



Introductory statement by
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on

Item 16. – United Nations Volunteers: Report of the Administrator (DP/2008/34)

Wednesday 25 June 2008

Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates.

As you prepare to review the Administrator's Report on the United Nations Volunteers, I would like to reiterate how volunteerism is a powerful development asset for governments and partners worldwide that should be promoted as an integral part of international and national development agendas. UNV continues to direct its advocacy efforts towards recognizing and promoting this asset and giving visibility to 'best practices' in volunteerism for development.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome Flavia Pansieri, the recently-appointed Executive Coordinator of UNV. Flavia brings to UNV a wealth of experience at country level and headquarters, and a strong skill set well matched to the challenging work of advocating for- and promoting- a better understanding of volunteerism. Among other assignments, Flavia has served as Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Yemen, as Head of Country Division of the Regional Bureau for Arab States in UNDP, and Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in New York.

Allow me also to acknowledge the work of former Executive Coordinator Ad de Raad. A long-serving staff member, Ad served UNV well for nine years, first as Deputy Executive Coordinator then as Executive Coordinator.

By way of introduction, I would now like to touch briefly on three key points that constitute relevant background to the current strategies being pursued by UNV and, in turn, inform the report before you today.

First, UNV continues to work towards the implementation of the business model which this Board approved at its last biennial meeting in June 2006. The model focuses on the three crucial dimensions of Advocacy, Integration, and Mobilization. UNV has been communicating successfully around this Model, and during my recent visits to the Regional Cluster Meetings I was pleased to see that there is growing

awareness of the model and its programmatic application among Resident Coordinators and Resident Representatives.

Second, the Business Model in turn guides the strategy behind the Corporate Management Plan for 2006-2008. The Plan is a crucial management tool that provides an accountability framework, including an internal control framework. It also includes a full review of the Volunteer Management Lifecycle, to strengthen all phases of individual volunteers' assignments.

Third, I should mention the strengthened partnership between UNDP and UNV, in particular by promoting the integration of volunteerism into country planning and supporting country offices in promoting volunteerism at the local level. By way of brief examples, in 2007 UNV volunteers supported approximately 500 UNDP projects. Further, in the past two years, UNV and volunteerism were included in 41 UNDAFs and 29 CPAPs. In my oversight capacity I am pleased to meet with the UNV Executive Coordinator on a regular basis as well as involve her in senior management meetings. Finally, the partnership between UNV and the rest of the UN system is equally healthy: in 2007, UNV partnered with 25 UN organizations, governments and civil society partners. I would like to emphasise in particular the role of around 2,500 volunteers working with the United Nations in peacekeeping and special political missions worldwide annually.

I would now like to give the floor to Flavia Pansieri to introduce the UNV Executive Board Report proper. Thank you.