

UNDP EB ANNUAL SESSION: JUNE 2012: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR: NEW ZEALAND INTERVENTION

(check against delivery)

Madam President.

New Zealand wishes to thank the Administrator for her comprehensive and informative annual report. We commend UNDP on the quality of this report. We welcome UNDP's use of an expanded set of performance indicators and the wide range of sound development and organisational results outlined. The report reinforces the pivotal role of UNDP in responding to partner country priorities and needs in each of the agency's thematic focus areas.

We welcome the efforts being made by UNDP, and the progress achieved so far, to tighten its strategic focus at country level, improve gender equality outcomes, including in relation to jobs and livelihoods, and to achieve greater efficiency in its operations. In particular, we commend the progress made in the data available, the big step forward in Results Based Management culture, and the attempts to control fragmentation by a significant reduction in the number of projects. We acknowledge that UNDP is still working on improvements to the quality of the data, depth of narrative, and balancing description with analysis.

We encourage UNDP to continue this work and its efforts to strengthen the impact and longer term sustainability of its programmes. As we all know, it is important in the current global fiscal environment that all multilateral agencies are able to demonstrate robust development and humanitarian outcomes, as well as maximum efficiency and value for money. Therefore we welcome the improvements in results reporting. Last year a significant initiative was the MDG Acceleration Framework. We are pleased that the investment in this is now starting to show results.

The annual report findings indicate, notwithstanding the definite progress that has been achieved, the potential for further improvements in these areas. To cite just two instances, we would hope that next year's report can show a significant improvement in the number of country offices able to demonstrate examples of good value for

money practices, and further improvement in the extent to which national entities apply policy and other changes supported under the policy dimension profile.

We would urge UNDP to strengthen its analysis of and reporting on why progress under some development outcome indicators has been more modest than anticipated. It would be helpful if planned steps to address constraints and issues retarding progress could be outlined in greater detail.

We note too that under some of the outcome indicators there is a significant variation in results by country at the different stages of the intervention cycle: adoption, implementation, and subsequent progress in achieving objectives. We understand that UNDP is looking at how to analysis the necessary balance between policy and implementation for maximum impact, and look forward to the results of this work.

We would also welcome additional reporting on UNDP's partnerships within and outside the UN system including issues, particular strengths, and tangible results arising from South-South cooperation; and in mitigation and management of risks associated with country programmes.

New Zealand's aid programme places our near neighbours in the Pacific at the forefront of our aid efforts. Over half of New Zealand's aid is spent in this region. Therefore we look forward to engaging with UNDP on its Pacific Multi-Country programme document, and the approach UNDP is taking to respond to the needs of individual countries in the region in a manner that reflects the respective national development priorities and specific development contexts.

Finally Madam President,

New Zealand commends UNDP for the major advances in its annual reporting, while recognising that the organisation has set itself ambitious goals for further improvement. We support the approach being taken; welcome the results achieved during the year; and look forward to working with UNDP in the finalisation and implementation of the Pacific Multi-Country programme. Please be assured of New Zealand's continued commitment to, and support of, UNDP.