

Statement delivered by Minister-Counsellor João Lucas Quental Novaes de Almeida.

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to thank the Associate Administrator and the Executive Coordinator for their presentations on UNV.

I also take this opportunity to express our expectation that the implementation of the action lines included in the UNV "Strategic Framework and Integrated Results and Resources Matrix" (IRRS) for the period 2014-2017 will be aligned with the provisions of the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR - Resolution 67/226).

The participation of private individuals with specialized training as international volunteers establishes a direct channel between international organizations and civil society. It also enhances multiculturalism and diversity worldwide, thus fostering a better understanding amongst peoples, which is key for the promotion of peace.

Volunteer programs should be clearly designed and structured. It is important that resorting to volunteers be done in a rational way, in order to avoid a fragmentation and dispersion of efforts that can adversely affect the results of international cooperation, rather than adding value to it. Moreover, in the case of partnerships involving the private sector, clear parameters must be put in place to ensure the absence of conditionalities, as well as the respect for the sovereignty of developing countries and alignment with respective national development policies.

Brazil considers that the new UNV Strategic Framework will be particularly relevant as a guiding instrument to promote greater coherence between international volunteering programs and development cooperation priorities. Oversight mechanisms associated with the "Integrated Results and Resources Matrix", within the Strategic Framework, will be needed, so that the results of field activities of UN volunteers can be measured and assessed within the UN Operational Activities framework.

In this context, it is important to recall that we recognize IRRS as an evolving document, to be progressively aligned with the objectives, targets and indicators that will arise from the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Mr President,

International volunteering can positively contribute to South-South cooperation if closely coordinated with capacity building actions conducted at the field level. According to UNV data, 81% of its volunteers in 2012 were from developing countries, benefiting 127 Member and Observer States.

Furthermore, we support the continuous use of new technologies for the recruitment of volunteers. In the framework of the Volunteer Management Cycle, due attention should continue to be given to keeping the high standard of knowledge and experience of the volunteers.

We also would like to highlight the expansion of volunteer experiences at local level. We are glad to see growing networks of partnership amongst civil society institutions in developing countries in this regard. UNV should continue to be a vehicle of systematization and dissemination of good practices in the field of organization and efficiency, in addition to encouraging the development activities conducted by government officials.

Finally, I would like to stress the positive results of the Sergio Vieira de Mello Scholarship, a partnership between Brazil and UNV. We recently renewed our commitment to the scholarship with a contribution of US\$ 90 thousand, which allows Brazilian volunteers to work in different fields across the globe.

I thank you.