Statement

by

Austria

at the Annual Session of the Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS

on agenda item 10:

UNITED NATIONS CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

New York, 27-31 January 2014

Mr. President,

I am speaking on behalf of the delegations of ... and my own delegation, Austria.

Like last year, let me start by expressing our support for the work of UNCDF, and let me thank the Executive Secretary, Mr. Marc Bichler, for his report on results achieved in 2013 and the Stakeholders Consultations Process on Future Scenarios for UNCDF.

We are pleased to note that the UNCDF strategic framework, 2014-2017, reaffirms the commitment of UNCDF to help accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and shape and implement the post-2015 development agenda.

We emphasize the urgent need of UNCDF to increase its core resources by at least $10 million annually to reach the $25 million minimum threshold level required to sustain UNCDF programming and investment capacity in 40 least developed countries (LDCs).
In view of UNCDF’s convincing results and the relevance of its technical know-how, LDC focus and flexible investment mandate for the emerging post-2015 development framework, we are optimistic that in a collective effort we will be able to provide this rather modest required increase in UNCDF’s core funding for the 2014-2017 period; all the more since UNCDF is part of the UNDP Strategic Plan for the same period on a basis of a well-understood division of labor.

We are increasingly called upon to apply UNCDF expertise to foster domestic resource mobilization and foster private sector investments in LDCs, incl. from remittances as well as to devise tools for economically viable investments that integrate social and environmental sustainability. UNCDF’s knowledge is in demand, especially from countries that start to rely more on domestic financial resources. Technology now offers opportunities for much easier and cheaper knowledge sharing. Of course, much of the potential for knowledge flow is South – South as well as triangular cooperation.

Micro lending is often seen under the aspect of fighting poverty and gender equality. Generally, micro lending programs address the economically active part of populations which frequently is the female part. From this point of view UNCDF’s work is beyond dispute a success story.

Finally, we encourage UNCDF to make full use of its unique financial mandate and to continue to develop partnerships with private sector actors with a view to leveraging its investment capital with additional sources of financing newly available for sustainable human development purposes, including through pro-active outreach to impact investors.

Thank you!