Thank you, Chair,

UNFPA congratulates WHO for the innovative work they are leading on health and peace. Encouraged by the 2016 “Sustaining Peace” resolutions, UNFPA has started exploring contributions to peace through our work on sexual and reproductive health and rights, adolescents and young people, prevention of and response to gender-based violence, gender equality and population data—sectors on which broader peacebuilding outcomes depend.

Conflict has a clear, adverse effect on health outcomes for women, adolescent girls, newborns and children. Maternal mortality and morbidity are the highest in conflict and humanitarian settings where over half of maternal deaths globally take place.

Conflict and fragility are also associated with other negative SRH outcomes, including higher rates of adolescent pregnancy, greater unmet need for family planning, and heightened risk of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV.

During conflict, the quality of care and coverage of SRH services can deteriorate further due to the flight or diversion of healthcare personnel, attacks on health facilities, and the disruption of vital supply chains and referral networks.

Conflict is associated with heightened sexual and gender based violence. Survivors can suffer from long-lasting challenges to their physical and psychological health and well-being.

Working with the Interpeace, we are currently reviewing our programmatic interventions in several countries to assess how our sexual and reproductive health interventions contribute to peace. UNFPA enhances its work on health and peace at different levels by:

- preventing and responding to GBV;
- transforming negative social and gender norms;
- increasing women and girls’ agency;
- improving the ability of youth to make decisions about their bodies and lives;
- increasing inclusive access to health services for all;
- building coalitions for peace through women and youth-led peace initiatives; and
- managing data in support of peace and inclusive development policies.

UNFPA stands ready to support states, health systems and women and young peace-builders in achieving peace through health and health through peace.

I thank you

Word count: 316