

ECOSOC Operational Activity Segment

New York, 24 February 2015

Draft speech for Ms. Puri

Morning session 10 am to 1 pm - Dialogue with the Executive Heads of funds and programmes

Title of the session: Fit-for-purpose in the post-2015 era – which QCPR-mandated actions require accelerated and/or scaled-up implementation if UN development system is to be ready for challenges of post-2015 development agenda?

Moderator

H.E. María Emma Mejía Vélez, Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council

Panellists

Helen Clark, Administrator, UNDP

Anthony Lake, Executive Director, UNICEF

Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director, UNFPA (via video link)

Lakhshmi Puri, Deputy Executive Director, UN-Women

Amir Abdulla, Deputy Executive Director, WFP

Discussant

H.E. Mr. Fernando Carrera Castro, PR of Guatemala to the UN

General discussion questions

1. What opportunities and challenges do the integration requirements of the post-2015 development agenda pose for entities individually and the UN development system as a whole if the Organization is to continue to remain fit-for-purpose in the new era?

2. Which QCPR mandates require accelerated and/or scaled-up implementation in order to help ensure that the UN development system remains fit-for-purpose in the post-2015 era;

3. What are the implications of the growing diversity of development experiences of countries for the funds and programmes in the post-2015 era, e.g. in terms of: (a) staff capacities, (b) differentiated programme and technical support and (c) the current national execution modality?

Reference documents for the binder

- ✓ SG report on the implementation of the QCPR
- ✓ SG synthesis report
- ✓ Helen Clark Speech to the 30 January ECOSOC Dialogue
- ✓ The UNDG vision and Framework for action for UN operational activities
- ✓ UN Women ED's letter to the SG on fit purpose
- ✓ UN Women messages on post 2015
- ✓ Preliminary draft coordination section of the EDAR

NB: An internal document with possible responses to questions from Members - prepared jointly by the UN entities participating in the panel - will be available to the panellists to facilitate joint messaging during the discussion with MS.

Time available to deliver keynote address:

7 minutes

Suggested Focus of address:

Discussion Questions 1 and 2 (see above)

Draft Statement

First of all, I bring you greetings from our Executive Director, who unfortunately was unable to participate in this morning's Dialogue due to official travel outside of New York.

I would like to express my gratitude to her Excellency, Ambassador María Emma Mejía Vélez, Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council, for moderating this session, and to the distinguished panelists who have preceded me.

I am honoured to join these distinguished panel and audience. **I will speak directly to questions 1 and 2.**

I strongly believe that reflecting on the implementation of the Resolution is key to enhance our joint ongoing work on a UN fit-for-purpose, and central to the effective implementation of a post 2015 development agenda.

UN Women, like other UN entities, is engaged with the ongoing ECOSOC dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the UN development system.

We stand ready to support the Dialogue - jointly with our UN sister entities - as it unfolds over the next months.

(Integration requirements of the post 2015 agenda and a UN fit-for-purpose)

The new agenda is expected to offer a generational opportunity for the UN system as a whole, and its various entities individually, to deliver in a fully integrated fashion on across the three pillars of the UN's work: development, peace and security, human rights and humanitarian action.

In the UNDG, we recently developed a Vision and Framework for Actions, to ensure a stronger positioning in support of the new agenda.

UN Women fully embraces the vision of a more coherent UN.

The Entity itself is the result of Member States' resolve towards greater coherence. Its universal mandate integrates development, peace and security, and human rights agendas; through normative support, coordination and operational activities.

This integration enables us to work cohesively across the three "pillars" of the UN, and to support governments to achieve their gender equality commitments - at all levels of development. Already we provide support to developed countries. For example our Cities Global Initiative is implemented all over the world, including in Dublin, Winnipeg, Quito and Kigali.

UN Women also fully support the Rights Up Front initiative of the Secretary General, as a key driver to advance the human rights agenda in our work, including from the perspective of women's rights.

We must all continue to strengthen normative frameworks at all levels. This includes reflecting intergovernmental normative commitments in operational work, and ensuring that operational activities inform normative work.

Achieving full integration will also require real capacity to bring much closer our normative, coordination and operational roles. We must move towards joint action and accountability across UN pillars.

The second Generation of Delivering as One represents a concrete step to realizing results oriented integration. With the adoption of the Standard Operating Procedures, we are enabling UN Country Teams to function more coherently.

Why is delivering as one UN so important?

The answer is simply because we have ample evidence that working coherently together adds value to the countries we serve, and to their people.

This is certainly the case for gender equality.

We – as a system - must support Residents Coordinators and other UN leaders in the field, given the centrality of their role. They will need to display a strong

understanding of the inter linkages between the three pillars of the UN, and to address complex multi-sectorial challenges coherently, and effectively.

The UNDG global cost-sharing modality is a step in the right direction. Together with the backbone of resources maintained by UNDP, it gives the RC System basic resources in a more predictable fashion.

Integration also calls for innovation at all levels.

At global level for example, there are significant opportunities to use existing bodies - including the Commission on the Status of Women - to support the implementation of the SDGs.

The recent Joint Meeting of the Boards of all the entities represented here today, in addition to UNOPS, dedicated its annual session to sharing experiences on innovation.

Like we have heard during that joint session, member states expect to see a UN system that is less risk averse.

We heard that message, and will look at how to respond to your call seriously moving forward.

Moving to the issue of accelerating the QCPR implementation,

As a UN system, we have a responsibility to implement the QCPR.

This includes the ability to prioritize so as to bring us closer to the fitness that we are aiming to achieve.

The SG report on the implementation of the QCPR confirms progress, while pointing to areas where more must be done.

On our part, we will not miss the opportunity of the mid-term review of our Strategic Plans to identify aspects of the QCPR that need acceleration.

Indeed, as we are approaching the end point of the MDGs, we have ample evidence that inequalities, across countries and within countries, have not been reduced, and in many cases have deepened.

This applies to inequality and discrimination based on gender.

This is why prioritizing gender equality in the SDGs is crucial, including through a standalone goal, as well as accelerating on related mandates of the QCPR.

The Beijing + 20 review and the SDGs will offer a unique opportunity to consolidate a truly global movement to eliminate gender inequality and empower women.

UN Women is working together with many UN entities on accelerating the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, including with those represented here today.

In the Asia Pacific for example, as a follow up to the ministerial conference on the implementation of the Beijing outcomes, the UNDG will explore extremisms and their relationship with discrimination against women.

Half way into the full implementation of the UN-SWAP, we see significant efforts to address UN entities' institutional limitations to gender mainstreaming.

Within the UNDG, we are reviewing the implementation of gender scorecards by UN Country Teams. We will learn from their lessons, and further align those instruments with the UN-SWAP.

We are also witnessing a steady - albeit not as fast as we would wish - increase in the number UNDAFs prioritizing gender focused results (currently around 45 %).

However, we are still facing challenges. For example, we need greater investments for gender equality. With an increasing number of UN entities developing gender markers, based on the UNDG common guidance, we hope to see adequate funding targets for gender equality established soon.

Conclusion

In conclusion, allow me to add my voice to those who spoke before me, about the historic and generational opportunity that is before all of us.

Without a doubt, sustained progress in key aspects of the QCPR is affected by complex structural issues, including in relation to functions, funding and governance of the UN System.

We are encouraged to see member states' commitment to address these issues holistically.

Together we can truly make history. Let's do it.

I thank you.

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