

Madame Chair, distinguished members,

I am pleased to introduce the Report of the Secretary-General - A/71/159 on the activities of the United Nations Office for Partnerships for 2015. The annual activity report is submitted on a yearly basis to the General Assembly further to its decision 52/475.

The United Nations Office for Partnerships (UNOP) was established in 2006, comprising the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP) that was established in 1998, which serves as the interface between the United Nations Foundation (UNF) and the United Nations system, as well as the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF) which was established by the Secretary-General at the 2005 World Summit as a United Nations general Trust Fund. The Democracy Fund was operationalized in April 2006.

UNOP's primary mandate is to service the needs of the UNFIP and the UNDEF. Its third arm, Partnership Advisory and Outreach Services provides advice to potential partners regarding collaborative opportunities and also partners with United Nations programmes and agencies, member States, the private sector and non-governmental organisations to convene high-impact events.

In October 2014, the United Nations and the United Nations Foundation signed a new Revised and Restated Relationship Agreement, renewing the partnership for an additional 10-year period. Under the terms of the new Relationship Agreement, the UN and the UN Foundation are to consult closely and coordinate on activities being undertaken. A Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC), established under the new Agreement, is the principal forum to ensure strong and timely communication and coordination.

As outlined in the Report before you, by the end of 2015, the cumulative allocations approved by the UN Foundation for UNFIP projects to be implemented across the United Nations system reached approximately US \$1.4 billion.

In 2015 the UN Foundation continued to provide significant support towards to Global health initiatives, women's and girls' empowerment and sustainable energy and climate change. More specifically, UN Foundation supported polio eradication, measles and rubella vaccination and the suppression of malaria and efforts to meet the global energy and sustainability challenge. Support was also provided towards women's and girls' empowerment.

The total number of UN projects and programmes supported through the end of 2015 by the UN Foundation through UNFIP stands at 592. Collectively, these projects have been implemented by 43 UN entities in 124 countries.

During 2015 UNDEF funded 51 new projects from its Ninth funding Round at a total cost of just under nine million dollars. The large majority of the projects went to local civil society organizations in countries in both the transition and consolidation phases of democratization. UNDEF launched its Tenth Round of funding in November 2015. When applications closed on 31 December 2015, UNDEF had received 2664 project proposals. By the end of 2015, UNDEF had supported close to 600 projects in over 130 countries since the inception of the Fund.

Thank you for your attention