

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**



Introductory statement by

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on

**Item 9. – United Nations Volunteers: Report of the Administrator (DP/2010/28)**

(Wednesday, 30 June 2010)

Mr. President,

Distinguished delegates,

I am pleased to present to you the Administrator's Report on the United Nations Volunteers for the reporting period 2008 – 2009.

In these last two years, the United Nations Volunteers continued to support the work of UNDP, and that of the United Nations, by mobilizing large numbers of UNV volunteers. About 7,600 UNV volunteers served in 130 countries each year. In addition, UNV has increasingly been working with Governments to develop national capacity, so that people can have the opportunity to volunteer in their own country. An online volunteering service has been put in place which connects people and development

organizations globally; in 2009 more than 14,000 online volunteer assignments were completed.

With its activities, UNV is demonstrating the importance of volunteerism as an instrument through which people themselves, all over the world, can contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and to build up the social capital of the world.

In preparing for this year's MDG Summit, and with only five years left to 2015, we increasingly need to build on people's individual and personal commitment to deliver the necessary results. Involving people in developing countries in their own development not just as beneficiaries but also as active participants, as volunteers themselves, is conducive to that end. Through national volunteer schemes different groups are brought together to work in partnership, thereby building the social capital so necessary for improved development prospects.

I would like to highlight briefly three points of the report:

First, we have strengthened our UNDP - UNV partnership. Globally we have increased our interaction and have increased UNV participation in UNDP top level meetings and activities. At the country level, about 2,700 UNV volunteers contribute to UNDP results. We also worked together in including volunteerism in 57 UNDAFs and 32 CPAPs thereby strengthening the UNV outreach to the rest of the UN system at country level as well as supporting capacity development and project implementation in UNDP programmes.

UNV Executive Coordinator Flavia Pansieri, who has been leading UNV since February 2008, last year steered UNV through a comprehensive change management process which is now reaching the conclusion of its implementation phase. Through this process, the organization has kept focus on results, increased delivery, and maintained staffing levels - despite the very challenging financial environment.

Second, UNV volunteers have a specific strength in working at the community level. Helen Clark visited a number of countries and met with numerous UNV volunteers working on various grassroots programmes. One such programme and an important area to expand our joint work, is in community-based adaptation. Mobilizing volunteers and supporting local initiatives for low-carbon development and adaptation are growth areas in our partnership. We are already working together in a number of countries in a GEF supported project and we are looking to see this grow through a multi-donor trust-fund, established by UNESCO, UNV, and UNDP). The UNV Campaign - Volunteering for our Planet – showed last year that many individuals across the globe are already engaged as volunteers in environmental work.

I should also add that UNV will be ready to serve as the focal point of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers that will be taking place all over the world in 2011.

Finally, UNV volunteers are essential in the civilian work-force of the UN peacekeeping and special political missions as well as for UNHCR. Beyond

UNDP, UNV partners with 22 other UN organizations. To continue to strengthen the contributions these volunteers make, we need to ensure that the UNV volunteers are recognized as an important part of the UN system and enjoy the necessary protection to fulfill their tasks. UNV volunteers support the work of UNDP and the United Nations often in difficult circumstances or in remote locations. I would hereby like to thank them for their dedication and commitment. I would also like to remember the two volunteers we lost in the violent attack on the UN Guest House last year in Afghanistan, as well as the three volunteers who lost their lives in the earthquake in Haiti in January.

I am now pleased to ask the Flavia Pansieri, Executive Coordinator, to present the biennial report of the UNDP Administrator on the United Nations Volunteers.

Flavia, you have the floor.

Thank you.