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**UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND  
STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR MARTIN SHEARMAN**

**ECOSOC OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES SEGMENT**

**23 TO 25 FEBRUARY 2015**

Madame Vice President,

This year's ECOSOC Operational Activities Segment is an important opportunity to review the progress the UN development system has made in implementing the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review agreed by member states in 2012.

I would like to thank the Secretariat for producing a thorough and well-evidenced SG report. The report highlights a number of areas where the UN Development Group (UNDG) has made good progress, as well as drawing attention to those issues where more work is needed. Allow me to highlight a few examples:

- The SG report demonstrates that the **Delivering as One (DaO)** approach is ever closer to becoming the primary way the UN operates at the country level. Forty-three governments have asked the UN to operate in this way. Almost three quarters of programme countries report that DaO made it easier for them to deal with the UN. To this end, the UK welcomes the standard operating procedures (SOPs), which provide guidance for those countries wishing to adopt the DaO approach. We encourage all organisations within the UNDG to begin implementing the SOPs as soon as possible.
- We hope that this will help speed up progress on QCPR mandates to **simplify and harmonise business practices**. This is a challenging and complex agenda, but my delegation remains convinced that getting it right could reduce duplication in back office functions, and unlock savings that could be re-invested in development programmes.
- The UK also places great emphasis on the need for a well-functioning and fully-funded **Resident Coordinator (RC) system**. To this end we welcome steps taken so far to clarify the role of the RC and to strengthen the recruitment and training processes. We urge all funds, programmes and specialised agencies to implement the cost-sharing arrangement so that the RC system is adequately and fairly resourced.

- We welcome the update on the UN system's role in responding to the needs of countries in **transition from relief to development**. We are encouraged to see increased investment in disaster risk reduction and resilience, and better coherence between UN missions and the country team. This priority area will need sustained effort and investment.
- We are pleased with the progress made on **results-based management**. Since the QCPR was agreed in 2012, the funds and programmes now have strategic plans in place that for the first time align goals and targets with budgets. This is a significant achievement.
- The UK welcomes the structured dialogues on funding organised by the Executive Boards of some of the Funds and Programmes. We are keen to see continued discussions on **how to finance the Strategic Plans**. This must include a frank debate about how to **broaden the donor base** – particular with regard to core resources.
- We are also pleased to see success in implementing the QCPR mandates on **gender equality and women's empowerment**. The UN SWAP is essential for driving and monitoring progress and by the end of the QCPR cycle we would like to see evidence that all UN entities are implementing the SWAP.

Of course this session also affords us the chance to look ahead. As I said in my remarks yesterday, we really need a rich, forward-looking discussion about making the UN "fit for purpose" to deliver a challenging post-2015 development agenda.

Madame Vice President I would like to thank you and the ECOSOC Secretariat for pulling together the programme for the dialogue on the future of the UN development system, which will shape our collective preparations for the next QCPR in 2016.

Many important reforms are already underway through the current QCPR. A "fit for purpose" UN system must build on these existing reforms and not reinvent the wheel.

However, the universal nature of the new development agenda will bring fresh challenges and opportunities. My delegation would caution against the temptation to see the new agenda as a mandate for the UN development system to try to do everything. Instead the funds, programmes and specialised agencies must focus their efforts where the UN has comparative advantage; where its convening power, neutrality, ability to access some of the most challenging environments, and its unique normative and operational roles can have the most impact.

Many speakers yesterday talked about the vital role the UN has to play in crisis situations and conflicts, and in building resilience. In a world of continued humanitarian crises and conflicts, and where the international architecture is increasingly complex, the UN must capitalise on its strengths and improve its effectiveness. We don't need to wait for the post-2015 development agenda to be agreed. The UN can already begin to learn and apply lessons from the international response to the Ebola crisis.

Transforming the way the whole UN development system works at country level will be key. Existing initiatives such as Delivering as One, and improving the RC system are important but we need to ask ourselves whether they go far enough to meet the demands of the new agenda. We must use the dialogue on the future of the UN development system to imagine the kind of UN we want to see at country level. This will undoubtedly mean greater focus on those things the UN should do; clarity about what the UN is not best-placed to do; and a commitment to working in genuine partnership within the UN system and with other organisations.

Madame President, the United Kingdom will continue to work with partners to ensure full implementation of the current QCPR, and we look forward to engaging constructively in the important ongoing dialogue on "fit for purpose".