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Economic and Social Council

UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board – Second Regular  
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UNDP Segment – United Nations Capital Development Fund

28 August 2025, New York

Joint Statement

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Mister President, Excellencies,

Now that the decision on the UNDP structured funding dialogue has been adopted and noting that the UNCDF annual review of financial status formed part of that decision, we wish to deliver a joint statement pertaining particularly to that review.

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Germany, France, Australia, Türkiye and my own country, Switzerland.

We have taken note of the annual review of the financial situation 2024 of UNCDF and have the following comments:

We acknowledge that the UNCDF's financial situation remains strained but are relieved to see that the overall financial situation has not deteriorated further as one might have feared. We commend the management for their efforts to keep the ship financially afloat.

After years of declining core contributions, we are pleased to note that the trend has been halted, albeit at a very low level. We are aware that the financial context is difficult. We therefore encourage management *all the more* to invest in appropriate measures to come as close as possible to achieving the annual target of 25 million US dollars for core contribution, as set out in the strategy.

We are also somewhat surprised to note that outstanding loans and guarantees are rather low, given that this is, or should be, one of UNCDF's core competencies. We hope that the recent restructuring, which included aligning internal processes with those of UNDP, will not hinder efficient implementation of this unique part of UNCDF's mandate.

With this in mind, we look forward to the ongoing process of renewing the UNCDF strategic framework for the period 2026–2029. We hope to engage even closer with UNCDF on its final design in the coming months. As this session is devoted to the financial situation of UNCDF, we would like to express our expectation that the new strategy will include a solid section on resource mobilization.

In conclusion, we would like to emphasize that we greatly appreciate the work of UNCDF, which, as the ‘catalytic financing facility of the United Nations for the least developed countries,’ fills a very important niche. The innovative thinking and approaches, such as those of UNCDF, are exactly what we need to close the financing gap and achieve the SDGs - something that was also reaffirmed at the recent FfD4 conference in Sevilla.

Thank you for your attention.