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Introduction It is a pleasure and an honour to present the **Secretary-General's report (A/62/220)** on the **United Nations Office for Partnerships** to you.

Outline With your permission, I would like to touch upon **three areas** today:

1. explain to you the importance of partnerships for the UN;
2. provide details on our annual report for 2006; and,
3. provide a brief look into the future.

I am aware that we, the Secretariat, tend to present our reports to Member States in a very brief way. In addition to seeking your "taking note" of our report, I would like to briefly explain to you our work and the importance of partnerships for and with the United Nations. By this I hope to share with you our **enthusiasm, excitement and the passion** with which we try to make a difference.

History In recent years, I would say over the past decade, partnerships with the private-sector and other non-state actors have **increased in significance, number, and scope**. There is a realization that 'We cannot do it alone'.

Relevance All of us, UN and bilateral development agencies, governments and private sector investors, central and multilateral development banks, recognize the need to work more closely to address today's challenges. They are too broad, too large and too complex for just one or just a few stakeholders to address.

Office for Partnerships And that is why our Office is alert to the possibilities of partnerships between the United Nations system and State and non-State actors. Such partnerships can combine the strengths of governments which have the responsibility to ensure the provision of public goods with the strengths of the private sector – in particular its ability to move swiftly and deliver high-quality services on time.

Annual report Let me now know turn to our **annual report**.

Introduction As discussed in our previous reports, the institutional experience of the UN Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP) in administering projects and in dealing with implementing agencies and civil society provided a ready-made model for the UN Democracy Fund (UNDEF) to be created under UNFIP management and

administration. In addition, owing to the success of UNFIP activities and Ted Turner's philanthropy there has been an increasing demand for partnership advisory services. This has led to the evolution of the United Nations Office for Partnerships, which manages UNFIP, UNDEF as well as Partnership Advisory Services and Outreach in a holistic and coherent way. Our annual report provides information on the **activities in the three areas** which I will briefly touch upon with your permission.

UNFIP

The value of grants approved for UNFIP projects during the year was **\$191.2 million**, broken down as follows:

- Children's health - \$180.5 million
- Population and women - \$3.2 million
- Environment - \$1.0 million
- Peace security and human rights - \$0.1 million
- Strategic initiatives - \$6.4 million

This brings the **total portfolio value to \$994.4 million** at the end of 2006. Over the period 1998-2006, the UN Fund for International Partnership was able to mobilize funds in the amount of **over \$1 billion for 400 projects implemented by 39 United Nations agencies covering activities in 123 countries**. These funds have been used to support programmes aimed at improving Children's Health in Nigeria, for example, promoting markets for solar water heating in China, and fostering a supportive environment for adolescent girls and women in Chad. We need to explore which of those schemes have worked best and why.

Mr. Chairman, Ted Turner also wanted to be a model for other philanthropists who would see in the UN an effective vehicle for dealing with global challenges. Thanks to that support, the \$1 billion mark was made possible with **\$561 million from other co-financing donors** such as the American Red Cross and Vodafone. Moreover an additional **\$335 million of parallel contributions** have been generated.

Mr. Chairman, **Section II** of the report provides information on each of the theme areas of activity during last year.

UNDEF

Mr. Chairman, as you may recall, the United Nations Democracy Fund was **announced** by the Secretary-General in **July 2005**. In the World Summit Outcome, world leaders welcomed "*the establishment of a Democracy Fund at the United Nations*". The Secretary-General tasked UNFIP to develop UNDEF into a **grants-making facility to support partnerships between civil society and the United Nations aimed at the promotion of democratic values**. The Fund was established on the principle that there is **no single model of democracy, and that it does not belong to any country or region**. To provide programme cohesion, a Programme Consultative Group for the Democracy Fund was created with the participation of DPKO, DPA, UNDG, UNDP, UNIFEM, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The United Nations Democracy Fund attained **full operational status as a Trust Fund in 2006**. At its first Advisory Board meeting in March 2006, the Board recommended funding **125 projects**

The value of grants approved is **\$36 million**, broken down as follows:

- Civic education, electoral support, political parties - \$10 million
- Democratic dialogue, constitutional processes - \$9.8 million
- Strategic initiatives – \$6.4 million
- Accountability, transparency and integrity - \$5.8 million
- Civil society empowerment - \$5.2 million
- Human rights and fundamental freedoms - \$3.1 million
- Access to information - \$2 million
- Peace security and human rights – \$0.1 million

Mr. Chairman, **Section III** provides detailed information on the first year of operations of the Democracy Fund.

PASO

Section IV of the annual report describes the Office's activities in facilitating partnerships through Advisory Services and Outreach.

As a result of the successful partnership with the UN Foundation, the Office has seen a **substantial growth in enquiries from the private sector and civil society leaders** on how they can support the work of the UN. We routinely handle an average of 10 substantive queries per week. A number of these enquiries convert into projects coming through the UN Foundation, but a substantial number go directly to the various UN entities. Recent examples include Microsoft, Google and Ericsson. On occasions, we also work on smaller initiatives such as cosponsoring conferences or high-level events, where foundations or companies may provide funds to support activities.

This part of the work has grown exponentially over a short span of years and has the potential to develop strong and sustainable partnerships for the UN serving as a **gateway to engage corporations, foundations and civil society to help achieve United Nations goals**.

To this end, our Office provides advice through

- Screening of internal and external inquiries;
- Provision of advice on United Nations procedures and best practices;
- Design of programmes and projects;
- Establishment and, in some cases, management of global and regional networks;
- Development of creative financing mechanisms.

These partnership-building activities have the **twin objectives** of educating the public in the work of the Organization and engaging new partners for the United Nations.

2008 Outlook

Turning to our **future operations**, we would like to concentrate on creating an even more fertile fusion of the different sectors of society, by converting Corporate Social responsibility (CSR) commitments to concrete programmes in support of the MDGs. Each UN entity is different and their partnerships engagements will differ accordingly. One size does not fit all. But all ought to have a **coherent strategy and policy** that maximizes the effectiveness of partnerships while protecting the UN brand.

The successful partnership between UNFIP and the United Nations Foundation, now in its ninth year, along with the valuable experience of Partnership Advisory Services and the recently established Democracy Fund has provided some useful **lessons-learned**. They stretch from partnership selection through partnership management to knowledge management, transparency and accountability. We highlighted some of the major lessons-learned in **Section V** of the report. But besides the programmatic experience, the United Nations' greatest contribution is its universal membership in the world. We can **look across the regions to track innovations that have worked and highlight critical areas of concern**.

Our Office **stands ready** to play its full part in this endeavor – not just through our efforts within the secretariat, but as a hub for a meeting of minds and the **shaping of strategies**.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to close with these remarks and I am **ready to take your questions**.