On behalf of the UN Country Team in China, I am pleased to present the Resident Coordinator 2013 Annual Report.

The Government of China (GoC) and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) completed its once-in-a-decade leadership change in 2013. During the country's annual legislative session in March, Xi Jinping became China's President and Li Keqiang China's Prime Minister. Under the new administration, key areas of reform and emphasis include improving income distribution, supporting more equitable social service access and delivery, narrowing rural-urban disparities, and reducing official corruption. China also demonstrated its growing global influence on the international stage through increased foreign aid and engagement in international discussions, along with a more pronounced presence in the foreign policy arena.

In November, the Chinese Communist Party held the Third Plenum of the 18th Party Congress, during which China's leaders unveiled ambitious economic and social reforms. Other significant outcomes included the abolition of the re-education through labour system and relaxation of the "one-child policy" enabling couples to have two children if either parent is an only child. China's leadership also set a course to steer the country away from exports and investment-led growth to a more consumption driven model. Economists predict this will be difficult, but will ultimately lead to slower and more sustainable economic growth. China's GDP growth stabilised at 7.6% in 2013, the same rate as the previous year. Among the challenges is the growing concern about the level of debt run up by local governments and the long-term impact that could have on the economy.

The change in leadership and policy had minimal impact on the relationship between the Government and the UN system in China. Since 2012, the UN System has undertaken a repositioning exercise to strengthen the role of the UN in the context of China's rapid, dynamic economic and social transformation. 2013 saw a consolidation of gains on joint UN priorities. The UN system continued to enjoy high standing and positive visibility through its programmes, conferences and high-level visitors.

The UN joined the GoC and invited dignitaries from South Asia in commemorating the International Day of Peace to promote peace and regional development cooperation. The UN System also commemorated UN Day, the International Week of Science and Peace and End Violence Against Women Day. In June, the Secretary-General (SG) visited Beijing and launched the UN WeChat social media account, and by year-end this social media account boasted over 300,000 followers with continuing growth and potential for UN advocacy and outreach. The SG promoted a green life-style and an image of the SG riding a bicycle went viral on multiple social media platforms, while his interviews on WeChat and traditional media outlets garnered strong viewership.

The UN in China welcomed 44 high-level visitors, including the Special Envoy for the Sahel, Special Advisor of the SG on Post-2015 Development Planning, World Bank Special Envoy on MDGs, USG DESA, USG DPI, USG DPKO, USG and the top leadership of ESCAP, FAO, IFAD, ILO, IMF, UNAIDS, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNV, WFP, WHO and others.

On behalf of the UN Country Team, UNDP facilitated a second consultation on the Post-2015 Development Agenda in China in March 2013 as a follow-on meeting to the December 2012 consultations with the participation of government, civil society and academia. The six discussion topics in the consultations were, namely, poverty reduction, environment, health, women, education and international development cooperation.

Summary on progress towards UNDAF outcomes

Under UNDAF Outcome 1 (to ensure environmental sustainability, address climate change, and promote a green, low carbon economy), the UNCT continued to prioritize supporting environmental sustainability with a range of projects, while the UN Theme Group on Climate Change and Environment (UNTGCE) further expanded the platform for dialogue with Chinese stakeholders on Green Consumption. The UNTGCCCE held the Sustainable Consumption Forum in June to share experiences on sustainable consumption efforts which helped to identify gaps and opportunities aimed at promoting sustainable patterns of development. The first Sustainable Consumption Week was launched in Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen alongside the launch of the UN Sustainable Consumption Partnership website to promote knowledge sharing. In partnership with the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT), UNIDO held its 3rd Green Industry Conference focused on best green practices adopted by industry. UNEP also co-sponsored the Kubuqi International Desert Forum and Guiyang Eco Forum to promote the concept of a Green Economy with senior Chinese leadership.

UNIDO, UNEP and UNDP promoted environmentally conscious consumption patterns, helped set normative standards, supported environmental policies and helped to implement systemic changes. UNIDO is working, together with the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP), to phase-out the use of ozone depleting substances (ODS) in Chinese industries, while the elimination of specific ODS from the agricultural sector has entered its final stage. Global Environment Facility (GEF) funds allowed UNIDO and UNEP to support the implementation of the Minamata Convention, which includes inventory of mercury and its use, assessment of mercury emissions and the technologies and techniques for their reduction.

ILO's Green Jobs Initiative has promoted environmentally sensitive entrepreneurship training (Green Business Options), provided technical support for the upgrading of skills certification in the building energy efficiency sector and explored channels for the
formalization of e-waste recycling.

