Statement by

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Agenda Item 2: Gender in UNDP

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Check against delivery
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Statement by Ireland

Mr. President,

Members of the Executive Board,

Firstly, I wish to thank the Administrator for the annual report for 2013 on implementing the Gender Equality Strategy.

We would like to highlight in particular the very positive results in the four focus areas of the (previous) Strategic Plan, supporting capacity and policies that help MDG achievement. We continue to value the very good work of the Gender Steering and Implementation Committee, the gender marker and Gender Equality Seal.

I would like to congratulate you on the Gender Equality Strategy presented to us today. UNDP’s approach and mission is stated so eloquently that I wish to quote it now:

“By advancing gender equality and empowering women as agents of change and leaders in the development processes that shape their lives, UNDP envisages a more inclusive, sustainable and resilient world.

For UNDP, gender equality is centred in international human rights, norms and standards. The fulfilment of women’s and men’s civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights is central to UNDP’s human development framework”.
The strong political leadership shown by the Administrator and by the Deputy Administrator has provided an essential contribution to this advance.

Significant progress has been made in recent years in formulating policy on gender equality, not least in the Strategic Plan which has just come into operation.

The clear statement on entry points for advancing gender equality and women’s empowerment in each outcome of the Strategic Plan is very welcome.

This approach underlines the close inter-relationship between gender equality and several other development issues, for example, food insecurity, under-nourishment, climate change, peace and security and natural disasters.

A Plan which sets out clear priorities, and a strategy which show how these priorities are to be achieved, are an excellent basis for action.

Successful delivery depends on building capacity across the organisation, providing the necessary resources and being able to show the impact of the work.

We welcome the improvements by UNDP on showing progress in delivery in the field and, in particular, on the elaboration of a new integrated framework for results and resources.

We understand that it has been challenging in recent years to show progress in the area of gender equality and women’s empowerment.

It is for this reason that we requested UNDP to provide us with the tools to do this and a plan to show how the Strategy is being implemented. We are
particularly pleased to see that a set of robust indicators has now being included.

One final point we would like to emphasise is the very positive approach presented on partnerships, already an organisational strength, especially with UN Women. Incentives which encourage active cooperation in the field will further enhance the good, developing cooperation.

We are very hopeful that continued leadership at the highest level, together with the very good policies, systems and partnerships that are now in place, will consolidate the comparative advantages and thought leadership that UNDP brings to bear. END