social activities. More skill developed programmes spread across the country can be the way out for these young people to turn to the brighter sides of life. Only then we would be able to have demographic dividend out of this huge population. The UNFPA Action Plan may take these ground realities into consideration while involving into a country’s development process.

Mr. President,

UNFPA has been actively involved in health sector-wide approach known as
Health, Nutrition and Population Sector Program (HNPSP) in Bangladesh. This initiative has contributed to joint pooled funding in our health sector.

The new CPD will greatly widen the scope of activities of UNFPA in the areas of lowering maternal mortality, safe-motherhood, improving access to quality maternal health services etc. The success of its programmes in Bangladesh would largely depend on the close partnership among the national authorities, UNFPA and other relevant stakeholders both at home and abroad.

The Government of Bangladesh and UNFPA have always worked very closely in the implementation of the CPD. I would like to take the opportunity to assure UNFPA of similar cooperation from the government of Bangladesh in future also.

I thank you, Mr. President.

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