Statement by

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Madam Chair,
Distinguished Delegates,

I am pleased to introduce the Report of the Secretary-General on The Flow of Financial Resources for Assisting in the Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (E/CN.9/2015/5). The document responds to a request by the Commission on Population and Development (E/1995/27) for an annual report on financial flows to assist the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. It also complies with General Assembly resolutions 49/128 and 50/124 which called for the preparation of periodic reports on the financial resources allocated for the implementation of the Programme of Action.

Madam Chair, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has been tasked with monitoring resource flows for assisting in the implementation of the ICPD. Each year, UNFPA collects data and reports on levels of international population assistance and domestic financial resource flows for population activities. To do this, the Fund works in close collaboration with the Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI). To strengthen local capacity to track domestic resource flows for population activities in developing countries, UNFPA and NIDI work with regional institutions, including the Indian Institute of Health Management Research (IIHMR) in Jaipur and the African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) in Nairobi.

UNFPA relies on the cooperation of donor and developing countries as well as organizations and development banks to obtain data. We are very grateful for the continued cooperation of all partners. We are also grateful to UNAIDS for providing information on expenditures for AIDS. By using data on AIDS expenditures directly from UNAIDS, we ensure that there is only one figure that captures spending on AIDS and we also help to minimize respondent fatigue.

We encourage all countries to collect data on financial resource flows for population. Reliable and timely data are essential to inform policy. They are also essential for planning and budgeting purposes, and to improve aid effectiveness and donor harmonization.

Monitoring financial flows is essential to ensure that the international community mobilizes sufficient resources for population. We encourage all countries to establish an efficient monitoring system to track financial flows for population activities. Currently, many donor and developing countries lag behind in reporting expenditures in this area. The most common challenges include respondent fatigue and lack of human and financial resources. There are difficulties in disaggregating the population component in integrated social and health projects and sector-wide approaches, and in disaggregating the four categories of the costed population package. Different recording practices and decentralized accounting systems also present significant challenges.

The present report analyzes international and domestic financial resource flows that are part of the “costed population package” as described in paragraph 13.14 of the ICPD Programme of Action. It includes funding in the following four categories: family planning services; basic
reproductive health services; sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and HIV/AIDS activities; and basic research, data, and population and development policy analysis.

Madam Chair, our report shows that donor assistance continues to increase but that the rate of increase is much lower than in the past. Some donors have increased funding levels, but many have not been able to do so because they continue to be affected by slow economic growth. Donor assistance increased to $11.7 billion in 2013. We expect donor assistance to increase to $12.3 billion in 2014. As the current financial situation begins to slowly improve, we hope to see higher rates of increase in the future. Only time will tell how soon this will happen.

The ICPD Programme of Action pointed out that one third of the funding for population was to come from external sources and two thirds from developing countries. Developing countries are funding a higher proportion. In fact, they are currently funding over three fourths of population expenditures. We estimate that, as a group, developing countries mobilized $52.1 billion in domestic resources for population activities in 2013.

Monitoring expenditures for each of the four categories of the costed population package is an important component of budgeting, policymaking and programme planning. Although the trend towards integration of services makes it increasingly difficult for countries to readily distinguish between expenditures for family planning, reproductive health and STD/HIV/AIDS activities, it is possible to estimate the amount of resources that are spent on each of these categories. Our data show that in 2013, funding for family planning, reproductive health and STD/HIV/AIDS increased, while funding for data and research decreased.

Madam Chair, funding is needed to complete the unfinished business of ICPD. Current funding levels remain below the amounts necessary to fully implement the ICPD Programme of Action. This is true for all four components of the ICPD costed population package - family planning, reproductive health, STD/HIV/AIDS, and basic research, data and population and development policy analysis.

We need more donor assistance, particularly for least developed countries. And we need more domestic investments in developing countries. The reality is that resource mobilization is dependent on a few key players. Population assistance originates with a few major donors and the majority of domestic resources are mobilized in a few large developing countries. Not all donors provide substantial funding and most developing countries are not able to generate sufficient resources to fund their own population programmes. They rely heavily on donor assistance.

It should be pointed out that in many countries, consumers bear the lion’s share of spending since most domestic expenditures come not from the Government, but from consumers in the form of out-of-pocket expenditures for population goods and services. This has important implications for policy initiatives aimed at reducing poverty and income inequalities in the developing world.

Current funding levels are simply not enough to meet the growing needs in developing countries. These needs arefelt in all four areas: family planning, reproductive health,
STD/HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment, and data, research and population and development policy analysis.

Not mobilizing adequate financial resources means that we will not be able to make much-needed progress in reducing infant, child and maternal mortality, as well as morbidity and mortality due to HIV/AIDS. It is especially important to ensure that the needs of vulnerable populations, including the large number of young people, are met. As countries prepare for the 2020 round of censuses, we must ensure that sufficient financial resources are available to properly collect, analyze and disseminate the data to identify vulnerable populations and to provide the evidence base needed for policy formulation and programme planning, as well as monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The success of the Cairo agenda depends upon the willingness of Governments, the non-governmental sector, the international community and all concerned organizations to turn the ICPD recommendations into action. The ICPD Beyond 2014 review last year clearly showed that, despite the considerable progress made, there is still a lot of work to be done. Progress has been uneven and many of the most vulnerable have not benefited.

Madam Chair, we are now on the threshold of a new era. The international community has proposed Sustainable Development Goals to leave no one behind and is currently discussing targets and indicators to measure progress towards achievement of these goals. This comes with a price tag. That is why the international community is also discussing financing for development. ICPD is central to sustainable development and therefore financing for development must include financing for ICPD issues.

Progress towards achieving the SDGs depends on the political will and commitment of all stakeholders as well as the availability of adequate funding. Tracking financial resource flows to reach the Sustainable Development Goals will be an important part of monitoring progress.

By renewing its commitment to the Cairo agenda and by mobilizing adequate financial resources to accelerate progress in achieving the ICPD goals and objectives, the international community will be well poised to meet the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals.

Thank you.