Through the Tumen Initiative, an intergovernmental cooperation mechanism among China, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation, UNDP worked to promote regional trade and development, enhance energy policy coordination and strengthen environmental sustainability. UNDP’s support to the development of energy saving standards to promote energy efficiency has led to a regional programme with Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, Bangladesh and Pakistan to develop and adopt common standards and a joint labeling system for consumer products. Meanwhile, UNIDO launched a partnership, with the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) to increase the energy efficiency of industrial boilers and heat exchangers.

China national action on air, water and soil was complimented by WHO training 100 staff from Center’s for Disease Control (CDCs) on water safety monitoring and management measures; establishment of system for monitoring and risk assessment; and completion of response guideline for pollution incidents. UNDP managed the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Project, a collaborative initiative between China and South Korea to protect, conserve and manage the Yellow Sea through sustainable use of its waters and watershed.

UNEP launched the Wild and Precious Exhibition as part of a global campaign for wildlife preservation at Beijing Capital International Airport Terminal. UNEP’s Goodwill Ambassador actress Li Bingbing helped drew public attention and increased awareness of the issues and the Chinese government destroyed six tons of ivory to demonstrate its commitment to address illegal poaching. In response to the April 2013 earthquake in Sichuan, UNESCO initiated a project for rehabilitation and sustainable development of the affected Sichuan Giant Panda Sanctuaries (SGPS) World Heritage site to complementing Government reconstruction efforts.

Under UNDAF Outcome 2 (poorest and most vulnerable benefit more equitably social and economic development) China has made remarkable gains in promoting economic development, reducing poverty and improving living standards. The GoC and UN system undertook the 5th MDG progress review with China having met nearly half the targets. The MDG Achievement Fund Joint Programme on Improving Nutrition, Food Safety and Food Security for China’s Most Vulnerable Women and Children (CFSN) led by WHO in collaboration with eight UN Agencies and over 20 Chinese ministries and institutions was completed in April. The project addressed under-nutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, food safety guidelines and regulations, and produced a Policy Brief with recommendations to scale up related national interventions for poor provinces and counties.

The UN System also worked to complement the Chinese Government's efforts to address emerging and urgent challenges of growing disparities and inequalities through high-level policy advocacy to promote equity. With the December launch of the Chapeau Paper of The Equity in China publication series, the exploration of issues relating to equity and policies that may contribute towards narrowing the gaps is now underway. Sectoral papers – UN WOMEN’s Equity and Gender paper, UNICEF and UNESCO's Equity and Education paper, WHO’s Equity and Health paper, ILO’s Equity and Rural-Urban Migrants paper – were being finalized in 2013 and will be launched in 2014.

The Red Ribbon Forum (RRF), China's primary platform for multi-stakeholder dialogue on HIV/AIDS issues received UNDP and ILO support for inputs on policy dialogue around prevention and service delivery. The RRF convened a working group on strengthening health services within compulsory drug detoxification centres and gradually shift towards a community-based treatment approach. UNAIDS conducted a review of promoting HIV rapid testing and its reports prompted the Government to allocate resources for service delivery among key affected populations.

The joint efforts of UNAIDS, UNESCO and ILO advocacy variously sought to strengthen public awareness, catalyse positive policy/legislation, and eliminate discrimination against people living with HIV (PLHIV). As a direct result, Guangdong province removed restrictions that had prevented people living with HIV from serving as teachers. ILO launched hospital-based Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) training for managers and medical personnel to promote safe work practices and to thereby reduce discrimination in access to health care affecting people living with HIV. UNESCO launched a dedicated professional channel on China's most popular online services provider Baidu to raise awareness among young people on HIV and sexuality education.

Focusing on equity issues, FAO produced policy briefs covering the topics: land policy and smallholder production in China; rural demographics, household structures and income inequalities; public investment in agriculture and food security in China; conceptual linkages between income inequality, policy reform and food security in China; good practices and lessons learned from other developing economies in achieving inclusive rural development; trade policy and trade trends in China and their impacts on inequality and food security.

ILO, working with national and international partners, sponsored an international conference on employment of persons with disabilities, focused the attention of Chinese employers, the media and the general public on the employability of persons with disabilities, and piloted supported employment for those with intellectual disabilities, who are among the most vulnerable participants in the labour market.

UNICEF and Government partners launched the Integrated Early Childhood Development (IECD) Programme, aimed at piloting a new cross-sectoral approach to address multi-dimensional child poverty. The programme integrates a package of key interventions on essential health, nutrition, early childhood stimulation, child welfare and referral services for pregnant women and children aged 0-3 years in 160 poverty-stricken village communities, and supports coordination across the health, education and welfare sectors and local government.

UNESCO collaborated with the All-China Women’s Federation (ACWF) to promote women’s political participation in China. 47 teachers of public management and public policies at the Party School of the Central Committee of Communist Party of China were trained in key concepts and strategies of gender equality and gender mainstreaming, and UN legal frameworks for human rights and gender equality, and to build their capacity to integrate this knowledge into their own teachings.

