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2011 ECOSOC OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES SEGMENT

Panel discussion on the 2012 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of the General Assembly - What are the expectations: issues, processes and outcome?

Geneva, 14 July 2011

3:30-6:00 pm

**Introductory remarks by
H.E. MR. GONZALO GUTIÉRREZ
VICE-PRESIDENT OF ECOSOC**

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I would like to open the first panel discussion of this operational activities segment. We are starting with a challenging topic: the next Comprehensive Policy Review of the UN system operational activities for development. This review will be conducted by the General Assembly in the fall of 2012. It allows Member States to give guidance to the UN system on how it should work in programme countries. ECOSOC is mandated to guide the preparations for this review.

The 2012 Review, (or QCPR) will be the first since 2007. It is expected to be grounded in a solid analysis of the trends, changes and challenges in UN system operational activities over the last four years. It will go into the nuts and bolts of how far the UN system has gone in improving the way it works and in becoming more relevant, effective, efficient and coherent - in response to the General Assembly's guidance.

The review should also enable the General Assembly to guide the UN system in responding to new issues that have emerged since 2007. The rapidly evolving development cooperation landscape has wide ranging implications for the operational activities of the UN system. Innovative approaches to development cooperation have come to the fore, such as South-South cooperation. The private sector and non governmental foundations have taken on new importance. There is a focus on demonstrating quick and measurable results. "Doing more with less" has become a new buzz word. The situation of "aid orphans" has become a cause for concern. Countries in post conflict situations demand another approach to development cooperation. There is also need to find the right mix of actions to help Middle Income Countries tackle

persistent poverty. With the upcoming conference in Rio, sustainable development and environmental sustainability are undisputed priorities.

Such broad issues necessarily affect the way we think about and plan the UN system operational activities. This panel discussion intends to point to critical developments which should be addressed in the next QCPR. It should spur a reflection on how UN current approaches and tools need to be adjusted or changed in order to respond more effectively to emerging needs and situations. It should generate innovative ideas on what the UN system should do and how it should do it. Let us take as a starting point for this discussion what the "next generation" of UN operational activities should look like – and move backwards to define how we get there.