

Mr. Chairman, distinguished members,

I am pleased to introduce the annual Report of the Secretary-General A/72/167 on the activities of the United Nations Office for Partnerships for 2016 in keeping with General Assembly decision 52/475.

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 (UNF) and the United Nations system; UNDEF was established by the Secretary-General at the 2005 World Summit and began operations in April 2006.

The UN Office for Partnerships other principal function is to provide partnership advisory and outreach services to the UN system and non-state actors in facilitating partnership initiatives and advocacy events in support of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In October 2014, the United Nations and the United Nations Foundation signed a Revised and Restated Relationship Agreement, renewing the partnership for an additional 10-year period. Under the terms of the new Relationship Agreement, the UN and UN Foundation are to consult and coordinate closely on all significant activities being undertaken. A Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC), established under the new Agreement, is the principal forum to ensure strong and timely communication and coordination.

In 2016 the UN Foundation continued to provide significant support toward advancing the UN's work in several key areas, including global health, women's and girls' empowerment and sustainable energy and climate change.

As outlined in the Report before you, by the end of 2016, the cumulative grant allocations provided by the United Nations Foundation through UNFIP (since 1998) for projects implemented by UN system entities totaled approximately US \$1.4 billion. The total number of UN projects supported by the UN Foundation through UNFIP since its inception in 1998 to end-2016 stood at 618. Collectively, this portfolio of projects has been implemented by 48 UN entities in 127 countries.

During 2016 the UNDEF funded 49 new projects from its Tenth Round at a total cost of just over \$10 million dollars. UNDEF launched its Eleventh Round of funding in November 2016. When applications closed on 18 December 2016, UNDEF had received 3002 project proposals. By the end of 2016, UNDEF had supported close to 700 projects in over 130 countries since the inception of the Fund.

In 2016, the UNDEF Advisory Board approved a revised post project evaluation strategy designed to make better use of local and regional expertise and to ensure that the lessons learned from evaluations are embedded in the Fund's own capacity. The Fund continues to publish all post -project evaluations on its public website.

In closing, overseeing the management and operations of UNFIP and the UNDEF remain the core work of the United Nations Office for Partnerships. The Office has also continued to convene events to increase awareness and mobilize action towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and provide advisory services to a wide range of public and private stakeholders that share a commitment to realizing the 2030 Agenda.

Thank you for your attention.

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