

H. E. Mr. Desra Percaya
Vice President of ECOSOC

Opening remarks

2012 Substantive Session of ECOSOC
Operational Activities Segment

New York, 13 July 2012

President of the General Assembly, His Excellency, Ambassador Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser,

Mr. Sha Zukang, Under Secretary-General of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the opening of the 2012 Operational Activities Segment of ECOSOC.

This year's Operational Activities Segment assumes great significance for several reasons.

Firstly, at the recently-concluded Rio+20 Conference, the world community reaffirmed its commitment to a future built on the goal of sustainable development. Member States also charged ECOSOC with an important responsibility: to help ensure the realization of this vision through a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions that give practical reality to sustainable development.

The Rio+20 Outcome therefore marks an important new departure for the future work of the UN development system in programme countries.

Secondly, this year's Operational Activities Segment will serve as the primary venue for policy dialogue among Member States on the key issues likely to feature prominently in the upcoming deliberations on the

quadrennial comprehensive policy review of the General Assembly of UN operational activities for development.

The programme of this year's Segment has therefore been designed to facilitate such policy dialogue.

The two Secretary-General's reports for the QCPR present the findings of major analytical preparations led by DESA with a view to informing your deliberations. The first report of the Secretary-General focuses on the implementation of GA resolution 62/208 on the triennial comprehensive policy review and the second one examines the funding architecture of the UN development system. Both reports are rich in analysis and substantive findings to support your QCPR deliberations.

The Under Secretary-General of DESA, Mr. Sha Zukang, will present key messages of both reports during this opening session.

As we all know, the President of the General Assembly has been a strong supporter and contributor to the QCPR preparatory process. His opening remarks this morning will undoubtedly highlight some of the key messages emanating from the two QCPR seminars and a retreat which his office organized this year in partnership with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung New York Office and DESA.

Following this opening session, we will begin the Operational Activities Segment with a dialogue with policy-makers from programme countries on what they see as the key priorities for strengthening the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of the UN development system from their particular country perspective. I believe it is fitting that we begin the 2012 Operational Activities Segment of ECOSOC with a dialogue with representatives of programme countries.

This afternoon, we will focus on issues related to three key coordination processes, namely the Resident Coordinator system, the UNDAF and the simplification and harmonization of business practices.

The second day of the Segment, on Monday, – will be devoted to the dialogue of the Council with the Executive Heads of the Funds and Programmes. I would like to mention that a special guest speaker in this session will be Jan Mattsson, the Executive Director of UNOPS, who will discuss how to enhance the efficiency of the UN development operations.

The Monday afternoon will be devoted to two sessions on the “delivering-as-one” pilot initiative, firstly, the findings of the independent evaluation, and, secondly, on the key messages coming from the conferences in Montevideo and Tirana.

On Tuesday morning - the third day of the Operational Activities Segment - the Council will conduct for the first time a dialogue with the Chairs of the Executive Boards of the Funds and Programmes. This dialogue, in my view, is a good example of how the Council can further its coordination role of UN operational activities for development.

The Tuesday afternoon will be devoted to the General Debate.

In concluding, please allow me to address a few housekeeping matters.

We have asked that panelists keep to their allocated time and that statements from the floor be limited to a maximum of 5 minutes. Each session will dedicate the majority of the allocated time to questions-and-answers, with a view to facilitating active engagement of Member States in this important debate. Also, to facilitate more informed and substantive dialogue in the various sessions, we have prepared a set of discussion questions for the panelists to address. I hope they will respond to these questions as effectively as possible.

Without further due, it is now my honour to invite the President of the General Assembly, His Excellency, Ambassador Nassir Abdulaziz

Al-Nasser, to deliver his opening remarks to the 2012 Operational Activities Segment of ECOSOC.

Mr. President, you have the floor.