

UNDP Executive Board Meeting in Geneva, 24 June

Item 6: UNV

Mr. President,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of Ireland and my own country, Germany.

We wish to congratulate the Associate Administrator and the UNV Executive Coordinator for the presentation of the Report. We are very impressed by the wide spectrum and mere amount of activities ranging from the deployment of volunteers, the promotion of the concept of volunteerism to increasing capacities on the ground. We are convinced that all this is possible only because of the dedication and commitment of the management and the staff of the UN Volunteer programme and, of course, of the volunteers themselves.

Germany is proud to be UNV's host country and we look forward to the continuation of our close cooperation and excellent relationship.

We welcome the increase of donor contributions for UNV's direct programme activities by 3% which is due to the deployment of more fully-funded UN Volunteers. At the same time, we note with concern that contributions to the Special Voluntary Fund were 6 per cent lower than in the previous biennium. We call upon Member States to continue its support to the fund.

We commend UNV for connecting volunteerism to the post 2015 debates and encourage it to continue this path. We are pleased about the

integration of volunteering-related language in numerous key global documents. References to the contribution of volunteerism were made in international documents with direct implication for strategies and programming, such as General Assembly or ECOSOC resolutions. We are looking forward to the submission in 2015 of a “plan of action to integrate volunteering in peace and development in the next decade and beyond”, as requested by a GA Resolution.

We appreciate UNV’s efforts to build new partnerships and commend the progress in signing Memoranda of Understanding with United Nations entities and governments. Germany is looking forward to collaborate with the UN Volunteers programme in the organization of the first Partnerships Forum in Bonn at the end of September. UNV will bring together UN member states, UN entities, volunteer involving organizations, private sector entities and other partners for an open dialogue and exchanges on good practices.

We congratulate the UN Volunteer programme for triggering and supporting the establishment of numerous national volunteer schemes or action plans as well as the adoption of national legislation on volunteerism. We consider it highly important that volunteerism is integrated into development policies, strategies and programmes of the partner countries and the UN entities working with them. We appreciate the integration of volunteerism in twenty new United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and we would like to see this number growing in future. In order to promote coherence in the UN system and to increase results on the ground we urge UNV to explore even more possibilities for joint programming. We note with appreciation

that over 30 collaborative efforts with UN partners were implemented in the biennium.

We welcome UNV's contribution to South-South cooperation with 80% of the volunteers coming from the global South and 67% of those working in countries other than their own. It is also greatly appreciated that UNV joined the global network EvalPartners, which is viewed as a forum for South-South and triangular cooperation. By doing so, UNV is broadening its base of regional and national knowledge and its proximity to local communities. We wish to hear more about how knowledge management within the organization is organized.

We commend UNV's activities in the area of evaluation. We agree with the programme that learning from evaluations is a key requisite for the development of strategies and readjustments. It is vital to be able to assess the contribution and impact of single volunteers in the field but also to assess UNV's efforts to assist countries in developing capacities and mobilizing volunteers domestically.

We look forward to the implementation of the UNV strategic framework 2014 – 2017 and commend UNV for its dedication and its will to undertake this ambitious exercise. This exercise will support the change towards a strong culture of results based management within UNV. The Integrated Results and Resources Matrix is an excellent tool to refocus UNV's valuable work and to build consciousness about future priorities. It will help UNV to illustrate the comparative advantage of UN Volunteers

Let me end by expressing my appreciation for UNV as it has the responsibility for coordinating the UN campus expansion project in Bonn.

Today, around 1000 UN staff members work in 18 UN entities in Bonn. The former capital has become a center for international politics in the field of climate change, development and sustainability.

We stand ready to support UNV and wish to contribute to a thriving culture of volunteerism worldwide.