

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY



Introductory statement by

Ms. María Eugenia Casar  
Associate Administrator  
United Nations Development Programme

on

**Item 6. – United Nations Volunteers: Report of the Administrator (DP/2014/12)  
Tuesday 24 June 2014, 1130hrs**

***[1. Introduction]***

Mr. President, distinguished delegates.

I am delighted to introduce to you the Administrator's Report on the United Nations Volunteers programme, for the biennium 2012 to 2013. In doing so, I would like to highlight three important elements of the report and also the strong relationship with between UNDP and UNV.

***[2. Highlight the value of UNV and volunteerism to development and the strategic plan]***

Volunteers and volunteerism are key contributors to development and important assets for governments and partners, including for UNDP. UNV has been able to bring these assets forward to support the new UNDP strategic plan. With its collaborative, synergetic and partner-focused approach, UNV provides a complementary, strong "fit" for UNDP's upstream policy work. We consider UNV to be a key resource for UNDP, providing community-level presence; the reinforcement of social cohesion through voluntary work; and the development of volunteerism in local level service delivery. UNV is a strategic match for UNDP, due to the specific aspects of strong South-South and triangular cooperation, based on exchanges of skilled people to close critical gaps; its outreach through deeper use of online volunteerism; and the creation of opportunities for young people in volunteering. Clearly, the UNV strategic alignment with UNDP is right.

***[3. UNDP seeing UNV as a programmatic and operational asset – in four areas]***

I am pleased to report that this strategic alignment is being translated to the programmatic and operational levels as well. Over the past 12 months, UNDP and UNV have renewed our close dialogue, which has created opportunities to put this important relationship on a stronger footing. On the basis of what each of us bring to the table we are forging a model of collaboration that combines a corporately-driven agenda with the capacity to respond flexibly to programme

demands. Through this process, a set of programmatic priorities has been identified and are being pursued, in:

- Development Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting
- Youth Leadership and Engagement in Development
- Rule of Law and Citizen Security
- Resilience to Natural Disasters and Man-Made Crises

***[4. UNDP's good custodianship of UNV - financial sustainability of UNV]***

UNV is more than a strategic partner to UNDP. UNDP was entrusted by the General Assembly to administer UNV, and we take these responsibilities very seriously. We have supported the development of UNV's Strategic Framework – and recognise the importance of the course UNV is set to sail with this strategic intent. As you know from the earlier Board briefings by the Executive Coordinator, there are some bold and ambitious targets outlined for 2017 for UNV; for example, 10,000 UN Volunteers, with \$50 million in partner resources, and an organisation with activities of over \$300 million. These targets are set to leverage the value of volunteers and volunteerism for peace and development. However, in the context of declining core funding there is an element of financial sustainability for UNV, and the need to find the breakeven point. I can assure you that UNDP has, and will continue to, pursue a 'good custodianship' model for UNV.

***[5. Thanks and closing]***

Mr. President, in my short time with UNDP, I have been thoroughly impressed by UNV. This is an organisation which is effectively responding to its external environment – innovating to adapt to partner needs. From UNDP, they have our trust, and I can assure you that UNV has UNDP's programmatic, administrative, financial and legal support to deliver on its mandate. With the UN Volunteers, UNV also has a great source of inspiration. I would like to thank the 6,500 UN Volunteers – working across the world for the cause of peace and development, often serving in challenging and remote locations and post-conflict situations. For them, and the nearly 300 UNV personnel across the globe, I hope you will join me in noting our appreciation for their service to UNDP, the UN system and the people we serve.

I am now delighted to give the floor to Richard, to present the Administrator's Report in greater detail. Thank you.