Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

The United States welcomes the chance to engage again on the topic of the UN development system after a year of significant progress. Member States should be proud of the real reforms that had have taken place in the operational activities of the UN development system since we last met at this time last year.

First, of course, was the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review. The QCPR, expertly facilitated by Switzerland, was a resounding success. It gave clear and constructive guidance to the UN Funds, Programs and specialized agencies on ways to increase efficiency, transparency, cost-effectiveness, and productivity in their important work. As we have seen throughout 2013, the QCPR had a galvanizing effect on reform efforts throughout the UN development system. In January, the UN Funds and Programs took an important step by adopting a common approach to cost recovery. In September, for the first time, the Executive Boards of the Funds and Programs passed Strategic Plans and integrated budgets that are aligned with each other and with the QCPR cycle. We applaud these steps and are pleased to recognize the progress they represent.

We would like to note of other examples of real progress:
- The new Standard Operating Procedures for Delivering as One countries will help the UN development system to operate more smoothly and efficiently in those countries, and can be a model for UN Country Teams going forward. The ongoing rationalization and harmonization of UN business practices is an important measure not only to save resources, but also to help realize the Secretary-General’s vision of a more “interoperable” UN system.

- The strengthening of the Resident Coordinator position will give that critical manager the resources he or she needs to respond to demands in the field and ensure that the RC system is managed on behalf of the entire UN development system.

- The emphasis on gender mainstreaming across the Strategic Plans of the funds and programs should lead to real improvements in the lives of millions of women and girls around the world.

- Across the Strategic Plans, we saw a consistent focus on complete results chains at the input, output and outcome level; a commitment to establishing baselines and gathering better data to underpin analysis; and movement towards meaningful system-wide metrics to allow comparability of data and enable all stakeholders to make informed decisions about priorities and performance. The efforts by UN development agencies to rein in management costs, apply results-based management principles, and pursue efficiencies across their organizations are critical in reassuring donor and program countries alike that they are committed to making the best possible use of scarce resources in difficult
financial times. We encourage them to continue these efforts to achieve even greater efficiency and results.

Mr. Chairman, in closing, my delegation is pleased with what Member States and the UN development system have accomplished in the area of operational activities, working together throughout the last year. We look forward to continuing that successful cooperation in the year ahead.