

Mr. Chairman, your Excellencies, Distinguished Colleagues,

I am pleased to introduce the annual Report of the Secretary-General A/75/230 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 a connector for co-creating collaborations and provides a platform for effective 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 of primarily 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.

UNOP's other principal function is to provide partnership advisory and outreach services to the UN system, Member States, and non-state actors to co-create partnership initiatives and advocacy events in support of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To support SDG advocacy and engagement, UNOP hosts two initiatives - the Secretary-General's SDG Advocates and the SDG Strategy Hub. The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the importance of enhanced global collaboration among all sectors and stakeholders as we recover better together.

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 2019, the UN Foundation disbursed funding for projects totalling US\$ 9.6 million, the most significant grant (US\$ 3.5 million) focused on global health. In line 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 2019, the cumulative grant allocations approved 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 667. Collectively, this portfolio of projects has been implemented by 48 UN entities in 128 countries. The UN Foundation also provides other forms of support, particularly in the area of advocacy and communications to build momentum and advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to strengthen support for the UN's role and work.

In 2019, during its thirteenth round of funding, UNDEF funded 49 projects at a total cost of approximately US\$ 10.1 million dollars. The Fund launched its 14th round of calls for project proposals on 22 November 2019. When applications closed, on 6 January 2020, the Fund had received 2551 proposals, the vast majority of applications were from local or regional civil society organizations in Africa, Asia, the Americas, the Arab region and Eastern Europe. In its first 13 rounds of funding, the Fund supported more than 830 projects in more than 130 countries, with a total disbursement of some US\$ 178 million. The projects ranged from supporting civil society efforts for accountability and transparency to building capacity for strengthening media, good governance and the rule of law.

In closing, in its role as a connector for collaborations for the Sustainable Development Goals, UNOP continued to proactively engage, convene and leverage stakeholders and existing initiatives and solutions in support of the Decade of Action for the delivery of the SDGs. COVID-19 has accelerated UNOP's ability to collaborate with the UN system to help mobilize all stakeholders to advance the global response to COVID-19 and recovery from its impact.

Thank you for your attention.

Annemarie Hou

Executive Director a.i.

United Nations Office for Partnerships