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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 Population Dynamics and Data**

**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**

It is a pleasure to be with you and to present the management response to the Formative Evaluation of UNFPA's support to Population Dynamics and Data.

We recognize that this evaluation has called for a bold Population and Development strategy reconceptualized around a foundation rooted in data, demographic dividends, resilience and policy.

And we also appreciate that this evaluation has recommended us to intensify the common understanding of critical population dynamics concepts as well as strengthening continued corporate investments in signature data products and further enhancing our capacity to use of data and analytics across UNFPA.

I would also like to mention that we appreciate how timely and important this evaluation and its recommendations are in the context of the SDGs, Our Common Agenda and of course the ICPD Programme of Action.

Your Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

Allow me to underscore four critical priorities that frame our response to implementing the important recommendations of this evaluation.

**Our first response** relates to the evaluation's call for a bold population and development (P&D) strategy re-conceptualized around data, population dynamics and development which we agree is essential.

A global population, development and data strategy.

We are already in the process of scoping what a P&D strategy for the next 5 to 10 years will look like and we are sure that it will build upon the current strengths and lessons that we have gained through the current Strategic Plan period and those prior.

As the evaluators have recommended, the strategy will provide a strategic framework for all aspects of UNFPA's P&D actions, including our programming and any related global thematic funds like the Population Data Fund.

The strategy will apply across the humanitarian, development, and peace continuum to ensure that it supports the achievement of the three transformative results, within all contexts, as it is adapted to fit country and regional needs.

As our management response report highlights, the strategy will form the basis of how we link all demographic concepts to UNFPA mandate areas including linkages between supporting a demographic dividend while upholding rights and choices around family planning, and linking healthy ageing with important issues like the prevention of GBV and expanding SRHR needs for older women.

**Our second response** relates to our work to ensure continued investment in signature data products and to scale-up our use of data across the organization.

The primary data product that we are further investing in, is the Population Data Portal, PDP, which is UNFPA's ultimate data source and tracker for population and development data. The portal combines the newest population data on topics like sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, family planning, maternal health, or gender-based violence gathered from multiple sources.

Likewise, we are scaling-up the utility of the PDP and demonstrating its impact more widely, including through the showcasing of powerful LNOB analysis and geospatial analysis that is possible through the platform.

We are also holding consultations this year with colleagues, key international experts, thought leaders and civil society groups to scope a data strategy which include plans for a data quality assurance mechanism for UNFPA data outputs. This will facilitate our global coordination around how we use data in our programming action, decision making and publications.

And underpinning all of this will be an internal data governance group that is proposed to set data standards, establish a corporate data taxonomy and metadata management model – something that this evaluation has included.

**Mr. President,**

**The third** is around enhancing our PD capabilities throughout the organization.

In line with the evaluation recommendations, this year, UNFPA is designing, implementing and analyzing a staff survey to gather evidence around the data capacity in our organization.

The survey will involve a UNFPA-wide internal assessment of data literacy among staff to identify gaps and determine the steps that can best address these.

On the basis of the survey, the UNFPA Division for Human Resources and the Technical Division, will work together to develop a 3-to-5-year recruitment strategy plan that can attract and retain talent which occupy the highest skills set in population dynamics and data.

All of this is in keeping with the Secretary General's data strategy that more than 50 UN entities helped to design in order to deliver "data-driven transformation".

**And finally, financing and partnerships.** While our worldwide effort is rightly ambitious, we acknowledge that its success depends on sustainable investments and renewed partnerships with both old friends and new.

We plan to continue working with champions and building bridges with those who might be unfamiliar with the dynamics around population development and data.

Part of this includes continuing to dispel myths around demographic diversity and the reinforcing the linkages it must have with rights and choices. And we will always continue to highlight how population dynamics and data are vital for achieving the SDGs and promise of the ICPD.

I thank you all for your kind attention!