UN WOMEN, UNICEF, UNESCO and the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on the Family Violence Law led efforts on Violence Against Women and provided input on the first ever national anti-Family Violence legislation process in China to address domestic violence...
against women, children, disabled and the elderly. With the UN Task Force facilitating, the next steps include an International Roundtable of experts to support GoC partners to draw from guidance and inputs from international frameworks, legislations, experiences, and standards in order to ensure a minimum level of protection, prevention, response and prosecution under the new law. UN WOMEN’s advocacy on domestic violence also led to the formulation of regulation on how police in Hunan Province should deal with domestic violence.

UNESCO, in collaboration with governmental and non-governmental partners, worked to enhance the capacity of youth and young women for preventing and responding to gender-based violence (GBV), entailing the development and piloting of an interactive toolkit including info graphics, a website and a smartphone application to provide information target populations.

The China White Ribbon Volunteers Network was established with support from UNFPA with the aim to engage more Chinese men and boys to fight against GBV. UNFPA also launched the first quantitative and qualitative research reports on masculinities and GBV in China; the rich data and evidence will inform evidence-based policy and programming to prevent and respond to GBV.

UNICEF initiated a national End Violence against Children Campaign in 2013. UNICEF supported the Chinese adaptation of the global public service announcement (PSA) to End Violence against Children which was disseminated widely, and together with ACWF, launched a new family violence hotline toolkit to guide hotline staff and community-based workers on how to effectively prevent and respond to child abuse and violence against women.

UNFPA worked to formulate policy suggestions for consideration by the Government in light of the relaxation of the family planning policy. Local governments and national experts were given support to produce evidence on the feasibility for such policy change given expected social and demographic impacts as well as increased demands for maternal and family planning services. UNFPA also worked with local governments and youth to provide youth friendly services at selected provincial general hospitals and women and children hospitals.

WHO and the National Health and Family Planning Commission (NHFPC) through the Western Area Health Initiative (WAHI) are addressing the key health challenges through a comprehensive strategy to reduce health inequities the poorest and most vulnerable communities. This included comprehensive assessments and studies related to health system strengthening and non-communicable diseases (NCD) prevention. Robust evidence has informed 17 interventions to be implemented in 2014.

With technical support from UNICEF, the Ministry of Education (MOE) completed the Early Learning and Development Guidelines for children 3-6 years of age and officially released these guidelines in May. This national policy document lays the foundation for developing national tools to assess the quality of early childhood education centres and preschool educational norms.

**Under UNDAF Outcome 3 (China’s role in global community brings wider mutual benefits)** several UN organizations worked to support China’s engagement in regional and global development dialogues, negotiations and development cooperation. The China in the World (CITW) Theme Group convened by UNDP further supported these efforts by leading engagement with the Government and other partners, including regular discussion forums with representatives from foreign embassies, non-government organizations, academic institutions and the UN System on China’s global role in international development.

IFAD and the Ministry of Finance participated in both the 5th China-IFAD South-South Cooperation Seminar and the Global South-South Development Expo for a second year to introduce China’s policy and experiences in agricultural development and food safety as well as promote specific technologies of sustainable agricultural development. FAO facilitated the first meeting of over 20 representatives of Latin American and Caribbean countries at the Agricultural Minister’s Forum in Beijing in June 2013.

UNDP and the International Poverty Reduction Centre of China (IPRCC) organizes each year the Global Poverty Reduction and Development Forum, the China-ASEAN Forum on Social Development and Poverty Reduction, and the China-Africa Poverty Reduction and Development Conference.

UNHCR has strengthened and enhanced its cooperation at both central and provincial level in relation to the handling of asylum applications and refugees to be processed under the Office’s mandate. In August 2013, UNHCR organized a workshop for the Ministry of Public Security officials from the central and provincial to familiarize and introduce registration practices and concepts of refugee law. UNHCR trainings have helped improved the treatment and protection of persons of concern as authorities became more familiar and able to better understand refugee issues. IOM and ILO worked with GoC on cross-border migration management to combat irregular migration, including human trafficking, and to protect migrant workers’ rights.

The UNCT through the UN Disaster Management Team (UNDMT) advocated and promoted disaster risk reduction policy and practice. Following the earthquake in Ya’an Prefecture, Sichuan Province in April, the UNDMT issued situation reports, convened humanitarian actors and supported actions such as UNICEF, UNFPA and WHO’s common work on post-disaster psycho-social support. The UNDMT provided updates on three other major disasters in China to domestic and international partners.

UNOOSA/UN-SPIDER and Ministry of Civil Affairs (MoCA) other regional and national institutions held the United Nations International Conference on Space-based Technologies for Disaster Management conference to share information on latest methods, approaches and models used for identifying, assessment and reduction of disaster risks. The ultimate purpose of this conference was to bring technologists and end users on a single platform for decision-making that saves life and reduces economic losses. African, Latin American and regional participants were trained on flood risk mapping, modeling and assessment.

