Mr. Vice-President,

Thank you for giving me the floor. I am making this statement on behalf of Australia, Belgium, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the U.S. and my own delegation, Canada.

Our delegations were pleased to see the generally positive outcomes of the Evaluation of UNFPA Support to Family Planning. As to the format of the report, we would, however, we would have preferred a more concise and focused text. We request that any update be in much shorter form.

The evaluation shows that UNFPA has made significant contributions to strengthening reproductive health commodity security and contraceptive supply chains. Protecting, promoting, and improving access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights is critical to achieving the targets set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health. We commend UNFPA on its leadership and advocacy for family planning and the progress achieved through the Family Planning 2020 movement.

Our delegations fully support UNFPA’s commitment to human rights-based approaches to family planning. We also believe, however, that a continuing, clear focus on gender equality is essential in all family planning activities of UNFPA. We believe that the key beneficiaries identified in the “bull’s eye” of the Strategic Plan must be maintained and we reiterate the importance of UNFPA’s focus on the rights and universal access to family planning of youth, adolescents and women, particularly adolescent girls, with specific attention to the needs of the most vulnerable and marginalized among them.

Mr. Vice President,

Our delegations strongly support the UNFPA Supplies Trust Fund, which we regard as important in furthering support for family planning. Recognizing the predominantly supply-side focus of UNFPA supplies, we support strengthening integration approaches, including through a robust country support model. We further encourage UNFPA to continue its efforts to situate its work within the broader health systems strengthening landscape at the country-level, in order to better ensure the financial sustainability of family planning efforts and to promote effectiveness and efficiency. We believe that UNFPA could further scale-up its engagement with the country-led Global Financing Facility (GFF) and Country Investment Cases to better address the lack of progress made to-date in sustainably strengthening health systems to deliver quality family planning services.

We also encourage UNFPA to capitalize on its close relationships with local governments, as well as its coordinating role for a wide array of stakeholders, as a means to mobilize the integration of family planning across projects and programs, and to broker partnerships between governments and strategically placed stakeholders. We recommend that UNFPA invest in
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developing cultural capital within partner organizations, and work with country-led process and other reproductive, maternal, newborn and adolescent health partners to address culturally sensitive family planning issues.

Thank you.