On behalf of Finland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark
Statement by the Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations

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E-mail: nycmis@um.dk
http://finnewyork.um.dk
Mr. President,

I give this statement on behalf of Finland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark.

UNOPS’s mandate is not mainly about advocacy and policy formulation. It is about implementation, the stage when intentions and resources actually hit the ground. The success of projects depends not only on how well they are planned, but also on how well they are implemented. And this is where UNOPS comes in.

As member states with a genuine interest in achieving maximum results on the ground in the countries of operation we have since 2006 really appreciated Mr. Mattsson’s pursuit of excellence in making UNOPS perform at greater magnitude, at greater efficiency and at greater impact on the ground. We especially commend you for your efforts and leadership in benchmarking the work of the UNOPS against established Global standards. I can mention ISO 9001 and 14001 certifications for project management and environmental commitments, IATI standards for transparency and CIPS for professionalism in procurement management. But you have not only been pushing the limits for how far UNOPS could move, you have been a firm believer in the Delivering as One initiative, you have walked the talk and you have been leading the other UN agencies with your tireless efforts.
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In pursuing the Global Standards and the Delivering as One principles UNOPS has, under your leadership, been an example for others to follow. It will be a hard task to take over from you and to keep up your pace of continuously developing UNOPS to reach ever higher levels of efficiency and effectiveness.

Today, I do not only stand here on behalf of my Nordic neighboring countries, but also on behalf of the Government of Denmark on whose behalf I would like to extend the deepest thanks for your leadership and cooperation in establishing the new UN City in Copenhagen. I also wish to thank you for your leadership in coordinating the UN-system in that endeavor. It wasn’t always easy – I know.

Dear Jan, on a personal note, we have been working closely together on this job for the last five years and on 4 July 2013 we saw the culmination of our efforts when the UN City was filled with UN staff and inaugurated by the UN Secretary General, Her Majesty the Queen of Denmark and the Danish Prime Minister. I hope and believe that our joint efforts have played a small role in establishing a constructive working environment for UN staffs working in Copenhagen for many years to come. On a personal note, I would like to thank you for the excellent cooperation.

On behalf of Finland, Norway, Sweden, and Denmark, I wish you the best of luck.

Thank you.