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Statement

by

Mr. Sven ALKALAJ

United Nations Under-Secretary-General

Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

at

**the discussion of the Innovation Performance Review of Ukraine
Substantive segment of the seventh session of the
Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration
Geneva, 5th December**

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear colleagues and friends,

As in recent years, part of the substantive segment of this session will be devoted to the discussion of the draft conclusions and recommendations of an Innovation Performance Review. The Review on Ukraine, which we will be considering today, is the third in this series of policy advisory services, after the Reviews conducted in Belarus and Kazakhstan.

I would like to emphasize some key aspects in the elaboration of these Reviews.

They are undertaken in response to the demand expressed by a member State, who identifies a key partner institution for working closely with the team of international experts mobilized by the Secretariat.

We are very grateful for the support received by the Government of Ukraine and our main partner, the State Agency on Science, Innovation and Informatization in the realization of this joint project.

The ultimate aim of the Reviews is to produce a set of policy recommendations that are suitable, workable and broadly accepted by the national authorities. This explains the importance of the discussion during which we will hear the views of various experts.

Past Reviews in Belarus and Kazakhstan have influenced the national policy debate and their recommendations have found expression in innovation initiatives in these countries. The Reviews have provided a framework for capacity-building activities to support the implementation of the recommendations. In Belarus and Kazakhstan, we have worked with our partners to carry out workshops and advisory services that address the needs identified in the Review and reflect current national policy priorities. We expect that a similar programme of activities will be developed following the conclusion of the final version of the Innovation Performance Review of Ukraine.

I would like to conclude this brief intervention reiterating our gratitude to the Government of Ukraine for the excellent cooperation in the course of the realization of this project.

I look forward to the discussions.