



## UNDP Executive Board

Second Regular Session 2017

New York, 5 September 2017

### **Swiss Statement on the Strategic Plan**

Delivered by Patricia Barandun, Programme Manager

Mister President,  
Mister Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

My statement will focus on the strategic plan, as Switzerland only delivers a general national statement during the annual session of the board in June.

I would like to start by thanking Mr. Steiner for his presentation of the new Strategic Plan of UNDP. Switzerland welcomes the open dialogue that has started since June and the recent informal exchanges. We appreciate the fresh look at the strength and comparative advantage of UNDP, the genuine effort to clarify UNDP's positioning, and the constructive attitude of UNDP towards the repositioning of the UNDS lead by the Secretary General. We fully support the priority of UNDP to provide a more integrated and collaborative response to the 2030 Agenda. We are seeing a start of such an integrated approach in the Common Chapter, which is now part of the strategic plans of UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Women and UNDP.

Switzerland is an important donor of core resources and we do so mainly for the quality of the work delivered at country level underpinned by strong accountability and transparency mechanisms. We also value and monitor the institutional effectiveness of UNDP. We support your proposal that identifies clear distinctive offerings of UNDP as we need a UNDP that is more selective with regard to thematic areas covered in its strategic plan. Building on this, we consider it important that the new strategic plan guides country offices to prioritize quality over quantity of initiatives. We also welcome UNDP's commitment to make a stronger linkage between results and resources.

As we have expressed at several occasions, Switzerland recognizes UNDP's comparative advantage in thematic areas such as democratic governance, conflict prevention, civic participation, addressing inequalities, including gender equality and inclusive development initiatives. We feel that those areas of expertise should be at the heart of the next strategic plan. The articulation of these priorities should be guided by the agreed language of the 2030 Agenda, the respective SDGs and the Sustaining Peace resolution including prevention. This should be translated into a business model that provides foremost policy advisory services.

We understand that you want to position UNDP on the one hand as a standalone agency as well as an integrating platform for joint work on SDGs. We look forward to learning more about how you plan to articulate these two roles. The exact role of UNDP at the country level is linked to the Secretary General's repositioning of the UNDS that Switzerland fully supports. We encourage you to position UNDP in support of the Secretary General agenda and vision for the UNDS. Switzerland supports you in your efforts at UNDP to adapt to this new context. We look forward to the deliberations during this second annual session of the board.

Thank you for your attention.