

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the co-sponsors, Australia, Germany, Greece and Sweden, as well as my own country Finland, I am very pleased to welcome you all to this event about the High Level Review of UN Sanctions. Our aim today is to report back to you on the work accomplished by the working groups as part of this High Level Review and on preliminary outcomes.

As you may recall, the High Level Review was launched at the end of May this year. As explained at the briefing that was organized back then and that many of you may have attended the co-sponsors, in partnership with the Watson Institute of Brown University and Compliance and Capacity International, aim at enhancing the effectiveness of UN sanctions as a tool for addressing threats to international peace and security.

Over the period of the past five months, a significant amount of work has been carried out by three working groups. I would like to take this opportunity to commend colleagues who are here with me, His and Her Excellencies Gary Quinlan, Per Saland, Maria Telalian and Heiko Thoms, as well as their teams for all their efforts and dedication to the Review. We are also most indebted to Ms. Sue Eckert from the Watson Institute as well as Ms. Loraine Rickard-Martin and Mr. Enrico Carisch from Capacity and Compliance International for their very valuable contribution to this work.

Let me now very briefly summarize the topics of the various working groups. Working Group 1, led by Australia, has examined UN integration and coordination on the implementation of UN sanctions. Working Group 2 has, under the chairmanship of Sweden, studied the relationship between UN sanctions and external institutions and instruments, focusing on issues relating to international arms control, nonproliferation and export controls; international financial controls; and international criminal justice. Working group 3, co-chaired by Greece and Germany, has looked into the humanitarian aspects of sanctions, the interplay between UN sanctions and regional organizations, as well as emerging issues and challenges.

I am sure that, as co-sponsors, we all felt very encouraged by the interest and support shown by you at the May briefing. We are very grateful for your many contributions to the deliberations in the various working group and other meetings that have been organized under this High Level

Review. The working groups have also directly or through their chairmen consulted widely with the relevant stakeholders. Practical ideas to enhance sanctions implementation have been developed through this process. Today, you will be briefed on preliminary outcomes of the working group deliberations.

As co-sponsors, we are also very pleased that in parallel to the work conducted in these three working groups, the UN Secretariat, led by the Department of Political Affairs, convened an interagency working group to provide input to the High Level Review and to discuss common goals and concerns related to UN Sanctions in order to enhance their effectiveness. This consolidated UN system input, including twenty UN entities, has developed a series of forward-looking recommendations for the consideration of the High Level Review. We will also hear a presentation of the Interagency Working Group's deliberations and look forward to considering these ideas as the process moves forward.

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I will first give the floor to the chairs of the three Member State-led working groups. Thereafter, we will hear the report on UN participation and comments. After the listed speakers there will be an opportunity for comments and questions from the floor.

*[presentations by the working group chairs and the Secretariat representative]*

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I do hope that we have been able to update you on the progress made in the High-Level Review of UN Sanctions over the past five months. As you heard, the working groups have had fruitful discussions on their respective topics. Today's event marks the conclusion of the working group phase. We will then move into the report writing phase, which we expect to complete by December 2014. The final outcome document - a Compendium of the High-Level Review of UN Sanctions - will be presented at a wrap-up session, as mentioned by H.E. Mr. Heiko Thoms.

Before concluding, let me also remind you that further information on the High Level Review of UN Sanctions may also be found at a dedicated website mentioned on the programme.

Summaries and material on the latest meetings, held still last week, will be added as soon as they are finalized.

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Thank you very much for your attendance.