



Economic and Social Council
Substantive session of 2015

**The longer-term positioning of UN development system in the context of
the post-2015 development agenda**

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Speaking Points Switzerland

Switzerland shares the view that the **ongoing ECOSOC dialogue sessions**, workshops and retreats on the longer-term positioning of UN development system in the context of the post-2015 development agenda provide an important opportunity to take stock on **“what works, what does not work and what lessons learned we can draw”**. Thereby we should always keep in mind that we are aiming at increasing the United Nation’s positive impact for beneficiaries at country level.

Generally, and also with a view to the longer-term positioning of the UN, the **full implementation of the QCPR** is of utmost importance. For instance, were the mandates related to **Harmonization of Business Practices** all be fulfilled, we could be assured that the UN today would already be closer to what we label “fit-for-purpose”.

However, there are also areas where the current **QCPR doesn’t yet sufficiently provide guidance or where the richness of guidance received makes it difficult to set the right priorities**. These areas should clearly be spelled out during the ECOSOC dialogue and inform the mandate that needs to be anchored in the post-2015 Outcome Document.

Let me mention three areas on which the panelists may wish to comment with out-of-the-box ideas how we could address these areas best:

1. For the future, we need to further **break silos and strengthen the inter-linkages between sectors**. The UN must put even greater emphasis on delivering as one, what in turn, for instance, calls for instruments like strategic results groups that are supposed to enable UN agencies to deliver results together and remove duplication of efforts.
2. Availability of funds ultimately determines the functions and practical work delivered by the UN development system at country level. The realization of system-wide mandates could be improved through the strengthening of **system-wide funding mechanisms**, including such ones that could bring together **development and humanitarian financing** where it makes sense.
3. On the effectiveness of the UN System: We recognize in the report that with regard to the two areas “economic growth/employment” and “industry, trade and investment”, the governments’ views on the UN contribution was rather critical. However, when looking at the areas where they see the highest needs for future support of the UN system in the upcoming four years, they ranked “economic growth and employment” highest. We are not sure whether the comparative advantage, beyond norm setting to ensure in particular the sustainability dimension, has to be sought in the UN here. However, we see it as critical that the UN embarks into innovative partnerships both with the IFIs but in particular also with the private sector to further advance this decisive agenda.

All in all we see a clear need for **better focused strategic guidance** and for **enhanced oversight** on the implementation of that guidance in order to ensure that the system becomes fit-for-purpose. In our opinion such further guidance would come from an expanded QCPR. Let’s call it QCPR+. **The QCPR+ would not try to micro-manage but rather focus on key aspects of the UN operational activities and as such act as a system-wide strategy translating the post-2015 sustainable development agenda into a tangible practice.** This would also allow

clarifying how the various agencies' mandates complement each other best and thus advancing on suitable institutional adaptations.

With a view to such system-wide strategy, it may be needed to strengthen or further mandate the UN System **Chief Executives Board for Coordination** (CEB) to make sure system-wide mandates are sufficiently addressed.

While the executive boards oversee agency specific implementation, the **ECOSOC** would carry out the oversight function on the CEB work. This would mean the ECOSOC would directly oversee system-wide mandates, including on issues such as how would the UN engage in **multi-stakeholder partnerships**.

In addition, Switzerland is convinced that for a successful implementation of the post-2015 agenda on the ground, the **guidance from the political level of the UN needs to be well linked to the UN development system. We must bring General Assembly, ECOSOC, QCPR and the HLPF in one line.** For this, we require alignment in time with meetings scheduled in a logical cycle and alignment in substance.

To conclude, in our view, the **Post-2015 outcome document needs to contain a strong reform mandate** for addressing these gaps in order to reposition the UN for effective delivery on the SDGs.

Thank you very much for your attention.