Statement by
H.E. Mr. Masud Bin Momen, Ambassador and Permanent Representative,
Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations at the
Second Regular Session 2016 of the Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS
UNFPA Segment
New York, 06 September, 2016.

Mr. President,
I congratulate you, on your continued prudent and efficient stewardship of the Board. I also convey my sincere thanks to Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director of the UNFPA for his outstanding leadership in steering the organization very successfully.

Mr. President,
My delegation has followed the Executive Director’s opening statement with keen interest and we consider greater progress has been made in carrying forward the ICPD Programme of Action to improve people’s lives and advance Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Overall, the statement provided an excellent overview of the efforts made by the UNFPA over the years which focuses the results and progress achieved and the challenges being faced in implementing the Programme of Action of the ICPD and other Internationally Agreed Development Goals.

Mr. President,
We think, UNFPA need to be fully engaged in the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, working with Member States, the United Nations, civil society and other partners to protect and advance the ICPD agenda. For accelerating the achievement of the SDG3 on improving maternal health, including Targets: SDG 3.1 and 3.2 reducing maternal mortality and prevent deaths of newborns and children under five years requires that the ICPD agenda should be at the centre of the 2030 development Agenda.

Mr. President,
The 2030 Agenda calls for a universal development mandate, blurring the distinction between donor countries and programme countries. Development financing will continue to evolve, as official development assistance remains vulnerable to domestic pressures, and programme countries are called upon to allocate larger proportion of domestic resources for national development. As a result, the traditional means of financing UNFPA activities is no longer entirely adequate in the new environment. In response to this new reality, the organization should need to explore innovative proposals for a financial architecture that address these new constraints.

Mr. President,
It is to be mentioned that, the decreased share of regular resources as a proportion of total resources presents new challenges for the organization, particularly we think this trend is not expected to reverse in the foreseeable future. In the report of the "UNFPA Revenue Projections for 2016 and Future Years" provides an overview of the overall resource situation
of the Fund, while it continues to address the important goal of increasing regular resources and establishing a stable, predictable and diversified resource base. In 2015, UNFPA contribution revenue for regular and co-financing resources was $972 million, a decrease of 3 per cent over 2014. The breakdown of this total revenue is $398 million in voluntary contributions to regular resources and $574 million to co-financing resources. Compared with 2014, the decrease in contribution revenue for regular resources in 2015 was $79 million, or 16 per cent.

In this situation, we like to re-iterate that UNFPA will need to continue to advocate for increased contributions for regular resources, which are the bedrock of the operational activities for development, as underscored in General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (QCPR). In view of the critical importance of the ICPD beyond 2014 to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change – and its implications for universal, comprehensive and integrated responses – UNFPA requires, more than ever, adequate, consistent and predictable financial resources in order to carry out its mandate.

Mr. President,

We know that evaluation is very important for effective implementation of the programme, at the same time, the recommendations need to be implemented for desired outcome of the programme. In the report of the "Evaluation of the UNFPA Support to Family Planning 2008-2013" mentioned that the evaluation process was highly participative and was marked by fruitful exchanges involving the UNFPA Headquarters' officials as well as representatives from Regional Offices and Country Offices. This approach generated valuable insights and identified a number of issues for attention throughout the evaluation process, thus optimizing the focus and utility of the evaluation. The report made a few recommendation of which mentioned that UNFPA should strengthen the capacity of country offices to document and report on results supporting to family planning and should work at country level to focus on modes of engagement in family planning where it has a strong comparative advantage with adequate resources to follow through. We think these recommendations will be taken care of by the UNFPA wherever it is relevant.

Mr. President,

Despite all these efforts, improving maternal health is a major concern and we want to see more UNFPA support for the government in addressing this issue. Bangladesh is one of the six countries with the highest maternal mortality that contribute towards half of all maternal deaths worldwide. The Government of Bangladesh, which is very committed and has put in place all institutional mechanism to improve the health system, requires necessary resources as well to create an impact on the ground. We have established newly 16,000 rural clinics under Public Private Partnership and they need support.

In closing, Mr. President, we would like to assure UNFPA leadership that the Government of Bangladesh attaches high priorities to its programming activities in the country and it is fully guided with the spirit of national ownership as well as partnership with all the stakeholders including the international community towards the goals of realizing ICPD Programme of Action and SDGs goals.

I thank you, Mr. President.