President,

UNDP’s Global Programme is a key tool for strengthening UNDP as a knowledge organization that impacts global policy debate and that provides research-based policy advice of high-quality at regional and country level within its mandate areas. We appreciate that UNDP now presents to the Executive Board a holistic global programme for 2014-2017 that encompasses all areas of work and that sets more focused and quite ambitious goals for enhancing the relevance of UNDP’s work in combating poverty globally.

We are pleased that the draft programme addresses the recommendations given by the evaluation of the previous Global Programme. One key finding of the evaluation was the need for UNDP to concentrate on high-quality expertise, analysis and research with a view to enhancing global policy engagement and advocacy. It’s important that the Global Programme assigns a clear role to - and makes efficient and strategic use of - its global policy centres for this purpose. My government is committed to continuing its support to the UNDP Oslo Governance Centre and to cooperating with UNDP in strengthening the role and relevance of the Centre for the objectives of the new Strategic Plan.

President,

In order to succeed with the ambitious goals for top-notch policy advice and knowledge management, it will in our opinion be key to ensure a critical mass of expertise at UNDP’s headquarter, as well as sufficient funding. We would welcome more information on how the structural review, with its emphasis on the regional level, will affect this capacity at headquarter level and what strategies UNDP envisages to mobilize the necessary funding.

The five priorities proposed for the Global Programme link well with the outcomes of the Strategic Plan and the overarching vision of poverty eradication and reduction of inequalities and exclusion. We appreciate that the results framework clarifies that the Global Programme will contribute to a selection of outputs under the Strategic Plan.
We notice that in the last moment, UNDP has presented a corrigendum to the programme document. We would appreciate a clarification of the purpose of the proposed amendments. If the idea is to emphasize how the Global Programme will contribute to the overarching vision of UNDP, we would recommend that this be clarified in the rationale described under Chapter III of the programme document.

President,

The evaluation of the previous programme stressed the challenges in monitoring and reporting. In order to address this, further work is needed to formulate specific outputs and indicators for the Global Programme, including indicative funding. UNDP should also develop a limited number of key indicators that will enable an aggregate assessment of the programme’s performance in line with its five functions. We recommend UNDP to finalize this in parallel with the completion of the results framework of the Strategic Plan. We stand ready to assist UNDP in this process.

The evaluation of the previous programme also underlined the importance of improved alignment and coordination between the Global Programme and Regional Programmes, especially with regard to knowledge management and advisory services. We appreciate that the Global Programme provides some guidance to that effect. However, when examining the Regional Programmes, the division of roles with respect to the Global Programme is less explicit. We believe there is still a potential to explain the architecture here. The test will be whether it’s clear to the Country Offices whom to turn to when they need support, new knowledge and policy advice. We assume that the planned Corporate Strategy on Advisory Services will address this challenge and provide greater clarity.

President,

Let me conclude with a few remarks regarding the Regional Programme for Africa. We are pleased by the emphasis on the Programme’s contribution to regional cooperation and integration, and to strengthening the capacity of regional institutions. We equally welcome the proposed results and resources framework for the programme, and the effort made to define distinctly regional programme outcomes and outputs. However, we would encourage UNDP to look closer at the some of the outputs and most of the indicators, in order to capture the genuinely regional contribution of the programme, as opposed to country programme contributions. Baselines and targets must also be put in place.

Thank you.