STATEMENT BY

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To the United Nations

at the

At the Joint Meeting of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN Women and WFP

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Topic: Operationalizing the decisions of the QCPR, specifically taking into consideration climate change and building resilience.

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to extend my warm congratulations to the new Administrator of UNDP Mr. Achim Steiner, and wish him every success in his new and challenging job.

We are looking forward to working with him, and also hearing about his vision on the new strategic plan of UNDP, as well as on needed adjustments of structures and processes in order to better achieve the SDGs and ensure a sustainable impact.

Dear colleagues,

The 2016 QCPR resolution is the most valuable tool to ensure coherence and coordination across the UN development system, and mainly UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women. That is why, together with many other countries, we requested from these entities that the mandates contained in the QCPR resolution are clearly reflected throughout their draft-strategic plans, and most particularly, in the common chapter. I would like to emphasize that the collaboration between their Executive Boards should be strengthened, in order to ensure coherence both at Headquarters and at the field level. The Executive Boards should genuinely work jointly and have common strategic plans, country programmes and reporting. It is not enough to occasionally exchange information in the field, or simultaneously hold meetings at the Headquarters.
In this context, we support the Deputy Secretary-General’s approach for the United Nations Development System reform, focused on strengthening impartial leadership of UNDS for coherence and integration at all levels; increasing accountability and transparency at all levels, and being responsive to Member States’ national priorities.

Based on a first-hand experience, Albania believes that its relations with the UN System have been more efficient through the Delivering as One approach.

Furthermore, our experience has shown that the Delivering as One approach on one hand facilitates alignment between UNDAF and country programmes and the national development strategies, and on the other hand, it increases country ownership. As part of Delivering as One, in my country we have encouraged the formation of Results Groups, at a Ministerial level, that include Government, UN and development partners. This approach has been instituted for the newest UNDAF cycle in Albania which has just started implementation this year. One of these four Results Groups is dedicated to the environment. So, with regard to the topic of this meeting, this Group provides a good forum for the UN to collectively plan strategic priorities with the Government, including by having joint conversations on access to some of the larger global funds such as the Green Climate Fund or the Global Environmental Facility.

With regard to the question about other key areas for collective action, our conviction is that joint UN action offers a holistic approach and mainstreams cross-cutting issues such as gender equality, human rights, climate change, migration, and also building resilience. While in fact we believe that most areas of work would benefit from UN collective action, other priority areas include social inclusion, youth engagement programming, and – a relative new one – the promotion of a ‘care economy’.

In conclusion, Albania considers that in order for UN global strategies to effectively address issues such as climate change and resilience, they must
align their agency-specific plans to national Government efforts at country level. Continuous improvement of mechanisms for UN joint action at country level, and a more integrated and coordinated approach of implementation of programmes, should help the UN system focus on its strategic discussions with Government, ensuring its relevance in the national context.

Finally, I would like to underline the importance of ensuring new principles of Agenda 2030 in implementing the SDGs, as reflected in the European Consensus on Development, adopted last month in Brussels. These principles are universality, indivisibility and complementarity.

Thank you for your attention.