



**Statement by
Mr. Andy Rachmianto, Minister Counsellor
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia**

**at the UNFPA Segment
First Regular Session 2013 of the Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA & UNOPS**

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Mr. President,

Our partnership has come a long way in saving mothers' lives, and improving women's health worldwide. A significant achievement from our commitment and partnership in recent years is the reduction in the number of maternal mortality.

Despite the commitment and efforts, it is a heartbreaking fact that maternal mortality continues to be the greatest health inequality in the world, and that we are least likely to meet the 2015 target on maternal mortality.

We are indeed at a critical juncture. Given the lack of progress in addressing the challenges of maternal mortality and health, saving the lives of women, and providing the highest of health standards for women around the globe is an urgent priority.

Effective interventions by the national government are essential. International institutions, especially the UNFPA as the facilitator of national and international maternal health commitments, need to amplify national efforts.

To ensure the effectiveness of results delivery, efficiency of resources and accountability; we need as well to continue monitoring and evaluating all the interventions. What is especially important is supporting developing countries in monitoring and evaluating their efforts. This is because maternal mortality has remained high, and access to maternal health services is still inadequate.

We commend the UNFPA's commitment on results delivery and improvements. We note with appreciation UNFPA's evaluation for the last ten years on support and interventions on improving maternal health globally; and the midterm review of its Maternal Health Thematic Fund.

We further praise the Fund's commitment to promote the culture of independent and accountable evaluation. We also praise it for aligning the formulation and the conduct of its

evaluation policy with the principles set in the quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR) of operational activities for development of the United Nations system.

Mr. President,

We would like to underscore some of the pertinent challenges that need to be further addressed by the UNFPA.

First, the Fund must continue its effort to further strengthen its monitoring and evaluation mechanisms at all levels from the headquarters, regional representation and country offices. Stronger monitoring and evaluation functions will increase the Fund's capacity to assess the results of maternal health support, and optimize its corporate and country-level maternal health strategies.

Second, the Fund's maternal health support in program countries should not merely respond to the short-term efforts of reducing maternal mortality, but should also mirror the countries strategies in tackling maternal mortality, and promoting maternal health in the long run.

Third, the Fund's interventions should not only be well-targeted, but should also be inclusive and responsive to the needs of the most vulnerable. Its presence in this regard at the national level should address the systemic weaknesses, and other social inequities that keep women, and vulnerable groups from accessing maternal health services.

Fourth, the Fund must continue building and strengthening the capacity of its human resources in delivering maternal and reproductive health support as well as in facilitating partnerships, particularly at the country level.

Thank you, Mr. President.