Mutual Recognition Statement

Acknowledging General Assembly Resolution 71/243, which calls for entities within the United Nations development system to “operate according to the principle of mutual recognition of best practices in terms of policies and procedures, with the aim of facilitating active collaboration across agencies and reducing transaction costs for Governments and collaborating agencies”;

Recalling the Report of the Secretary-General, Repositioning the United Nations Development System to Deliver on the 2030 Agenda (A/72/684), and in particular in recognition that the roll out of the Business Operations Strategy at the country level requires “progress on the mutual recognition of policies and procedures by entities of the United Nations development system”, and responding to the Secretary-General’s call in the same report for all entities to accelerate their efforts to operate according to the principle of mutual recognition;

Recalling further the initiative of the UN Business Innovations Group to support the Business Operations Strategy as well as to foster UN Country Team common back offices, the formation of common service centers and to increase the number of UN common premises;

Noting that mutual recognition allows an entity to use or rely on another entity’s policies, procedures, system contracts and related operational mechanisms for the implementation of activities without further evaluation, checks or approvals being required;

Noting further that mutual recognition can serve to facilitate the implementation and administration of administrative support activities, create cost-savings and foster collaboration across United Nations entities;

Recognizing that principles for mutual recognition are that participating United Nations entities:

• maintain sound financial management and internal control systems to ensure that funds are used for the purposes intended with due attention to considerations of efficiency and effectiveness;
• subject their financial and administrative management systems to internal and external auditing arrangements in line with internationally accepted standards;
• reaffirm their commitment to the single-audit principle;
• ensure that appropriate mechanisms are in place to significantly mitigate the risk of fraud and corruption and to address allegations and proven instances of fraud and corruption; and
• undertake appropriate measures, including capacity strengthening, to mitigate risks posed by any weakness identified in their financial and administrative management systems and arrangements.

Affirming that our respective entities meet these prerequisites and wish to advance the Business Operations Strategy and to foster progress in the goals pursued by the Business Innovations Group;

Hereby commit to apply, to the greatest extent practicable, the principle of mutual recognition in respect of the administration and implementation of our entities’ activities;
and further hereby commit to work initially to implement the principle in the following specific areas in the context of the Business Operations Strategy at the country level and the initiatives of the Business Innovation Group:

- Finance
- Human resources
- Procurement
- Logistics
- Information and communications technology
- Facility services

The parties hereto agree and sign this document, as follows:

For: UNHCR
Name: Filippo Grandi
Title: High Commissioner for Refugees
Signature: [Signature]
Date: 5 Nov, 2018

For: WFP
Name: David Beasley
Title: Executive Director
Signature: [Signature]
Date: 5 Nov, 2018

For: UNDP
Name: Ahdin Steiner
Title: Administrator
Signature: [Signature]
Date: [Date]

For: UNFPA
Name: Natalia Kanem
Title: Executive Director
Signature: [Signature]
Date: [Date]

For: United Nations
Name: António Guterres
Title: Secretary-General
Signature: [Signature]
Date: [Date]
Business Innovation Group
Mutual Recognition Statement

For: UNICEF
Name: Henrietta Fore
Title: Executive Director
Signature: [Signature]
Date: 6 November 2018

For: ILO
Name: Guy Ryder
Title: Director-General
Signature: [Signature]
Date: 11 Dec 2018

For: UNOPS
Name: Grete Faremo
Title: Executive Director
Signature: [Signature]
Date: 18 Feb 2019

For: WHO
Name: Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Title: Director General
Signature: [Signature]
Date: 20 December 2018

For: IOM
Name: António Vitorino
Title: Director General
Signature: [Signature]
Date: 15 Oct 2019

For: ITU
Name: Houlin Zhao
Title: ITU Secretary-General
Signature: [Signature]
Date: 16 May 2019

¹WHO's signature also covers the UN International Computing Centre (ICC)
For: UNAIDS
Name: Michel Sidibé
Title: Executive Director
Signature: .................................................................
Date: .................................................................

For: UNESCO
Name: Audrey Azoulay
Title: Director-General
Signature: .................................................................
Date: .................................................................

For: UNWOMEN
Name: Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka
Title: Executive Director
Signature: .................................................................
Date: .................................................................

For: FAO
Name: Qu Dongyu
Title: Director General
Signature: .................................................................
Date: .................................................................

For: UNRWA
Name: Pierre Krähenbühl
Title: Commissioner-General
Signature: .................................................................
Date: .................................................................

For: UNEP
Name: Inger Andersen
Title: Executive Director
Signature: .................................................................
Date: .................................................................
Business Innovation Group
Mutual Recognition Statement

For: IFAD
Name: Gilbert F. Houngbo
Title: President
Signature: [Signature]
Date: 17 Jan 2020

For: ITC
Name: Dorothy Tembo
Title: Executive Director a.i.
Signature: [Signature]
Date: 02 April 2020