Thank you, Mr. President. May I express the warm wishes and deep gratitude of the United States government, including the entire US Mission to the United Nations, to Jan Mattsson for his stellar leadership at the helm of UNOPS for the last eight years. UNOPS as an entity has had one of the most dynamic evolutions in the UN system, always focusing on results and proving its worth by developing practical approaches and implementing a variety of challenging initiatives.

With his pragmatic engineer’s outlook, Jan has helped build UNOPS into a model UN organization, one that pays for itself, operates to the highest standards, deploys quickly, delivers on time, and makes a measurable difference on the ground. UNOPS under his leadership has been a pioneer in sustainability, meeting the highest international private sector standards in environmental management and setting a sterling example for other development agencies worldwide. UNOPS’ support for transparency through its advocacy of the Global Compact has meant that thousands of its suppliers have signed onto the Compact’s values regarding human rights, labor standards, environmental standards, and anti-corruption measures. And UNOPS’ high standards for its procurement work means the billions of UN aid dollars it spends annually on procurement will go through suppliers that comply with specific conditions on mines, child labor, sexual exploitation, and the fundamental rights of workers.

Jan – we applaud your achievements, thank you for your service, and wish you all the best in your future endeavors. We look forward to continued strong partnership with UNOPS and to working with your successor and the entire team.