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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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**REMARKS AT OPENING OF RETREAT
ON THE 2012 QUADRENNIAL COMPREHENSIVE POLICY REVIEW
OF UN OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT
Tarrytown, New York, 8 June 2012**

*Delivered by Mr. Navid Hanif, Director, Office of ECOSOC Support and Coordination,
Department of Economic and Social Affairs*

It is a pleasure to greet all those attending this retreat organized by the President of the General Assembly, the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs on the future of the United Nations development system. I also want to thank UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA and other UN entities for their active participation and contributions to this event.

The Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review is a tremendously important intergovernmental process that allows Member States to discuss how to make the UN development system more relevant, effective and efficient.

Operational activities for development now account for nearly two-thirds of all our system-wide activities. How these activities are conceived, planned and delivered in developing countries is therefore a basic, daily test of how well the organization serves the world's people, particularly those most in need.

The UN development system faces growing demands for more varied assistance. Even as we struggle without adequate resources, the global public has ever higher expectations for results.

To deliver on those expectations, the United Nations must place greater emphasis on alliances and partnerships. We need to do more, quicker and better, with the resources we have. We have to work as one, and we must embrace change.

As highlighted in one of the background papers for the QCPR, the UN development system has a legacy of adapting to change. I hope Member States and UN entities alike will take decisions in the upcoming QCPR negotiations that send a strong message that the UN development system can continue to evolve, reinvent itself and keep pace in a world of transformation and change.

Development cooperation lies at the heart of the United Nations. As we strive to get it right, this retreat can make a constructive contribution. I wish you much success in your deliberations.