

**Remarks by the European Union on the occasion of
UNDP's 50th Anniversary Ministerial Meeting
Thematic Break-out session on Managing Risk, Building Resilience**
(New York, 24 February 2016)

The UNDP is a key partner of the EU in the global development architecture. We have been working together for decades, making the most of our respective comparative advantages. Our strategic partnership, established since 2004, is a force for promoting peace, development and human rights. Our partnership works well because we share a forward-looking focus and a desire to respond to new and emerging challenges. The UNDP is a strategic partner with which we can discuss policy issues relating to major development concerns.

This collaborative approach fits in well with the efforts to work towards the success of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Our ongoing project and programme cooperation is already bearing fruit, especially as regards the three pillars around which our partnership is built, namely: governance, conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction, with human rights and gender as important cross-cutting issues.

The breadth and depth of the partnership has contributed to positive development results in over 100 countries. It has improved democratic governance, promoted human rights, and fought discrimination.

The EU-UNDP partnership will continue to be a vital strategy in addressing new development challenges such as overcoming vulnerabilities, and preventing or recovering from conflict and natural disasters.

Looking into the future, we intend to continue working with the UNDP on the pillars of our cooperation because our work in these fields is highly relevant to our effort to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

In the area of building resilience, we note

- In the last years, we have cooperated in several projects on environment, climate change and disaster risk reduction.
- We have joined forces to develop a common methodology on Post Disaster Needs Assessments, carry out joint assessments, and build capacities to conduct assessments.
- We have worked on a unified approach to development of Low Emission Climate Resilient Development Strategies, building public and private sector capacities.
- And our cooperation on environment runs from sustainable exploitation of drylands, to capacity building for integrated water management systems, or forest management and conservation.
- In general, UNDP is well placed to support developing countries in creating green and inclusive economies to ensure sustainable growth

Finally, we would like to underline that UNDP's coordination role in the UN system provides an important advantage in our cooperation.