

Mr. Chairman, your Excellencies, distinguished colleagues,

I am pleased to introduce the annual Report of the Secretary-General A/74/266 on the activities of the United Nations Office for Partnerships for 2019 in keeping with General Assembly decision 52/466 and 53/475.

As described in the report of the Secretary-General on Implementation of General Assembly resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, 2019 (A/74/73-E/2019/4), the Office serves as the Organization's global gateway for partnerships and provides a platform for effective partner engagement of public and private sector stakeholders with the United Nations development system.

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.

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 and restated relationship agreement. The Joint Coordination Committee, established under the 2014 Agreement, is the principal forum to ensure strong and timely communication and coordination between the United Nations and the Foundation.

In 2018, the UN Foundation disbursed most of its funding towards global health (\$5.2 million of \$7.9 million). However, as with previous years, it continued to provide financial support toward advancing the UN's work in several other key areas including women, girls and populations; climate, energy and the environment; advocacy and communications; capacity development; fiduciary agreements and multi-stakeholder alliances.

As outlined in the Report before you, by the end of 2018, the cumulative grant allocations provided by the UN Foundation through UNFIP (since 1998) for projects implemented by UN system entities totaled approximately US \$1.46 billion. The total number of UN projects supported by the UN Foundation through UNFIP since its inception stood at 657. Collectively, this portfolio of projects has been implemented by 48 UN entities in 128 countries.

In 2018, during its Twelfth Round of Funding, UNDEF funded 48 projects at a total cost of approximately US \$8.7 million dollars, and launched a call for proposals for its Thirteenth Round in December 2018. When the call closed on 15 January 2019, UNDEF had received 2307 project proposals. By the end of 2018, UNDEF had supported a total of almost 800 projects in over 130 countries since the inception of the Fund.

In closing, in its role as the global gateway for partnerships for the Sustainable Development Goals, UNOP engaged and brought together UN-system actors, Member States, private sector actors, civil society, and philanthropies to identify opportunities for partnerships to drive the SDGs. In some cases, these opportunities were with the UN, but in others UNOP connected non-UN system actors to Member States or to other external partners working to advance the 2030 Agenda. In order to facilitate UN system communication and engagement with organizations considering collaboration across a broad range of SDGs, UNOP served as a focal entry point for these potential partners.

Thank you for your attention.

Robert Skinner
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