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**Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS  
Annual Session 2023  
5 – 9 June 2023**

**Session: UNFPA Management response to Formative Evaluation of UNFPA Support to Adolescent and Youth**

**Statement for**

**Ms. Diene Keita  
United Nations Assistant Secretary-General  
and  
UNFPA Deputy Executive Director (Programme)**

**Date: 8 June 2023  
Time: 04:30 pm - 5:45 pm (approx) (EST)  
Duration: 5 minutes  
Venue: ECOSOC Council Chamber, UN Headquarters**

**Mister President,  
Distinguished Members of the Executive Board,  
Colleagues and friends.  
Good afternoon**

I would like to start by again, sincerely thanking the entire UNFPA Evaluation Office for the extremely collaborative process that this evaluation has followed.

This evaluation too comes at a highly important moment for us.

We remain concerned about the continued impact of COVID-19, conflict in many parts of the world and the precarious global financial outlook that undermine the health and wellbeing of young people. These also impacts their future prospects including, rights and choices.

Which is why we consider the recommendations of this evaluation – all of which we have accepted - to be highly relevant, and in many ways catalytic, in terms of how we can progress further in achieving our Strategic Plan.

2024 being the year for the anniversary of ICPD30 and the Summit of the Future, UNFPA is accelerating action in collaboration with countries and partners to ensure that the safety, wellbeing, and the potential of every young person is fulfilled.

UNFPA will implement the recommendations through our work in four strategic areas.

**First, through implementing our global strategy for adolescents and youth, titled - My Body, My Life, My World**

We agree with the evaluators that we should invest further in the roll-out of the strategy and guidelines and a big part of this will involve documenting lessons learned that can be built upon.

Likewise, we are focusing much more on fostering knowledge exchange and experience sharing in terms of adolescent and youth programming between our regional offices and country offices. As the evaluators have rightly pointed out, this is a great way to build upon the e-learning courses that we have already begun to roll-out.

In addition, we are acting on the evaluator's recommendation to articulate better UNFPA's understanding of meaningful youth participation for both internal and external audiences.

**Our second response to the recommendations is through enhancing our capacity.**

We are conscious that our in-house skills, capabilities and capacities must reflect our ambitions.

As the evaluators have recommended, we are reviewing the UNFPA corporate structure to ensure adequate capability in the organization to fully implement the UNFPA strategy on adolescents and youth.

We intend to review and map out the overall UNFPA human resource capacity in terms of Adolescent and Youth programming at headquarters, regional and country office levels to identify the current skills matrix and where gaps need to be addressed.

This will better enable us to intensify country-level technical assistance and capacity building with our partners to ensure that the knowledge and skills needed to deliver youth-responsive SRHR services exist where they are needed most.

**Our third response to the recommendations is through Partnerships and our networks.**

UNFPA is proud to be a recognized partner and global lead agency that supports the lives of adolescent and young people throughout the world.

We agree with the evaluators that while our leadership, coordination, and partnership within adolescent and youth programming is strong – including our role as co-convenors of the Global Partnership Forum on CSE and as members of the Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action – there needs to be further clarity on how UNFPA intends to work with others.

We are therefore undertaking a strategic mapping of where we should continue to lead, participate and collaborate with others in our programming. And this includes enhancing the capacity of youth-led organizations which have incredible power to create positive impact.

Mister President,

**Our fourth and last response to the recommendations, is through Investing in the power of young people.**

UNFPA is committed to ensuring that all adolescent and youth groups are included in our programming, that no one is left behind and that young people's capacity to be agents of change is ever strengthened.

We are therefore accelerating the roll-out of the modules in our adolescent and youth operational guidelines that focus specifically on the intersection of youth and human rights to ensure that the principles of equality, participation and accountability in our programming are strengthened further.

Likewise, we are building on the recommendation of the evaluators to guide country offices in conducting in-depth analysis of the specific exclusion factors that prevail in some national contexts and to determine how these can be addressed.

We are also applying the learning from evidence and research to develop specific strategic actions that enhance inclusion of adolescents and youth groups who are most disenfranchised because of exclusion, inequality and discrimination.



Taken together, and with your support, these actions will allow us to do even better when it comes to empowering adolescents and youth.

I thank you all for your kind attention!