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Remarks on the Occasion of the
Inaugural meeting of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

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[Check against Delivery]

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you for the opportunity to speak here today at the occasion of the first meeting of the High-level Political Forum.

The creation of the High Level Political Forum, with the mandate to provide political leadership on sustainable development, and review progress in the implementation of sustainable development commitments is most welcome.

Helping countries bring evidence to the discussions at the High-Level Political Forum will be most crucial for the success of this new body. UNDP with its global network of country offices and as Chair of the undg stands ready to support this endeavor.

UNDP has supported many countries to integrate the MDGs into their national development strategies. We have partnered with government to produce over [400 MDG progress reports](#) to help governments to build evidence and track progress.

In the run-up to Rio+20, together with UNDESA, we supported national consultations in 72 countries aiming at reviewing progress, challenges and gaps in the implementation of sustainable development approaches over the last two decades (see [Synthesis of National Reports](#)).

Last year and this year, together with the undg, we have led the unprecedented global conversation on the post-2015 agenda. Through that conversation, over one million people from around the world have voiced their views on the world they want after 2015.

The report [‘A Million Voices: What People Want’](#) shows clearly that there is a strong call for governments to do a better job: to be honest and responsive in delivering services,

creating jobs, and taking responsibility for the planet. There is also a wish to hold us all accountable for doing their part- governments, the UN, other international organizations, the private sector and NGOs.

This message of accountability resonates with the mandate of the High Level Political Forum gathered today.

The consultations indicate what is possible when it comes to building mechanisms for social accountability. We look forward, therefore, to the integration of the voices of people in the High Level Panel Forum discussions. UNDP and the UNDG would be pleased to build on the unique consultation process to help facilitate this.

The SG will present his report in tomorrow's Special Event on the MDGs Post-2015 Agenda. It will be an excellent basis for the intergovernmental deliberations ahead, building on Rio+20, the consultations with people, the High-Level panel report and other consultations.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I reiterate UNDP's commitment to work with governments and other stakeholders to support the work of this new body in bringing together evidence and the diversity of voices that will be required to enhance the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, holistically and coherently.

Thank you.