

Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS
2016 Annual Session

Item 9: UNV: Report of the Administrator
Statement by
UNDP Associate Administrator

Mr. President, Members of the Executive Board,

I am pleased to introduce the session on the Administrator's Report on the United Nations Volunteers, for the biennium 2014-2015, incorporating the midterm review of its 2014-2017 Strategic Framework. Before giving the floor to Mr. Richard Dictus, I would like to say a few things about the report and the strong relationship between UNDP and UNV.

As outlined in the Administrator's Report, UNV is focused on continuing to adapt to be fit for the purpose of maximizing volunteer opportunities within the United Nations system, and delivering volunteer and volunteerism solutions for the 2030 Agenda.

In the past few years, UNV has undergone a strategic evolution – which has enabled it be more innovative, while being more results focused than ever before. UNV is a 'common service' to the UN system, which worked with nearly 30 UN entities in 2015.

In UNDP, we are pleased to emphasise the value that UNV brings to our operations. In 2015, UNV deployed over 2,100 UN Volunteers to support UNDP projects and programmes. One example of the UNDP-UNV partnership was in response to the devastating earthquake in Nepal. In 2015, UNV mobilised 84 national UN Volunteer civil engineers and youth volunteers, who managed earthquake debris and the demolition of dangerous structures under a joint project with UNDP and the Government of Nepal. These UN Volunteers also trained 200 community workers in building assessment. The newly trained workers in turn led teams as part of the UNDP cash-for-work scheme, thus involving thousands of people in safe demolition and early recovery.

This example highlights the value of UNV and volunteers to UNDP and UN partners: community-level presence, the reinforcement of social cohesion through voluntary work, and the development of volunteerism in local level service delivery.

UNV is much more than a strategic partner to UNDP. UNDP was entrusted, in 1970, by the General Assembly to administer UNV. In this relationship, UNV has UNDP's full programmatic, administrative, financial and legal support to deliver on its mandate.

UNV is able to leverage the UNDP network – at global, regional and country levels. For example, the over 80 UNV field units are embedded within the UNDP country offices. UNV is also able to benefit from UNDP expertise and systems for financial performance. As the Administrator's report outlines, in the context of a declining core funding environment, and with UN Volunteer numbers not at their midterm target, there is an important need for financial sustainability for UNV. With UNDP's support, UNV intends to emerge from a challenging financial cycle a much leaner and more focused organization, with renewed efforts to tap into new non-traditional resource mobilization opportunities.

Mr. President, on a personal note, through my time in the UN System and UNDP at the country level, I have been thoroughly impressed with those individuals who volunteer their time and expertise as UN Volunteers. I would like to thank the 6,400 UN Volunteers and 11,800 UN Online Volunteers – carrying out assignments across the world for peace and development, often serving in challenging and remote locations. For them, and the 300 UNV personnel, I hope you will join me in noting appreciation for their service to UNDP, the UN System and the people we serve.

I give the floor to Richard, to present a short video and the Administrator's Report in greater detail. Thank you.