



**Economic and Social Council**  
**Operational Activities for Development Segment**  
**23-25 February 2015**  
**General Debate**

Chair,

The post-2015 development agenda will be very broad. The outcome document from the intergovernmental negotiations on the sustainable development goals may give an indication of the UN Development System's role in implementing the new goals. Clearly, the UNDS cannot - and should not - do everything. Priorities need to be made, based on the comparative advantages of the UN - its legitimacy, universality and broad country presence.

The fact that the UN is both a global forum for norm setting and engaged in operational activities makes the UN unique. Recalling also the emphasis in the QCPR resolution on the need for better inter-linkages between UN's normative and operational work, it is Norway's view that a major task of the UN Country Teams should be to help implementing international norms, including human rights, and standards. Crucial in this regard is to assist governments in developing national policies and legislation aligned with those norms and standards and also to provide other forms of capacity development as needed.

The UN has a major role to play in fragile contexts and humanitarian crises, with an overarching vision of contributing to sustainable and responsive states and to reducing and preventing conflict. We appreciate that the coherence between the operational and the peace & security pillars seems to have improved but believe that more needs to be done. It is also scope for strengthening the development dimension itself. The lesson from recent humanitarian crises is that the development arm of the UN needs to be brought in at an early stage.

Chair,

Turning to the report of the Secretary General *on Implementation of General Assembly Resolution 67/226, the QCPR*:

This is the first report based on the monitoring framework, and we appreciate that this year's report is more evidence-based than previous reports.

We note that the overall picture is one of progress. At the same time, better progress could have been hoped for in some areas.

The fact that 43 countries so far have asked the UN to adopt the Delivering as One modality, is the best proof of the advantage of this approach. We take it as a clear commitment by the entire UNDS that the Secretary General and heads of 18 UN entities jointly sent the *Standard Operating Procedures* to all country teams. We expect that the entities simultaneously continue to address bottlenecks that prevent country teams from fully realizing the efficiency gains of the Delivering as One modality, as committed in the HQ Action Plan. We welcome the emphasis on Operating as One in the *Standard Operating Procedures* and hope that this will serve as a driver for reducing administrative costs.

The Secretary General and the UNDG have taken important steps in clarifying and broadening the leadership role of the Resident Coordinators, including in following-up the Human Rights Up Front initiative. It has to be ensured that the Resident Coordinators/Humanitarian Coordinators are sufficiently empowered to carry out their diverse responsibilities and get the necessary training.. We call for full and immediate implementation of all commitments in the Management and Accountability System by all members of the UNDG. Further, it has to be ensured that the Resident Coordinator's Office is sufficiently staffed and with the competencies required. We urge members of the UNDG to pay due attention to this when the cost-sharing arrangement for the Resident Coordinators system for 2016 onwards is going to be developed and agreed.

Results-based management is crucial to provide strategic guidance and to document results. We appreciate the progress made by individual UN entities. The challenges of reporting on common results in programme countries and of defining how UN results contribute to national results still need further attention.

A prerequisite for inclusion and sustainable development results is the integration of gender equality and women's empowerment into the UN development efforts . While progress has been made, there is still room for improvement in the system as a whole. With the ongoing roll out of a of new Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs), we feel confident that prevailing short-comings will be addressed.

On a less positive note we need again to stress the question of funding. We see no sign that the mismatch between what member states expect from the UN Development System and the way it is funded is being addressed. Norway also regrets that the burden sharing among member states in terms of core contributions has not improved.

Chair,

Let me end by underlining that Norway appreciates the Operational Segment of ECOSOC as a forum for system-wide debate, including on the longer-term positioning of the UN Development System. We welcome the agreement to conduct informal dialogues in-between the formal sessions and that a brief roadmap for the further dialogue has been developed.

We hope that the papers to be prepared during 2015 and the first months of 2016 will contribute to our common understanding of the complexity of the issues raised. I would like to underscore that the process would benefit from the experience of the members of the UNDG. We would therefore like to hear from the Secretariat how this could be done.

We are looking forward to constructive discussions on the way to the next QCPR negotiations in autumn 2016. The negotiations will be the time for member states to take decisions that will ensure the continued relevance of the UN Development System.

Thank you.