



**STATEMENT BY MRS. RUCHI GHANASHYAM, MINISTER, ON AGENDA  
ITEM 16: REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR 2004: PROGRESS  
IN IMPLEMENTING THE MULTI-YEAR FUNDING FRAMEWORK 2004-  
2007 AT THE ANNUAL SESSION 2005 OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF  
UNDP/UNFPA 13-24 JUNE 2005 ON JUNE 21, 2005**

Madam President,

We thank the Executive Director for her report for 2004 giving details of progress in implementing the Multi-year Funding Framework 2004-2007. The well-structured document deals with the two central components of the MYFF – the strategic results framework (SRF) and the integrated resources framework, with the executive summary providing a good overview of the report.

We also thank Madam Obaid for her detailed, exhaustive and emotional introduction/remarks. It is often said that behind every successful man there is a woman. Mrs. Obaid reminded us today that behind a successful woman there is often a supportive man.

In her remarks, the Executive Director spoke of UNFPA's commitment to working with its partners to achieve the ICPD and MDGs. We welcome the emphasis placed on South-South Cooperation by the Executive Director in her introductory remarks. We believe that South-South Cooperation is an important instrument that UNFPA should rely on in its work. We take note of UNFPA's commitment to facilitating South-South Cooperation. We also welcome the Executive Director's focus on fine-tuning the reforms that have been put in place and begin reaping the benefits from the substantial investments made over the past four years, rather than looking for new systems or reforms.

The national ownership and leadership of development processes and programmes is one of the central principles guiding the activities of the UN development system. This principle has also been highlighted in the recent resolution on Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review adopted by the General Assembly. In this context, we note that UNFPA is working to further align its technical and financial support to the needs and priorities of countries, focusing on strengthening national capacities and systems, and promoting national ownership of development processes and outcomes.

We also note that UNFPA country programmes are being tailored to country needs and emerging issues.

Under the section of the report dealing with reproductive health, the report indicates that unmet needs for family planning remain a major concern in many countries. Reproductive health programmes, and enhanced use of condoms can also contribute to the prevention of HIV/AIDS. We would request the Executive Director to share with us her thinking on how UNFPA is planning to address the gap in terms of family planning needs.

We note that UNFPA intends to continue its support to governments to strengthen their capacity to enforce existing laws to delay the age at marriage, and to advocate with religious and cultural leaders to mobilise their support to this end. This is an important area that is closely linked to maternal mortality as well as maternal and child health. The practice of early marriage is based on deep-rooted beliefs and traditions. It is only over a period of time with persistent effort that changes can be brought about in this area. However, while undertaking work in this area, UNFPA needs to be aware of cultural sensitivities in each specific case.

UNFPA is engaged in reducing maternal mortality and morbidity and has supported projects in some countries in collaboration with the Columbia University. Improvements in emergency obstetric care and ready availability of these facilities and skilled assistance at birth would definitely play an important contribution in reducing maternal mortality and morbidity. Emphasis is required on other factors as well, such as nutrition, age at marriage, space between children, etc. We hope that UNFPA will continue to focus on all these aspects.

The organization is taking measures for strengthening organizational effectiveness. We note that UNFPA has developed and continuously updates the Development Gateway Population and Reproductive Health Website. The report speaks of the Funds' first Global Staff Survey. Here we would like to know whether the Staff Survey focused on the needs of women in the workplace, particularly women from developing countries. We believe that it is important for the Staff Surveys to look at the position of women from developing countries in the organization, the level of satisfaction with their positions and opportunities for growth.

Madam President,

No discussion of the MYFF would be complete without a comment on the implementation aspect. We congratulate UNFPA on the all time high level reached for regular resources in 2004. We note that given the increases in the income projections, UNFPA proposes to increase the programme resources for the 2004–2007 period and that country programmes would receive US \$800 million which is about 25% more than the amount foreseen in the MYFF 2004-2007.

Notwithstanding some positive developments, the report reminds us that in addition to addressing the need to combat HIV/AIDS, the international community must also consider the funding necessary to address the existing unmet reproductive health

needs. The report also states that while the international donors have increased their assistance to HIV/AIDS programmes, increases in resources are needed in all other areas as well. We support UNFPA in this regard.

We hope that the additional resources will be allocated among programme countries on the same basis and criteria as agreed by the Executive Board for the current programming cycle.

Thank you, Madam President.

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