

Statement by Mr. Shatrudhwan P S Pokharel, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Nepal to the United Nations, New York at the Annual Session of the Executive Board of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), under Agenda Item 6 on 24 June 2014, Geneva.

Mr. President,

At the outset, let me express our sincere thanks to the Administrator of the UNDP Ms. Helen Clark for her reports contained in DP/2014/13 on ‘annual report on United Nations Volunteers’ which presents an overview of results achieved by UNV during the years 2012 and 2013. I also extend my thanks to Executive Coordinator of UNV, Mr. Richard Dictus for visiting Nepal and having wide range of meeting with government and non government entities in connection with UNV’s activities in Nepal.

In it has been almost 43 years of history with core objective of contributing to the promotion of peace and development. UNV has, through providing trained, skilled and motivated human resources, significantly contributed to the realization of the objectives of United Nations in general and UNDP in particular. The promotion of voluntarism by mobilizing volunteers for humanitarian, peace building, post conflict recovery as well as sustainable development and poverty eradication related activities has helped UN reach to the level of common people and promote civic engagement for peace and development.

Mr. President,

The UNV began to work in my country Nepal since 1974 with the arrival of the first volunteer to work for UNICEF. Since then it has been part of the capacity building of citizens, mobilization of local people in development activities, local governance and community development programme and help strengthen the National Development Volunteer Service (NDVS), among others. UNV should continue to looking at the linkages between volunteerism- as a means to civic engagement, participation and inclusion- and the nationally defined development agendas. In this context, we welcome the UNV’s role in supporting post 2015 development agenda consultation process through mobilizing various programs especially mobilizing the youth volunteers.

Nepal has always been supportive of the activities of UNV. We have introduced various steps to promote voluntarism in Nepal such as Mass Mobilization Programme. In this

context, it is important to identify the areas of complementary between such national initiatives and UNV's activities. UNV should actually aim at inspiring voluntarism within nation from capable areas to less capable areas.

It is encouraging to see UNV Strategic Framework 2014-2017 which outlines the key priorities as to support the UN system to be more effective in delivering their results, to assist countries to effectively integrate volunteerism within national frameworks, enabling better engagement of people in development processes and, to become a more effective and efficient organization, with improved systems and business practices and processes, well-managed resources, and engaged personnel. For this, we believe that the constructive partnerships are the key enabler to achieve the outcomes of the framework. In this connection we encourages UNV to strengthen and explore innovative partnerships to leverage resources for development, mobilize recognition for voluntarism and provide innovation for widening inclusion of people in development and peace.

Mr. President,

We are facing with challenging but historic time ahead for being engaged in formulation of Post 2015 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and subsequent implementation of the same thereafter. With its priorities outlined in its strategic framework for 2014-17 as securing access to basic social services, community resilience for environment and disaster risk reduction, peace building, youth and capacity development; we believe that UNV can make significance stride in contributing to the sustainable development and promotion of peace. In this context, UNV needs further reorientation and institutional revamp in order to fulfill its responsibilities effectively and efficiently to fine tune with new emerging challenges.

I thank you Mr. President.