

**SPEAKING NOTES FOR**  
**MS FLAVIA PANSIERI**  
**UNITED NATIONS DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**  
**EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**  
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- Like many other entities, OHCHR benefits from the contributions of UN Volunteers who serve in our field presences where they provide invaluable assistance to the OHCHR mandate in the field, whether it is in capacity-building, technical assistance or human rights monitoring. In the past year, OHCHR and UNV have been working at a more practical level on standard operating procedures that would assist these field presences with engaging and managing UN Volunteers. OHCHR is appreciative of the new modalities offered by UNV, such as the possibility to engage UN Volunteers for short-term assignments.
- Both OHCHR headquarters and its field presences are now increasingly benefiting from the opportunities offered by the UNV Online Volunteering service. We believe this service is a yet under-utilized source of skills, talents and expertise, and that United Nations system entities should be encouraged to explore the possibilities the service offers.
- OHCHR and the UNV endeavour to increase their programmatic collaboration through the integration of human rights and volunteerism in their respective work plans. In the past year, there have been several meetings and exchanges related to the UNV Global Programme on support to peacebuilding through volunteerism, and on UNV support for the Universal Periodic Review mechanism. We are currently exploring UNV support to operationalize the “Rights up Front” initiative.

Work on a memorandum of understanding between UNV and OHCHR started many years ago. With the efforts of the Secretariat’s Office of Legal Affairs, the Legal Support Office of UNDP and the legal team in OHCHR, I am confident that we will be signing the finalized document in the near future.

- As the promotion and protection of human rights often depends on the work of volunteers, OHCHR will continue to strengthen its cooperation with UNV to carry out the message of volunteering for peace, development and human rights.
- In conclusion, OHCHR would like to express its appreciation for the work done by UNV and would like to thank the President for having given OHCHR the opportunity to contribute to today’s session.