



BRAZIL

ECOSOC 2015 Operational Activities Segment

Statement by the Deputy Permanent Representative
Ambassador Guilherme de Aguiar Patriota

25 February 2015

(Please check against delivery)

We wish to congratulate the Vice-President of ECOSOC and the Secretariat for the preparation of this segment of the Council's Substantive Session.

Brazil aligns itself with the statement made by the delegation of South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and would like to add the following additional comments in its national capacity.

Madame President,

The opportunity provided by the ECOSOC Segment on Operational Activities for Development to debate the functioning of the United Nations Development System is crucial as we move forward with the definition of the SDGs and the post-2015 development agenda. We are at a critical juncture in the history of the United Nations. One of the greatest challenges in the current scenario of redefinition of the development agenda will be to muster political will and executive capacity to articulate and propose alternatives to the governance mechanisms of operational activities for development.

In defining the goals that will inform the activities of this organization for the next decade and a half, we must also tackle the equally critical issue of how to implement the commitments that will be taken on by member states in order to make this development agenda a truly transformative endeavor.

Madame President,

My delegation wishes to underscore the principles and goals mandated by the QCPR 2012 as the basis for the activities of the United Nations Development System, and we look forward to the negotiations underway towards defining the QCPR 2016.

We believe it will be important that Funds, Programs and Agencies carry out their work in the future implementation of the SDGs and the post-2015 development agenda in a manner that is in full conformity with national priorities of developing countries.

The UN should exert its role as the primary instance of coordination of development cooperation. The debate on cooperation for development should not be conditioned by standards and concepts designed outside the UN in third forums that do not have broad representation of the global stakeholders, particularly developing countries. The debate should not be limited to aid effectiveness, and should incorporate the perspective and principles of South-South Cooperation.

The continued relevance of the United Nations operational activities for development largely depends on the capacity of its Funds, Program and Agencies to be present where their assistance is needed; flexible, so as to better adapt to specific conditions; and accountable, so that their actions are coherent with the mandates entrusted by Member States.

It is time we reinvigorated the formal governance structures of the United Nations development system, especially the Executive Boards of the UN funds and programmes, expanding the voice and representation of developing countries. We note that the structured dialogues of ECOSOC with the UN Chief Executives' Board - CEB have so far been an unfulfilled promise. We welcome the efforts made by UNDP with regard to greater transparency, which should serve as an example for the United Nations Chief Executives Board Coordination and United Nations Development Group, as well as other UN agencies, especially with regard to United Nations procurement.

It is also fundamental that the entities have access to predictable, integral and increased funding so as to achieve a healthier balance between core and non-core resources and ensure that agencies, funds and programs are better equipped to deliver on the high expectations they inspire in the international community. As the main stakeholders and managers of the UN system, Member States have the collective responsibility to favor the kind of contribution that allows for more flexibility, predictability and alignment with national development priorities.

We note, in this regard, that arrangements for financial assistance should not lead to the reduction of commitments previously made by developed countries. For instance, the role played by the private sector or trilateral arrangements through South-South

Cooperation with a developed country as a third party, although welcome, should not be accounted as fulfillment of international commitments regarding ODA.

Madame President,

Brazil believes that significant contributions can be made to sustainable development by North-South, South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

North-South cooperation for development will continue to hold its traditional prominence in the global development cooperation landscape, despite the fact that the volume of resources available through this modality has not been sufficient to cover the demand generated by the world's sustainable development needs. The gap in ODA accumulated since the Monterrey Conference in 2002 has been estimated to amount US\$ 2 trillion, not at all a drop in the ocean. It is imperative, therefore, that traditional donors not only step up and honor their commitments in terms of Official Development Assistance, but also enhance them, instead of downplaying the importance of ODA and its contribution to development efforts. The emergence of new sources of development finance must be recognized as complementary to traditional sources, and not a substitute for them. In the context of financing for development, a more integrated approach would provide enhanced coherence and coordination among the many financing structures and facilities.

Another essential contribution of North-South cooperation to development in the context of the post-2015 development agenda will be the provision of access to technology on a favorable, facilitated, affordable basis, as a critical means of implementation. In this regard, we must break new ground, map out the multiple strands of technology cooperation that take place within the UN system, and conjure a clear and workable basis for scaling them up under a more Member Friendly, system-wide coordination technology-related facility.

Madame President,

Over the last decade, Brazil has dedicated increasing resources, both financial and non-financial, to south-south and triangular cooperation, especially on sustainable

programmes for food and nutritional security and overcoming poverty. The success of Brazilian policies to reduce hunger and extreme poverty - which graduated the country from the FAO World Hunger Map in 2014 - for example, has come to shape our South-South cooperation policies. In order to support Governments in other developing regions of the world - in Africa, Asia and in Latin America and the Caribbean in the development of sustainable solutions against hunger, the "Centre of Excellence against Hunger" was established in 2011 by the World Food Programme and the Government of Brazil as a global forum for South-South policy dialogue and learning.

The Brazilian Government is convinced that South-South cooperation will have an invaluable role to play in the process of implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, very different one compared to traditional forms of cooperation, with an emphasis on ownership, non-conditionality and demand-driven assistance.

In addition to promoting an appropriate understanding of the principles and practices involved in South-South Cooperation, the UN should continue to work on the establishment of norms and guidelines that will allow multilateral agencies to provide the required support to developing countries in intensifying their cooperation. South-South Cooperation can be incorporated as one of the modalities of execution of the operational activities of UN Funds, Programmes and Specialized Agencies. In this regard, and in line with the Outcome document of the High Level Meeting on South-South Cooperation held in Nairobi in 2009, we are pleased to note the establishment, by UNDG, of an interagency task force to support the dissemination of South-South cooperation throughout the UN operational activities.

Triangular cooperation also contributes to potentialize the impact of development cooperation actions, by articulating South-South and North-South initiatives and making use of the comparative advantages of each partner, while at the same time promoting shared governance, without the verticalities that define North-South cooperation.

In concluding, allow me to reiterate Brazil's commitment to revitalizing the UN operational activities for development and rendering them suitable for adequately responding to the challenges of the upcoming post-2015 development agenda.

Thank you.