

**Below are excerpts from some of the delegates to the UN at UNOPS Executive Board meeting in New York on 29 January 2014**

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**Peter Thomson, Executive Board President, Permanent Representative to the UN of Fiji**

Mr. Mattsson took charge of an organization facing severe problems. He is leaving an organization that is strong, focused and firmly established as a central resource for the United Nations and its partners.

Through his leadership Mr. Mattsson has created an organization that has become a leader within the United Nations in areas such as transparency, efficiency and innovation. Moreover by looking outside the UN, he has been able to adopt industry best practices and benchmark UNOPS work against leading international standards. This openness and willingness to learn from others, combined with an unwavering commitment to the values and goals of the United Nations, has placed UNOPS at the forefront of United Nations reform.

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**Edita Hrdá, Permanent Representative to the UN of the Czech Republic**

Allow me to join others in taking this opportunity to sincerely thank Mr. Jan Mattsson for the decades of his dedicated service to the United Nations. Over the past few years, we have witnessed the growth of UNOPS under the leadership of its Executive Director and we congratulate him for its success.

We value Mr. Mattsson's vision, ethics and strife for excellence which he has translated into the functioning of this organization. We wish to see more UN leaders like him who would be as determined to address the challenges and stand accountable.

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**Terri Robl, ECOSOC Minister Counselor , US Mission to the UN**

Thank you, Mr. President. May I express the warm wishes and deep gratitude of the United States government, including the entire US Mission to the United Nations, to Jan Mattsson for his stellar leadership at the helm of UNOPS for the last eight years. UNOPS as an entity has had one of the most dynamic evolutions in the UN system, always focusing on results and proving its worth by developing practical approaches and implementing a variety of challenging initiatives.

With his pragmatic engineer's outlook, Jan has helped build UNOPS into a model UN organization, one that pays for itself, operates to the highest standards, deploys quickly, delivers on time, and makes a measurable difference on the ground. UNOPS under his leadership has been a pioneer in sustainability, meeting the highest international private sector standards in environmental management and setting a sterling example for other development agencies worldwide. UNOPS' support for transparency through its advocacy of the Global Compact has meant that thousands of its suppliers have signed onto the Compact's values regarding human rights, labor standards, environmental standards, and anti-corruption measures. And UNOPS' high standards for its procurement work means the billions of UN aid dollars it spends annually on procurement will go through suppliers that comply with specific conditions on mines, child labor, sexual exploitation, and the fundamental rights of workers.

Jan – we applaud your achievements, thank you for your service, and wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

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**Noel Kaganda, First Secretary, Permanent Mission to the UN of Tanzania**

We celebrate his outstanding leadership over the years which has contributed to the transformation of UNOPS into a vibrant entity whose presence in the African continent is highly acknowledged.

We particularly wish to note, with great sense of appreciation that during his term of service, UNOPS has demonstrated great leadership in UN reform and attained world class standards which are worthy of emulation across the board.

We believe that will continue to benefit from Mr. Mattson knowledge and skills in the near future. Thus it should not come a surprise to you Jan, when you see us knocking at your door!

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**Peter Silberberg, Minister Plenipotentiary and Head of the Economic Department, Permanent Mission to the UN of Germany**

Let me start by congratulating the Executive Director and his staff for the results achieved in the last years. In our assessment, UNOPS is well positioned within the UN system and serves as an example of efficiency and sustainability to the wider UN System. In this context we congratulate UNOPS for receiving the demanding ISO 14001 award, which clearly underlines UNOPS dedication to sustainability in its business operations.

We especially appreciate the increased delivery in low-income countries and countries affected by conflict. This is a highly welcome development. We also acclaim the intensified focus on sustainability in UNOPS operations in the last two years.

Let me conclude by thanking Jan Mattsson for his extraordinary dedication as Executive Director over the last 8 years. ... You will leave UNOPS in good shape.

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**Wang Dazhong, Permanent Mission to the UN of China**

主席先生:

中国代表团感谢项目事务厅执行主任麦守信先生的讲话。

中国代表团赞赏麦守信先生在任期内,带领项目事务厅充分发挥自身比较优势,突出业务优先,妥善应对挑战,在实现自身业务可持续发展的同时,为提高联合国系统的管理和效率,支持发展中国家通过参与联合国采购促进自身发展方面所做出的积极贡献。

中国代表团祝愿麦守信先生在新岗位上取得更大成绩。

谢谢主席先生。