

Check against delivery

Statement

By

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Nations**

**On Agenda Item: Operational activities for
development**

At

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Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like to associate itself with the statement made by Algeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and Benin on behalf of the LDCs. I would also like to commend the Secretary General for the comprehensive reports.

Mr. Chairman,

As it has been underlined in the report of the Secretary General, the landscape of development cooperation has indeed changed significantly in recent years. This has been of positive consequence for the least developed countries. However, the emergence of new and multiple crises coupled with the adverse impact of climate change have posed enormous impediments to the development of developing countries, particularly of those least developed among them. As clearly indicated in the report of the Secretary General before us, despite the progress made to lift millions of people out of poverty, close to 1 billion people are still malnourished. Moreover, although the recent report of FAO, WFP and IFAD gives us some hope, the absolute number of poor people in sub-Saharan Africa has in fact increased in the last two decades. Thus, the role of flexible

and responsive United Nations operational activities for development will be very crucial to respond to the growing demands of programme countries.

Mr. Chairman,

The continued decline of core resources and the unprecedented imbalance between core and non-core resources has compromised the overall predictability and sustainability of development assistance and its alignment to national priorities. Due to the nature of non-core resources, which are earmarked, short-term, not aligned to the planning cycle of programme country and comes with donor specific procedures, has lead to more fragmentation of resources and transaction costs.

Similarly, the continued presence of different financial and procurement procedures, reporting format and separate monitoring and evaluation requirements of funds, programmes and agencies has not allowed bringing the expected system-wide coherence. Though the UN country offices are willing to harmonize and work with each other, the existing rules and regulations at the headquarters level have not permitted them to do so. Thus, the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review will be an opportunity to address such challenges and respond to the changing development landscape.

Mr. Chairman

Ethiopia attaches great importance to the role of the UN operational activities and the successful conclusion of the QCPR process. We are hopeful that the outcome of the process will lead to effectively sorting out these various problems and challenges with a view to making real difference in the programme countries. Rebalancing of core and non-core resources and improving the quality of non-core resources by easing earmarking to at least a broader sector-specific level and harmonizing the requirements is critical for the predictability, reliability and stability of funding as well as for ensuring ownership of programmes and strategies by programme countries. No doubt, this is also bound to enhance the legitimacy of the role of the UN in international development cooperation. The role of the Resident coordinator system needs to be enhanced by taking concrete action so as to make the system fully and effectively functional. There is an urgent need to harmonize and simplify financial reporting format including use of one software, fund release procedures and monitoring and evaluation approach at the headquarter level. Addressing the governance structure of the UN system, both vertical and horizontal, and delegation of authority and decision making to the country offices and thereby allowing them to flexibly adapt to the country situation is of paramount

importance for the success of the QCPR process. Ethiopia, as self-starter of Delivery as One, is committed to the reform of UN operational activities. The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) is fully aligned with the Growth and Transformation Plan of Ethiopia, which is designed to ensure success in the fight against poverty.

Mr. Chairman,

In general, we have witnessed the benefits of the reform that have been taken with respect to the UN operational activities. But this need to be deepened and strengthened so that the UN can continue to play effective role in the development of developing countries, particularly those least developed among them. This is all the more critical in light of the evident impact, often negative, of the globalization process on the development of these countries. This fact can no longer be ignored in view of the slowdown in the pace of economic improvement of many countries in the developing world since 2007.

Finally, I would like to reiterate Ethiopia's readiness to engage constructively in the deliberation on the QCPR process.

I thank you.