

Mr. Chairman, your Excellencies, distinguished colleagues,

I am pleased to introduce the annual Report of the Secretary-General A/73/222 on the activities of the United Nations Office for Partnerships for 2017 in keeping with General Assembly decision 52/466 and 53/475.

The United Nations Office for Partnerships (UNOP) was established in 2006 and is comprised primarily of two UN trust funds, namely the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP) and the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF). Whereas UNFIP was established by the Secretary-General in 1998 to serve as the interface between the United Nations Foundation and the United Nations system; UNDEF was established by the Secretary-General at the 2005 World Summit and began operations in 2006 to empower civil society, promote human rights, and encourage the participation of all groups in democratic processes.

The UN Office for Partnership's other principal function is to provide partnership advisory and outreach services to the UN system, Member States, and non-state actors in facilitating partnership initiatives and advocacy events in support of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In his report (A/72/684-E/2018/7), the Secretary-General announced that UNOP will be firmly established as the Organization's global gateway for partnerships. In 2018, the Executive Office of the Secretary-General initiated a review of current operations of the Office to form a reinvigorated platform for more effective partner engagement of public and private sector stakeholders, including civil society organizations, with the United Nations Development System.

The Relationship Agreement between the United Nations and the United Nations Foundation, as established in 1998, has been renewed twice, most recently in 2014 for an additional 10-year period under a revised relationship agreement. The Joint Coordination Committee, established under the 2014 Agreement, is the principal forum to ensure effective and timely communication and coordination between the United Nations and the UN Foundation.

In 2017 the UN Foundation continued to provide significant support toward advancing the work of the United Nations in several key areas, including global health, women's and girls' empowerment, advocacy and communications, energy and climate, among other capacity development, fiduciary agreements, and multi-stakeholder alliances.

As outlined in the Report, by the end of 2017, the cumulative grant allocations provided by the UN Foundation through UNFIP (since 1998) for projects implemented by UN system entities totaled approximately US \$1.47 billion. The total number of UN projects supported by the UN Foundation through UNFIP since its inception stood at 641. Collectively, this portfolio of projects has been implemented by 48 UN entities in 128 countries.

In 2017, UNDEF selected 48 new projects for its Eleventh Round of Funding at a total cost of US \$9.3 million dollars and launched a call for proposals for its Twelfth Round on 20 November 2017. When the call closed on 20 December 2017, UNDEF had received 2,429 project proposals. By the end of 2017, UNDEF had supported a total of almost 750 projects in over 130 countries since the inception of the Fund.

The UNDEF Advisory Board approved a revised post-project evaluation strategy in November 2016. The revised strategy is designed to make better use of local and regional expertise and to ensure that the lessons learned from evaluations are embedded in the Fund's own capacity. Lessons learned from evaluations have been made available on an interactive searchable platform (www.undeflessonslearned.org), launched in May 2017. The Fund continues to publish all post-project evaluations on its public website.

In closing, in 2017 overseeing the management and operations of UNFIP and UNDEF remained the core work of the United Nations Office for Partnerships. The Office has also continued to convene events to increase awareness and mobilize action towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and provide advisory services to a wide range of public and private stakeholders that share a commitment to realizing the 2030 Agenda.

Thank you for your attention.

Robert Skinner
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