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Statement by

Ms. Diene Keita

**United Nations Assistant Secretary-General
UNFPA Deputy Executive Director (Programme)**

**Item 12: UNFPA Evaluation
Management Response to the
Formative Evaluation of the UNFPA Strategic Plan 2022-2025**

Date: 30 January 2025: Time: 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm (EST)

Venue: CR 2, UN Secretariat

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- **Mr. President,**

- **Distinguished Members of the Executive Board,**
- UNFPA Management welcomes the valuable insights gained from the evaluation of UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, and accepts all its recommendations. The evaluation has validated many of the findings of the midterm review of the Strategic Plan, reinforcing that the planned adjustments were appropriate.
- Now, let me elaborate further on how UNFPA intends to implement each of the five recommendations.
- First and foremost, Management agrees that UNFPA needs to retain its focus in its next strategic plan on its core mandate and comparative advantage. This is more important than ever as we strive to accelerate progress towards the Transformative Results, the ICPD Programme of Action, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and ensure that efforts to protect the population and development agenda are fully integrated into the approach.
- To accomplish that, UNFPA will make every effort to clearly define the approaches to acceleration in all contexts, including in humanitarian contexts, and elaborate with greater specificity on the types of programming actions envisaged regarding gender-transformative and the human rights-based approaches.
- Furthermore, UNFPA will ensure that the Strategic Plan 2026-2029, and the associated country-level guidance, clarify the space that countries have to define their own acceleration approaches based on the specificities of their country context.
- Second, Management agrees that there is a need for UNFPA to clarify its strategic positioning in population dynamics and other key areas of work and the direct contribution of these areas to the SDGs and the ICPD Programme of Action.
- As recommended, the Strategic Plan, 2026-2029, and the associated Theory of Change will frame UNFPA's broader contribution to the SDGs and ICPD Programme of Action, including in areas such as demographic change and population dynamics and will establish outcome level indicators and targets to measure progress in this area. In doing so, UNFPA will ensure that the support to the population and development area enables acceleration towards the Transformative Results and SRHR.
- Third, management recognizes the need to ensure there are clearer linkages between the concepts and language in the Strategic Plan and the concrete programme guidance that we provide to our offices in terms of programme approaches.

- Therefore, the next Strategic Plan will be more clear, streamlining and simplifying concepts and language in order to make it more easily actioned across all levels of the organization.
- In addition, UNFPA will strengthen its programme guidance to further sharpen the organization's operational focus, increase efficiency and facilitate more timely and contextualized support and guidance for SP implementation.
- Fourth, Management is committed to strengthening its capacities to undertake the critical measures that will support acceleration.
- To facilitate this, UNFPA will strengthen the capacity of its staff in critical areas such as normative work, funding to 'funding and financing', knowledge management, strategic communications, and working in crises, including through partnerships with private sector, civil society and academia.
- Finally, Management agrees that UNFPA should promote better integration of humanitarian, development and peace-responsive interventions while taking into account the different and changing contexts within which UNFPA works.
- To this end, UNFPA will ensure that the new strategic plan more clearly articulates UNFPA's programmatic offer in humanitarian contexts, framing it within the broader UN response, and will review its programming guidance as well as programming and financial processes and procedures as needed. UNFPA will also increase efforts aimed at identifying best practices in mainstreaming resilience, prevention and early action approaches.
- **Mr. President, Members of the Executive Board,**
- Allow me to close by reiterating UNFPA's commitment to leveraging evaluative evidence to strengthen our organization and our programming.
- We deeply value the partnership and guidance received from the Independent Evaluation Office and the Executive Board as we strive to meet our shared commitments to the people we serve.
- I look forward to today's discussion and thank you for your kind attention.