

## Statement

by H.E. Mrs. Nguyen Phuong Nga, Permanent Representative

of Viet Nam to the United Nations

Dialogue with Heads of Funds and Programs

*(ECOSOC Operational Activities Segment, 22 February 2016)*

*Thank you Mr. Chair.*

1. At the outset, my delegation would like to reiterate the importance of the ECOSOC Operational Activities Segment and this Dialogue with the Heads of Funds and Programs in the context of the 2030 Agenda and other important development frameworks reached in 2015.

2. Viet Nam welcomes the forthcoming 2016 report by the Secretary General on the implementation of QCPR. The survey on QCPR implementation is also a good exercise for Governments to provide robust and evidence-based feedbacks on their interactions with the UNDS, especially with regard to coherence, effectiveness and efficiency of the system.

3. In Viet Nam, the UNDS is seen both by the Governments and other stakeholders as a trusted partner with local knowledge and long-standing experience. The UNDS is also highly regarded for its expertise and neutrality. An independent evaluation of UNDS' One Plan 2012-2016 in Viet Nam shows that 83% of the expected outcome of the One Plan was achieved at the end of 2015.

*Mr. Chair,*

4. While the UNDS has comparative advantages, it is now facing new challenges. The UNDS has to do more to help countries to achieve multi-dimensional sustainable development when the resources are declining.

The new development landscape requires changes and innovation in the way the UNDS carries out its mandate in order to be "fit for purpose" and maintain its vitality.

5. Here I would like to share with you our expectations, our view on how we see the role and contribution of the UNDS in the new context of the implementation of Agenda 2030.

As development cooperation should gear towards national needs, the UNDS has a unique role in helping countries to integrate this Agenda into national development strategies and priorities. However, it does not mean that the UNDS should do everything everywhere. The UNDS should strengthen the functions in which it has comparative advantages and at the same time increase national ownership.

First, The UNDS should be able to assist countries to implement globally recognized normative frameworks and communicate these norms to wider population through innovative channels. The UNDS is in good position to provide integrated policy advice, global expertise and knowledge while taking in to account political neutrality and sensibility.

Second, the UNDS needs to improve its capacity to build, mobilize and leverage the capacity of Member States, scale up and refocus capacity-building on young people, whose innovation is critical for the implementation of our ambitious agendas.

Third, the UNDS has a very important role in mobilizing and coordinating external resources, serving as a bridge linking countries in need with potential partners. The UNDS can also act as a good facilitator of South - South and triangular cooperation.

Fourth, it is also important that the UNDS help countries in enhancing tax system with a view to optimizing domestic resources, especially to avoid cross-border tax evasion.

Fifth, in order to facilitate follow-up and review, one of the focuses should be on building up statistical capacities.

Sixth, For Middle Income Countries like Viet Nam, the UNDS's support should be directed at knowledge sharing, basic and applied research and technology transfer. That would help MICs build resilience, sustain hard-won development achievement and make it accessible to vulnerable groups of their population.

*Mr. Chair,*

6. To meet these expectation, the UNDS has to think, plan and deliver as a system, not as single entities working in silos. In this connection, approaches like "Delivering As One" has proved to work for many pilot and self-starter countries, including Viet Nam.

With regard to funding, we also need to tackle the imbalance between core and non-core funding and enhance pooled funding modalities. We believe that countries should deliver on the commitments to provide more core-funding and reduce the weight of earmark funding.

At the country level, the UN Country Team needs a management mechanism with the participation of multi stakeholders to ensure effective monitoring and evaluation. A strong and reliable theory of change is also needed to measure the impact of operational activities. Mid-term indicators are necessary to adjust the course of actions if progress seems unsatisfactory.

7. To conclude, Viet Nam would like to reiterate our strong commitment to work closely with the UNDS to optimize operational activities at country and global level.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.