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Statement by

**MS. ELIA ARMSTRONG  
CHIEF OF DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT BRANCH  
DIVISION FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND DEVELOPMENT  
MANAGEMENT, UNITED NATIONS  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

**Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations and the  
Regional School of Public Administration in the United Nations Public Administration  
Network**

**Skopje, 31 October 2014**

Excellencies,  
Ministers,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to join you in this annual meeting of the Governing Board at the Ministerial level of the Regional School of Public Administration.

I extend the appreciation of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs to ReSPA for hosting this important event.

As we all know, the world has changed significantly in recent years. At this time of complex and interdependent regional and global challenges - such as climate change, economic crisis and food crisis - effective governance and efficient public administration are central to meeting the needs of citizens around the world.

The question of sustainable development is the subject of intense interest for the United Nations and its Member States. This coincides with the timeframe for achieving the Millennium Development Goals coming to an end in 2015. Member States and other stakeholders have been intensively discussing the scope and priorities of a new post-2015 development agenda. As a result, this July, the UN General Assembly's Open Working Group of Member States on

Sustainable Development Goals forwarded to the General Assembly its proposal for a set of sustainable development goals that form the core of the universal UN development agenda beyond 2015.

This proposed set of 17 goals with 169 targets set the stage for the Member States to forge an ambitious development agenda with economic, social and environmental dimensions to improve people's lives and to protect this planet for future generations.

These new goals call governments to build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels as well as to ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels. They also call for revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development.

It is, therefore, clear that effective governance and efficient public administration are central to the wellbeing of people and the survival of our planet. Hence, the work of institutions such as ReSPA on transforming public administration to meet the complex challenges of the 21st century has never been timelier. Public administrations and institutions form the foundation of any strides towards social, economic and environmental development. Without well-functioning public governance and institutions, the post-2015 development agenda cannot be achieved.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great joy that we gather here in Skopje not only for the ResPA Governing Board Ministerial level meeting but also to mark the occasion of the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Division for Public Administration and Development Management of UNDESA and ReSPA through the UN Public Administration Network.

With the signing of this MoU, ReSPA becomes the first UNPAN Partner from the Western Balkans. We look forward to the important contributions of ReSPA to UNPAN by providing insights and sharing innovations and lessons learnt from ReSPA member countries in the Western Balkans with the other UNPAN Partners around the world.

As resources, of all kind, are getting scarcer, transfer of innovative practices becomes ever more crucial. This is what UNPAN stands for as the only global network of public administration. UNPAN was established in 1999, but its

mission has stood the test of time. UNPAN brings public administration institutions from all regions of the world together to facilitate sharing of knowledge and best practices as well as training in public sector policy and management with the ultimate goal of building the capacities of UN Member States to help them achieve the development goals.

It is with great pleasure and honour that I welcome ReSPA on behalf of the Division for Public Administration and Development Management of UNDESA as the newest member of the UN Public Administration Network.

I look forward to a rewarding and productive Partnership with joint activities that will benefit the public administrations throughout the Western Balkans, and the world.

Thank you.

*[623 words]*