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STATEMENT

BY

**PENDAPALA NAANDA
CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES, A.I.**

AT

**THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNDP, UNFPA AND
UNOPS 2014 FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

**NEW YORK
28 JANUARY 2014**

Mr President,

At this initial stage, I wish to extend my delegation's appreciation to the Executive Director for a comprehensive presentation of Namibia's Draft Country Programme for the period 2014 – 2018, a programme which my delegation wholeheartedly welcomes.

Over the years, the partnership between Namibia and UNFPA has produced remarkable result due to the fact that UNPA has always aligned its programmes with Namibia's national development priorities and goals, resulting into a workable partnership that we value as a Government.

The UNFPA Programme for Namibia has mainly focused attention in areas such as: improving reproductive health, reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS, ensuring gender equality, and improving the utilization of data for development and the integration of demographic, reproductive health, gender equality and HIV variables into national programming.

Under the fourth country programme, 2006-2013, UNFPA provided support at the national and regional level. In maternal health, through its activities, UNFPA strengthened the capacity of 437 nurses in emergency obstetric care and seven medical doctors in anaesthesia, and equipped district hospitals in intervention regions to perform caesarean sections. The organization also helped to establish national and regional maternal peri/neonatal death review committees, which still need further technical support to institutionalize maternal death review.

UNFPA also worked closely with the Namibia Statistics Agency to conduct the Namibia 2011 Population and Housing Census and the 2006 and 2013 Demographic and Health Survey, and to establish NamInfo, a national database system for monitoring human development.

UNFPA has also assisted in the revision of Namibia's national gender policy which now stipulates the importance of men's involvement in successfully addressing gender and sexual reproductive health challenges. In collaboration with other United Nations organizations, UNFPA helped to develop gender-based violence and national gender action plans and train facilitators on

men's engagement. In addition, UNFPA assisted in setting up regional protection working groups to address sexual and reproductive health, gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS issues in disaster risk regions.

Mr President

On the new proposed programme, UNFPA and the Government of Namibia has formulated the fifth country programme, 2014-2018, through a multi-stakeholder consultative process. Most importantly, the programme is aligned with United Nations Partnership Framework, 2014-2018, national development plan four, 2012/2013–2016/2017, sectoral strategic plans and the revised UNFPA strategic plan, 2008-2013.

This country programme contributes to four UNFPA strategic plan outcomes to improve quality of life and reduce inequalities for the achievement of universal access to sexual and reproductive health. In order to maintain gains achieved during the previous country programme, UNFPA has pledged to provide support at the national level and targeted interventions for marginalized, indigenous groups, and vulnerable rural and urban communities

in four of the country's thirteen regions (Caprivi, Oshikoto, Otjozondjupa and Oshanaana-Namaland).

The new country programme also focuses on issues related to maternal and newborn health, young people's sexual and reproductive health and sexuality education, gender equality and reproductive rights and data availability and analysis.

Mr President

Equally, while notable achievements have been made through this partnership, challenges still remain. Namibia's unfair classification as an upper-middle income country, extreme inequalities in income distribution and assets is among the highest in the world. Therefore, underlying this is the operational challenge to find ways and means of effectively dealing with HIV and AIDS, gender and environmental issues that cut across many sectors and negatively impact development gains made at household and individual levels and further exacerbating poverty.

As we continue to grapple with development challenges such as inequality, high unemployment and slow economic expansion which inhibit our ability to progress, Namibia continues to rely on her trusted partners such as UNFPA to constructively engage each other as we plan for the implementation of the new country programme.

In conclusion, I wish to pledge my Government's full support of the new Country Programme that has just been approved by this session.

I THANK YOU!!