



20 February 2013

*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

Excellency,

It was a great pleasure to meet you during my visit to Croatia last month, and to learn about the bold measures that you and your team at the Ministry of War Veterans are introducing to deal with unresolved legacies of the war. I was also pleased to learn of the excellent co-operation which the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) enjoys with your Ministry, and of the joint project we were able to sign during my visit.

I was very interested in our discussion about the circumstances of the war and its aftermath. It was reassuring to hear from you that reconciliation between different ethnic groups is possible, but, as you pointed out, significant efforts still need to be invested in the processes of truth-telling and uncovering injustices committed during the war and in the post-war period. I agree with you that issues confronting veterans and survivors of wartime sexual violence and other civilian victims are not solely the domain of your Ministry, but require integrated responses across portfolios such as education, social policy, health, and justice.

It seems that there is still potential for UNDP to contribute to Croatia's post-conflict reconciliation and development, and that you see a role for UNDP in Croatia beyond its accession to the European Union (EU). We are continuing discussions with government counterparts about the nature of UNDP's future relationship with Croatia.

His Excellency  
Mr Predrag Matić  
Minister of War Veterans  
Republic of Croatia