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UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR PHILIP PARHAM
UNITED KINGDOM DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE
UNITED NATIONS

ON THE QUADRENNIAL COMPREHENSIVE POLICY REVIEW
AT ECOSOC

17 JULY 2012

Check against delivery

Mr Vice President,

[The United Kingdom aligns itself with the statement delivered by (TBC) on behalf of the European Union and its member states, and would like to make the following additional remarks]

The UK very much welcomes the progress in UN reform over the last five years since the 2007 Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review. The UN system is now better placed to deliver and demonstrate results. We warmly welcome good progress on transparency, including a number of agencies signing up to the Independent Aid Transparency Initiative. The UN is now more coherent and coordinated at country level, with the Delivering as One approach now adopted by approximately 30 countries. There of course remains much to do to ensure the UN development system is strategically positioned to be relevant, effective and efficient over the coming years.

Mr Vice President,

Let me echo others' comments in thanking the Secretariat, and in particular UN DESA, for their hard work in providing a strong body of evidence for QCPR negotiations to build upon.

The next QCPR cycle will be critical for the UN development system. The negotiations will of course need to take account of the Secretary General's Five Year Vision and the outcomes of relevant UN Conferences, including Rio+20 and the Delivering as One Conferences, most recently in Albania. The Secretary General's High Level Panel on the post-2015 development framework also offers an opportunity to harness the UN's great policy expertise as well as that of the best and the brightest external development thinkers.

It is therefore imperative that through the QCPR, the UN General Assembly provides clear leadership and direction on how the UN Agencies, both collectively and individually, should operate. This should include a focus on

results, cost effectiveness, the role of the UN in disaster resilience and transition from humanitarian to development contexts, as well as building on the lessons learnt from Delivering as One.

On **results**, there has been progress over the past five years but there is much still to do. Discussions at the Busan High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness last year committed all development partners to strengthen efforts to achieve concrete and sustainable results, including better managing for results, monitoring, evaluating and communicating progress. The QCPR should reflect the UN's commitment to the results agenda and the greater leadership required to implement it.

We specifically encourage the funds, programmes and specialised agencies to continue to strengthen and improve the quality of Results Based Management in the planning of programmes and projects at all levels in order to effectively monitor, evaluate and manage for results. This should include developing and implementing evidence-based strategic plans which set out the results the organisation expects to achieve, supported by robust organisational results frameworks covering the whole results chain.

We would also encourage Agencies to embed a culture of independent evaluation and lesson learning, including the development of fora or mechanisms for sharing best practice on results between agencies.

On **cost effectiveness** the QCPR should encourage agencies to increase transparency on costs, particularly administrative costs, to further improve procurement practices. It should also instil a culture of cost and value awareness, including in programming, to ensure that we are achieving as much as possible with the funds we have. The UK remains committed to increasing information about aid to enhance transparency and accountability and we will be looking for UN Agencies also to pursue this, as some are already doing.

On **disaster resilience, transition and development**, the QCPR is an important opportunity to frame the UN development system's critical role. We urge a greater focus on planning and programming for disaster resilience. In particular the QCPR should address the administrative barriers that prevent an effective transition from humanitarian support to early recovery and development; for example, the lack of harmonisation on HR processes between different agencies.

On **Delivering as One**, the recent conferences in Montevideo and Tirana underlined the strong support of participant member states for One UN. Delivering as One has facilitated national ownership and leadership of UN activities in-country, with greater alignment to national priorities. It is critical that the principles of Delivering as One that have been proven to be effective are captured through the QCPR.

In this regard, we agree with others who have called for the full implementation of the Management and Accountability Framework. This is essential to enable Resident Coordinators to position the UN as an effective and efficient operator in-country, particularly in humanitarian situations. We also call upon agencies leaders to drive forward the changes that enable harmonisation of business practices, removing the blockages that prevent increased efficiencies and effectiveness.

Mr Vice President,

The UK stands ready to support the UN Development system as it seeks to achieve even greater impact in an ever changing world. We believe that the UN can and will meet the many challenges over the next four years by focusing on its comparative advantages and being firmly committed to delivering and demonstrating results. The QCPR provides a critical opportunity to set direction for the UN development system for the next four years and the UK looks forward to working with colleagues to ensure a successful resolution.