Statement by
H.E. Mr. Masud Bin Momen, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations in New York
at the Second Regular Session 2016 of the Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS
on September 07, 2016.

Mr. President,

I would like to begin by thanking all the distinguished members of the Executive Board for their positive consideration and approval of Bangladesh Country Programme Document 2017-2020 which embarks us on another phase of renewed partnership between Bangladesh and UNFPA. On behalf of the people and the Government of Bangladesh and on my personal behalf, I would like to express our heart-felt gratitude and sincere thanks to all the members of the Executive Board for their positive consideration and support.

Mr. President,

I would also like to take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation to the UNFPA Executive Director Dr Babatunde Osotimehin for his leadership and strategic guidance in finalizing the country programme document (CPD) for my country, Bangladesh. We also offer commitment from the highest political level Bangladesh’s support towards UNFPA’s over-all mandate as well our national commitment towards the goals of realizing ICPD Programme of Action and Bangladesh Country programme in particular.

Mr. President,

We also gratefully acknowledge the valuable contributions that have been made by both the distinguished Deputy Executive Directors and the Regional Director towards preparing the new country programme document. We commend UNFPA Country Office in Bangladesh and its staff at different levels who have worked so hard to bring the country programme document at this level for the consideration and approval of the Executive Board. We now look forward to forging a greater partnership in implementing the CPD by ensuring UNFPA’s programmatic excellence on the ground.

Mr. President,

As we had informed the Executive Board during the last Annual Session that the present country programme responds to the needs of the ground and Bangladesh Government’s vision
to become a middle income country by 2021, the national priorities in the Seventh Five Plan 2016-2020 as well as the UNDAF (2017-2020). We are happy to underline that the CPD has also focused on areas where UNFPA has a distinct comparative advantage within the United Nations system. It is also driven by the need to accelerate SDG progress, as reflected in the UNDAF. The CPD is closely aligned with the principles of the Joint Cooperation Strategy signed between the Government and its development partners to promote aid coordination.

Mr. President,

Bangladesh is a populous country and 51% of the population is under 24 years and 0-14% age group is about 32% of the total population of the country. As a result very young and active labour force prevails in the country. But there is no such employment opportunity for this large number of young people. For making this really a demographic dividend, we need skill development programme in all over the country specially in the urban areas of the country. In absence of proper employment various militant organization taking the chance to radicalize the young population and making them use of their target. Due to poverty and other social reasons young people fell upon the prey of militant godfathers very easily, and ultimately by utilizing them the anti social elements creating anarchy in the country. In some cases this young people are also going out of the country like Afghanistan, Syria and other places. So skill development as well as some kind of motivation advocacy awareness programme may be taken by the UNFPA Action Plan for this young bulge, so that they do not become radicalize and fell upon the hand of the militant organization.

Mr. President,

UNFPA has been actively involved in health sector-wide approach (SWAPS) known as Health, Nutrition and Population Sector Program (HNPS) in Bangladesh and is contributing to joint pooled funding in this sector.

We sincerely believe that if properly implemented in close cooperation with the national authorities and other relevant stakeholders, the new CPD will greatly widen and deepen UNFPA interventions in the areas of lowering maternal mortality, safe-motherhood, improving access to quality maternal health services etc. We want to see that during the new country programme period UNFPA is playing a greater role in Bangladesh with the support of the international community.

In closing, 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.

I thank you, Mr. President.

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