



Statement of Switzerland
Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS
Annual Session 2015
STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
June 2, 2015

Mr. President

Switzerland would like to thank the Executive Director and Management for the annual report covering the first year of implementation of the current strategic plan 2014-2017. We strongly appreciate efforts made to measure programmatic and institutional performance through an integrated results and resources framework. The annual report states that “UNFPA achieved the results that it set out to deliver in the first year of the Strategic Plan 2014-2017”. This also includes the performance of the global and regional interventions. We welcome the progress made while we are of the opinion that some output indicator targets for 2014 should be further improved beyond the threshold set at 75% of achievement.

Much information reflecting the richness of interventions is presented to us. At the same time we still wish to better capture the dynamic of achievements. Therefore, we very much encourage Management to present in the annual report a well-structured table that clearly shows the progress of the respective outputs towards the expected outcomes with related costing.

We acknowledge that reporting results and providing information on the contribution of individual interventions along the intended chain of effects to expected outcome is complex. Therefore, we encourage and strongly support efforts of Management to

ensure the institutionalization of a relevant and implementable monitoring system that enables staff to collect monitoring data on the progress of UNFPA-supported interventions, including qualitative monitoring. In addition, adequate guidance, support and training need to be on-going to ensure a systematic performance reporting.

For all institutions, results-reporting is a learning process not only regarding the methodology chosen but also on improving our understanding on what drives or hinders progress against strategic plans' targets. We can test our theory of change, including risks and assumptions to overcome those risks. Therefore, we would have appreciated more emphasis from Management on the measures taken to address the challenges faced during implementation.

For example, key challenges cited by country offices are implementing partner capacity, cultural sensitivity or weaknesses in planning, implementing and monitoring strategies. It would be useful to hear more from Management how it intends to further address those known issues critical to UNFPA mandate.

Encouraging progress is being made on the implementation of the Adolescents and Youth Strategy. We welcome the fact that 50 per cent of UNFPA programme countries have national comprehensive sexuality education curricula aligned with international standards. We are aware that reaching the most vulnerable and marginalized women and adolescent girls remains a challenge and we encourage UNFPA to strengthen its efforts in this regard.

Given that advancing gender equality is one of the outcomes under the new Strategic Plan, we strongly encourage Management to pursue its progress regarding performance indicators of the UN System Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

On the resources mobilization front, we compliment Management for receiving in 2014 the highest contribution revenue in its history while maintaining a balanced core-to-co-financing ratio. We believe that the institutional and policy reforms undertaken to increase the effectiveness, efficiency and relevance of UNFPA strategic interventions have a positive effect on resource mobilization. This said, resources diversification is needed to broaden the resource base.

Mr President

The good work and efforts need to be pursued. The excellent Audit report clearly shows progress as well as institutional challenges that do affect results reporting and performance. We ask Management to ensure adequate guidance and support for the application of policies and procedures that address in an appropriate and timely manner the risks identified.

In addition, trade-offs needs to be found in striking a balance between the level of audit assurance and fulfilling advisory services for Management.

With reference to the roles and responsibilities of the different business units, we welcome the finalization of the revision of the organizational handbook and expect its early application.

The achievements presented in the annual report demonstrate the pertinence of the business model chosen; with its several modes of engagement tailored to the context. In a global development landscape where many actors are involved, where a variety of financial resources flows are captured through innovative mechanisms or through increased domestic resources mobilization, we believe that UNFPA is an important key player with a specific mandate and recognized profile, network and expertise on sexual and reproductive health and rights, an issue that is both determinant for the dignity, human rights and well-being of women and adolescent girls and an indispensable prerequisite for sustainable development.

Thank you for your attention.