FAO Technical Cooperation Project facilitated the establishment of the China Agricultural Products Monitoring and Early-warning System (CAMES). The platform will increase the monitoring and early warning of agricultural production within China, and contribute to the FAO Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture (GIEWS) and the G20 initiative of the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS). The FAO-China Trust Fund supported eight tripartite agreements with Mongolia, Mali, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Senegal, Liberia, Uganda and Ethiopia with technical training courses on capacity development organized in China in the areas of aquaculture and tropical agriculture.

UNDP is implementing with national partners tailored experience sharing programmes, including: Climate Change Adaptation with
Central Asian countries (Tajikistan Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan); Sharing and Learning on Community Based Disaster Management in Asia with Bangladesh & Nepal; and South-South Initiative on Drought Management between China and African countries. UNDP, the Ministry of Commerce and the Government of Cambodia implemented a trilateral project to cultivate and export cassava. Other projects include China/Ghana and China/Zambia renewable energy technology transfer to Ghana and Zambia respectively; China/Ethiopia trilateral on adapting China’s agricultural extension worker model to Ethiopia.

UNICEF supported China’s participation in the Second High Level Meeting on South-South Cooperation for Child Rights held in India in October. Under the “New Delhi Declaration”, the 32 participating government representatives renewed their commitment to children’s rights, outlining a roadmap for future cooperation such as improved data collection on multi-country research on children’s issues, and enhanced national and regional coordination on early childhood development.

The first Ministerial Forum of China-Africa Health Development took place in Beijing in August, with over 40 delegations from Africa, the African Union, WHO, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF and others in attendance. The Forum adopted the “Beijing Declaration” for enhanced cooperation on health issues. UNAIDS and the State Council AIDS Working Committee Office developed a China-Africa Health Cooperation Study Report on AIDS with an initial mapping of areas of collaboration between China and selected African countries. It was presented at the 4th International China-Africa Health Roundtable in May and followed by a visit by Chinese government delegation in December to Botswana to cement a future bilateral agreement.

FAO has enhanced the capacity of a group of high-level field epidemiologists to deal effectively and efficiently with Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and other animal diseases through the China Field Epidemiology Training Program for Veterinarians. This national capacity building program has created a pool of competent veterinary field epidemiologists, who can conduct effective and timely outbreak investigations and surveillance programs, which will have positive health benefits in China as well as contribute to global public health surveillance and response to communicable diseases.

### Summary on progress in UN Reform

China has rapidly transformed into a dynamic middle income country. However, major gaps exist between urban and rural areas, between the wealthier cities on the East coast and the poorer Western and Central provinces, between men and women, between migrant workers and urban residents, between the Han majority and the ethnic minorities to name just a few. Within this context, the UN reform in China is first and foremost about delivering on strategic development and taking the UN-China partnership to the higher level by i) enhancing high-level of policy advice and support, ii) enhancing cooperation with the GoC around UN normative instruments, and iii) promoting cooperation between China and the world.

The Government of China has welcomed UN support to facilitate alignment of national laws and practices with international standards and norms set out in UN treaties and conventions that China has signed and ratified (more than 120 in total). The *International Normative Framework and China: Highlights from the UN System Engagement* report has been completed to describe the importance of the UN System’s work with the Government of China in this area, some examples of which are of global relevance. Based on this body of work, the UN is now increasingly assisting and informing China’s positive engagement in international norm setting arenas.

In addition, virtually all UN agencies are involved in expanding South-South and Trilateral cooperation with China as noted in the summary on progress towards UNDAF outcomes 3. The efforts to promote Green Consumption by relevant UN agencies and the progress made in addressing Violence Against Women, Children, the Aged and Disabled has also been described under UNDAF outcomes 1 and outcome 2, respectively. These remain key aspects of the UN System’s repositioning commitment – both pragmatic and innovative versions of Delivering as One adapted to the China context, initiated since 2012.

### Key aspects of the proposed 2014 workplan

The thrust of the UNCT activities in 2014 will continue to build upon the activities from 2013 with the potential identification of additional areas of collaboration that will allow the UN System to leverage its broad reach to raise awareness on chosen priority issues. The collective priorities of the UNCT for next year are as follows:

- Continue to deliver impactful results around priority areas selected by the UNCT such as promotion of dialogue on equitable development patterns, support to GoC and partners on drafting and implementation of family violence legislation, and promoting Green Consumption.
- Increase cooperation with China on South-South and trilateral cooperations on regional and global issues.
- Increase the visibility of the UN in China, with a possible emphasis on tapping into the significant potential for increased interaction through social media platforms.