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THIRD INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

**Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International
Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: accelerating decolonization
through renewed commitment and pragmatic measures**

Saint George's, Grenada

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STATEMENT BY

THE REPRESENTATIVE OF

THE UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

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**Role of the United Nations System in Providing Development Assistance to
Non-Self Governing Territories**

Introduction

Madame Chair, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen; Good afternoon.

It is my pleasure to make this presentation on behalf of Ms. Alison Drayton, Representative and Director of the UNFPA Sub-Regional Office for the Caribbean, which is based in Jamaica.

Thank you for inviting us to be a part of these very important deliberations and to speak on UNFPA's role, as part of the United Nations system, in providing development assistance to Non-Self Governing Territories.

Background and Context

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, is the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency. We work in over 150 countries worldwide to achieve universal access to sexual and reproductive health, realize reproductive rights and reduce maternal mortality to accelerate progress on the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development (SDGs).

The 1994 International Conference on Population and Development articulated a bold new vision about the relationships between population, development and individual well-being. At the ICPD in Cairo, Egypt, 179 countries adopted a forward-looking, 20-year Programme of Action that continues to serve as a comprehensive guide to people-centred development progress. The Programme of Action was extended in 2010.

The ICPD Programme of Action was remarkable in its recognition that reproductive health and rights, as well as women's empowerment and gender equality, are cornerstones of population and development programmes. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the ICPD and the 50th year of UNFPA as a UN body.

Within the framework of the SDGs and the ICPD Programme of Action, UNFPA is supporting governments to achieve three (3) transformative goals by 2030:

- *Zero preventable maternal death*
- *Zero unmet need for family planning*
- *Zero gender-based violence and harmful practices*

UNFPA Sub-Regional Office for the Caribbean covers twenty-two (22) countries of the English and Dutch-Speaking Caribbean. This includes six (6) Non-Self Governing Territories: Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat and Turks & Caicos Islands.

The UNFPA Office for the Pacific in Suva, Fiji covers Tokelau.

UNFPA Programme of support to Non-Self Governing Territories

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

UNFPA provides technical and financial assistance to advance legislation, policies and programmes for:

- maternal and child health;
- reduction of adolescent pregnancy;
- HIV prevention and response;
- prevention of sexual violence; and
- comprehensive sexuality education

In 2018, Anguilla completed a sexual and reproductive health policy to comprehensively address the needs of the population. A sexual and reproductive health legislative review is currently being finalized for the 22 countries, including all Non-Self Governing Territories to identify gaps related to sexual and reproductive health and rights for the population.

UNFPA also supports governments to procure reproductive health commodities and provides technical assistance for logistics, forecasting and management to prevent stock-outs. Health providers in Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands have received training on contraceptive technology and teratology.

Population Dynamics

UNFPA works to strengthen the capacity of National Statistical Offices to generate disaggregated data to monitor the SDGs and inform national policy and programme planning, including in emergency contexts.

Technical assistance is being provided for the upcoming 2020 Round of Population and Housing Census. In April this year, UNFPA in partnership with the CARICOM Secretariat and the Economic Commission for Latin America and Caribbean (ECLAC) conducted a regional census workshop on strengthening statistical capacity for census and the SDGs, which included Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands and Montserrat.

We also support the development of population situational analyses and population policies, taking into consideration demographic trends of ageing, declining fertility, migration and other population factors.

Disaster Preparedness and Response

Between 2017 and 2018 UNFPA implemented approx. US\$600,000 in emergency response to the Caribbean countries impacted by Hurricanes Irma and Maria. This is included:

- provision of essential health supplies and equipment to the health sector;
- hygiene supplies for affected women and girls;
- capacity building of multi-sectoral service providers (health, shelter, security); and
- deployment of emergency surge capacity.

The Ministry of Health in Turks and Caicos Islands received reproductive health kits in 2018 to address the sexual and reproductive health kits needs of the affected population. Hygiene kits were also distributed to women and girls.

As part of emergency preparedness, UNFPA provides technical and financial support to enhance country capacity on the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) to address sexual and reproductive health needs and gender-based violence prevention and response in emergencies. In 2018, representatives from Ministry of Health and Gender Department in Anguilla, British Virgin Islands and Montserrat received training on the MISP and follow-up interventions are in train.

Looking Forward

ICPD@25 and UNFPA@50 will be commemorated during the Nairobi Summit in November 2019. This will provide the opportunity for Non-Self Governing Territories to highlight country progress, stock take on gaps and identify accelerators to advance the ICPD mandate beyond 2019.

UNFPA will continue to strengthen the capacity of the Non-Self Governing Territories on data to monitor and report on the SDGs, ICPD, SAMOA pathway and other international obligations. This includes technical assistance for the 2020 census ensuring that 'no one is left behind' and for timely dissemination and utilization of results for sustainable development policies and programmes.

We will continue to support the countries to advance legislative and policy frameworks on sexual and reproductive health and population dynamics and ensure that the Minimum Initial Service Package for reproductive health in emergencies is integrated in national disaster response strategies and plans as a life-saving mechanism during emergencies.

Conclusion

Thank you for the opportunity to present on UNFPA's work and support to Non-Self Governing Territories to this Committee.