

**STATEMENT BY MR. M. DEENA DAYALAN, JOINT SECRETARY AND
FINANCIAL ADVISOR, DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS,
MINISTRY OF FINANCE, AT THE ANNUAL SESSION OF THE
UNDP/UNFPA EXECUTIVE BOARD IN NEW YORK ON MAY 27, 2009**

Mr. President,

We congratulate you and other members of the Bureau for successfully providing directions to the functioning of the UNFPA. We look forward to working constructively with you and the other members of the Board during the course of this meeting and for rest of the year. We also thank the Executive Director for her introductory remarks and the statement.

Let me also express our appreciation for the efforts of UNFPA towards accelerating progress and national ownership of the programme of action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). India welcomes the focus on population and development, reproductive health and rights and gender equality. India strongly supports UNFPA's consistent support to the national programmes, particularly those aimed at realization of the MDGs.

Mr. President,

This meeting is being held in exceptional times when we are faced with a global financial and economic crisis that is seriously affecting developing countries. We hope that the UNFPA would not be constrained by inadequate funding, which could seriously undermine its efforts in implementing the strategic plan 2008-11. We, therefore, strongly support the UNFPA's advocacy of the donors commitment to meet the target of 0.7% of gross national income for ODA and 0.15 to 0.2% to the LDCs.

We support the proposal to extend the strategic plan till 2013 as per the recommendation 62/208 of the last Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review (TCPR). We expect that with the latest reorganization, UNFPA will be better equipped to handle the challenges ahead and effectively manage its country operations.

While we are happy to note that the UNFPA has been able to augment its total resources during 2004-2008 from USD 494 mn to USD 795 mn, the overall decline of regular resources in % centage terms from around 65% to 54% is a cause for concern.

The analysis of the international population assistance efforts by major donors during the 2006-2009 period indicates that within the total funding of US \$ 10.6 billion, the share of UN System of US \$ 127 million is just around 1%. The UNFPA must therefore, redouble its efforts to attract voluntary funding, particularly for its regular resources.

We are concerned that though there has been an increase in flow of financial resources for the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) programme of action, the investments in health systems of the developing countries has lagged behind. As highlighted in Executive Director's report, funding for family planning has decreased dramatically, which is critical element of reproductive health, particularly for reducing maternal mortality. We are afraid that in absence of adequate investments, the gains made so far will be reversed.

Mr. President,

The Government of India is appreciative of the work being undertaken by UNFPA in India. The contribution of UNFPA as reflected in its country programmes has grown from US \$ 46.40 Million under the Country Plan-1(1974-79) to US \$ 65 Million under Country Plan-7 (2008-2012). The Country Plan-7 as approved by Government of India, includes US \$ 60 Million from regular resources and another US \$ 5 Million from Other Resources. While this is but a small part of the total funds proposed to be invested by India in its Reproductive and Child Health Programme Phase-II, the strength of UNFPA lies in its partnership, technical support and the access to global best practices that it brings to our national efforts. We welcome UNFPA's role in addressing the skewed sex ratio in the country through a variety of advocacy and action oriented interventions.

Government of India appreciates the decision of UNFPA, to join the pool financing along with the World Bank and the DFID in support of the Reproductive And Child Health Programme by contributing US \$ 65 Million from the CP-7 resources. The resultant sector-wide approach will, we hope, assist Government of India to expedite attainment of the MDGs and at the same time enhance the scope of participation of the UNFPA in the related programmes of the country.

In conclusion, GOI appreciates the UNFPA's contributions in India and around the world. We hope that the UNFPA's will redouble its efforts to have access to enhanced funding

and effective implementation of the Strategic Plan, including timely annual reviews of country programmes, which would be helpful in realizing the MDG targets.

Thank you Mr. President.

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)