The Government and people of Guyana wish to offer their congratulations to the Government of Mexico on their election to the Presidency of the Conference for the next two years and offer their commitment to supporting the Government of Mexico in its new role.

The people of Guyana wish to express their sincere gratitude to UNFPA and ECLAC for the tremendous support provided us over the years in the area of population and development. My presence along with that of the youth advisors is testimony to this.

We have received support in the execution of our national census, the results of which have built confidence between and among our national agencies and the international community.

The Government of Guyana would like to seek the support of CELADE in the implementation of REDATAM at the country level so we can gather more information in order to design and implement statistically driven programs and budgets.

We also seek your assistance in the provision of scholarships for students and population academics.

We would also like to express our sincere gratitude to the Sub-regional office of UNFPA in the Caribbean for their support in the areas of gender, youth and women among many other areas of technical cooperation.

We are happy to report that our legal system is undergoing review and is being strengthened. We have just had our 1st conviction for trafficking in persons.
The Government of Guyana (GOG) is also focusing on developing social work programs aimed at enhancing the wellbeing of indigenous population particularly based on their cultural norms and practices.

The GOG is in its final stages in drafting a national youth policy, a national policy on Sexual and Reproductive Health, and a gender policy, prevention of violence being a key issue. These will guide the government's work programs in the short and medium term. It is expected that these documents will be presented to Parliament early in 2016 for approval.

The GOG wishes the peculiar vulnerabilities of small CARICOM countries to be taken into consideration as the UN pursues its program of reform. We ask that Guyana continue to benefit and not be struck out of programs because of the spurious classification as a middle-income country.

Guyana also seeks the support of sister states of Latin America and the Caribbean in the maintenance of our sovereignty as an independent state pursuing economic prosperity and development.

The GOG is very thankful to be a member of the presiding officers group and wishes to be actively engaged in the ad hoc working group, which will continue the review and development of the operational guide for the Montevideo Consensus, which we unreservedly support.

My government wishes to express its sincere gratitude to the people and Government of Mexico for their warm hospitality.