

Statement

Peter Silberberg
Minister Plenipotentiary
Permanent Mission of Germany
to the United Nations

ECOSOC - General debate on operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation

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(check against delivery)

Mr President,

At the outset, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Secretariat – and DESA in particular – for the wide-ranging and consultative preparatory process undertaken for the QCPR.

We furthermore fully align ourselves with the statement delivered by Cyprus on behalf of the EU and its member states. In addition, I would like to highlight the following:

The overall aim of the QCPR is to achieve a more coherent, efficient and effective UN, which is not only the most legitimate, universal and representative forum to address global development issues, but also well placed to contribute to the achievement of the Internationally Agreed Development Goals (IADGs), including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Mr. President,

At the Rio+20-conference, the international community agreed to embark on a path towards greening our economy and achieving sustainable development. The QCPR presents an opportunity to operationalize the decisions taken in Rio for the UN operational activities. The QCPR should help to ensure that UN entities mainstream sustainable development into their substantive work and operations, including by mainstreaming it into their strategic plans and their programming, but also through sustainable management of facilities and sustainable procurement.

Recalling the principles confirmed at Busan, we believe the QCPR is the opportunity to align the result frameworks of the UN agencies and to ensure that they have a clear, measurable and operational focus with objectives also on the outcome and impact level.

One key element for this is a better and clearer linking of the strategic plans and results frameworks. In doing so, perspectives and views of programme countries have to be taken into account.

UN agencies need to be directly accountable for their outputs. Furthermore, UN agencies need to demonstrate a lot clearer how they contribute towards outcomes and impact at country level. In this context, we also need to look at ways to measure the contribution the system as a whole makes towards development results.

Another key element is a strong results-based management culture within the organizations. We all know that cultural changes are difficult to achieve. We believe that providing the right incentives is a central tool in this regard. We therefore applaud initiatives, such as UNDP's Agenda for Change, which aim to refocus incentive systems towards quality and results and away from resource mobilization targets. We look forward to the implementation and results of this process.

Mr President,

Let me now turn to the issue of "Delivering as One". We believe that the analytical reports and stakeholder surveys as well as the Delivering as One independent evaluation constitute an important evidence-base for the QCPR.

Like others, we believe that we have to enhance the sustainability of the Delivering as One process. Germany is convinced that "Delivering as One" has to become the 'standard model' for the UN system and should be translated into specific concrete actions at a system wide level. Specifically, the One Programme and One Budgetary Framework approach should be institutionalized as the main operating approach for the UN at the country level, while allowing for country contexts to be taken into consideration and recognizing that no one size fits all.

Germany also looks forward to the results of the cost-sharing review which was mandated by ECOSOC and is being undertaken by the UNDG. As said before, we are of the opinion that coordination is an integral part of core business of the UN system and should therefore also be financed by the UN system itself.

I thank you Mr President.