Remarks by the Mr. Nabeel Munir, DPR of Pakistan to the UN at the ECOSOC Operational Activities for Development Segment

Panel Discussion on the implications for Policy, Programming and Operational Cooperation and Coordination in the UN Development System

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- We fully associate with the remarks made by the distinguished representative of Thailand on behalf of group of 77 and China.
- We are grateful to all the panelists for their very insightful remarks and experience-based contributions.
- We would like to make some comments to contribute to today's discussion.
- The 2030 Agenda is certainly transformational and a game changer in many ways for prosperity of our future generations, if implemented in its entirety and pursuant to its aspirations.
- The UN Development System's role in supporting efforts towards achieving the MDGs has been commendable.
- It actually evolved itself into a very dynamic and responsive development support system.
- However, we agree to the observations made by the panelists that the challenge posed by 2030 Agenda is very complex and traditional development cooperation would not stand the task.
- The range of issues covered by the SDGs and the universal nature certainly requires a recalibration of the UN Development System.
- A strategic thinking and willingness to change the business as usual to recalibrate the UN resident coordinator system and the UN Development Assistance Framework, is certainly the right way to take on this intricate responsibility.
- I would like to lay emphasis on few elements which are needed to kept in mind in moving forward:

- At the global level, ECOSOC Dialogue on the Longer Term positioning and the QCPR this year, will have to fully take into account the these critical aspects and respond through comprehensive adjustment of the UN Development System.
- In addition to institutional and normative challenges, the critical issue that could undermine UNDS response is associated with the decline in core funding and increase in reliance on non-core funding, which is essentially earmarked.
- Simply put, the earmarked funding cannot guarantee a comprehensive implementation of the new Agenda and is bound to leave behind goals and targets, especially the ones more likely to be priorities of developing countries. We need to address this fundamental issue while recalibrating the UN Development System in response to the new Agenda.
- At the country level, the UN Development System should be able to complement national efforts for the implementation of the 2030 agenda. Poverty eradication as well as sustained economic growth and development should remain at the core of this approach.
- The programmatic activities of the UN must be consistent with and in line with national programmatic activities and development priorities
- The recalibrated system should strengthen national capacities and use of national execution mechanisms and local expertise in the implementation of its operational activities.
- The Resident Coordinator's role, function and accountability to the national government for agreed results and reporting on results, should continue to be under the leadership of the government, including his engagements and coordination with development stakeholders and the civil society.