



Brazil

Statement by Ambassador João Almino, Brazilian Representative, on behalf of the Brazilian Minister of External Relations

on the occasion of

UNDP 50th Anniversary Ministerial Meeting

24 February 2016, New York

This Ministerial-level Meeting to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the UNDP – besides the opportunity offered to revive and commend the countless contributions of the organization to developing countries – invite us to envisage which UNDP we might expect for the next 50 years.

Looking back in time, one of the most positive characteristics of UNDP since its creation was its ability to adapt to the evolving environment of development, delivering effective and qualitative support to developing countries, through a balanced mix of high standards of corporate management, generation and dissemination of knowledge, actual commitment to national ownership and operational decentralization. The capacity of UNDP of keeping itself up with the shifts in the global development agenda during the last 50 years was crucial to preserve its leading position within the United Nations system in what regards development. This is all the more true when we recall that developing countries evolved from a more homogenous set of needs in the past, to a present time wide range of challenges to be addressed.

Brazil believes that it is fair to say that the United Nations would not have been able to fully perform its role as a multilateral body mandated to promote peace and stability without the major successes in the field of development supported by UNDP. The formulation, implementation and evaluation of strategic public policies in the majority of developing countries have had UNDP as a close partner. UNDP has been around supporting developing countries in their pursue of development, either

through direct support to governments, or mobilizing its whole structure to support multilateral agendas such as the *Millennium Development Goals* and now the *Sustainable Development Goals*. In this endeavor, UNDP has developed fruitful partnerships with other multilateral agencies, international financial institutions, donor countries, civil society and the private sector. Being in the core of this world-wide network of actors associated with development is one of the major assets of UNDP.

The ability of UNDP to customize its field work to the local circumstances of developing countries has made possible the accumulation of an extensive body of knowledge in providing support that best suits the specific needs of the different profiles of developing countries. The capacity developed by UNDP to promote knowledge sharing became, with time, another positive feature and sought-after skill of the organization, which has been maximized by means of South-South and Triangular cooperation.

One of the most important aspects to be highlighted in regard to these 50 years of partnership between Brazil and UNDP is the readiness demonstrated by the Programme to mobilize itself in a timely manner in response to the demands coming from the Brazilian government. This cooperation has been over time associated with good advice on the best solutions that were eventually implemented through technical cooperation projects, including the strategic support for the planning of major economic infrastructures in Brazil; the support for the restructuring of the Brazilian public sector carried out after the approval of the new Constitution in 1988; joint initiatives in the formulation of innovative public programs in the fields of social development, human rights and sustainable development; the strengthening of the public sector to evaluate the performance and effectiveness of public policies; and the partnership established in the field of South-South cooperation. Last but not the least, it is important to recall the support from UNDP to the organization of the *United Nations Conference on Environment and Development* held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and the *Rio+20 Conference*.

Looking to the future, Brazil believes that UNDP has all the necessary conditions to continue to be a respected and highly regarded UN executive branch in the field of development, a strong basis for the mobilization of additional core resources commensurate to its financial needs. In this context, the Brazilian Government would like to commend the UNDP Administrator, Mrs. Helen Clark, for her guidance on the preparation of the organization for the next 50 years.

Considering the way ahead, the Brazilian Government would like to draw attention to some key aspects. Brazil believes that UNDP should preserve the widest possible physical presence in developing countries, today the main source of its body of knowledge and a direct linkage to South-South cooperation and its comparative

advantages. UNDP should also continue to strengthen its capacity in strategic planning, as a means to better position itself in the implementation of the 2030 agenda. In addition, it would be important extending UNDP's network of partnerships with other relevant development-related actors. More vigorous efforts between UNDP and programme-countries aimed at achieving higher standards of monitoring and evaluation of the results, sustainability and effectiveness of multilateral cooperation should also deserve our utmost support.

One of the consequences of the approval of the *Sustainable Development Goals* was putting on the table the need for the modernization of development cooperation, in all its formats and conceptual framework. The way the means of implementation of the *Sustainable Development Goals* gets shaped will impact directly the current modelling of development cooperation, including its multilateral branch. The *Sustainable Development Goals* translate common priorities of our nations in the field of sustainable development, with ambitious objectives and targets to be implemented on the whole and not in a fragmented way. Bold ambitions and universal engagement are necessary to mobilize people, political will, new policies and resources.

UNDP must be supported by its Member States – in the extent of the capabilities of each one - to be able to respond effectively to the demands and duties that shall be assigned to it in the coming years.

UNDP has all the potential to continue to perform, on the one hand, the mobilization of knowledge and financial resources to support capacity building initiatives in developing countries, a platform for structural changes with verifiable impacts in the three dimensions of sustainable development. On the other hand, UNDP shall have a key role in the shaping of a renewed global partnership for development in the context of the 2030 development agenda - under United Nations frameworks and observing the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. In this context, UNDP may contribute to international assessments on the degree of convergence between the current practices of development cooperation and the implementation of international commitments in the field of sustainable development, as agreed upon by all U.N. members and consolidated in the document "The Future We Want".

New York,
February 24, 2016