



ECOSOC Operational Activities for Development Segment

Dialogue with Heads of UN Funds and Programmes

23 May 2019

Madam Chair,

Distinguished delegates,

Dear Colleagues,

I am delighted to deliver this statement on behalf of UNFPA Executive Director Natalia Kanem who unfortunately could not be here today.

2019 is a critical year for the UN development system, as it advances with reforms to better support countries in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

It is also a landmark year for UNFPA as we mark two important milestones: our 50th anniversary and the 25th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development, known as the ICPD. The implementation of the ICPD is essential for accelerating progress across the Sustainable Development Goals and in leaving no one behind. This is a unique opportunity for the world to recommit - with urgency, shared responsibility and joint ownership - to the objectives of the 2030 Agenda.

Madam Chair,

The empowered and independent Resident Coordinator (RC) system is central to the UN development system's repositioning. UNFPA is taking partnerships with the RC system to the next level to advance progress towards the ICPD, SDGs and other collective results. That includes the common chapter of the strategic plans of the four agencies here today.

A dedicated UNFPA strategy focused on engaging with resident coordinators helps us better equip our staff to add strategic value within the broader UN context. It also defines our value proposition at the country level and the cross-cutting nature of our work. To promote career development, we are providing staff with tailored training and coaching to become RCs. Our performance appraisal system also integrates feedback from the RCs based on the mutual accountability.

Our collaborative relationship with the new RC system is already underway. I was glad to hear the same from the RCs on Tuesday. Let me give you a few examples:

UNFPA offices are actively assisting the RCs in leading the UN Country Teams to conduct integrated analyses, joint planning and implementation processes to deliver collective results.

RC Offices also have access to UNFPA technical experts for inputs.

Meanwhile, efforts to engage RCs at the strategic level are underway. Together with other UN country team members, RCs are regularly invited to high-level internal meetings about future programme direction.

Similarly, in many countries the Resident Coordinator is:

- **A champion for UNFPA priorities.** RCs promoted “She Decides” at the highest political level and supported UNFPA-led initiatives such as “health education” in schools to empower girls.
- **An advocate for UNFPA’s engagement in joint resource mobilisation.** In many countries, RCs facilitate UNFPA participation in joint programmes and lead negotiations with the Government to co-finance initiatives such as Demographic Health Surveys.
- **A supporter of UNFPA’s leadership role in UNDAF and Joint Work Plans.** RCs support our role as co-chair of thematic groups such as on youth and data, to implement the Common Chapter.

Our objective is to capitalize on the repositioning to mobilize the system around UNFPA Strategic Plan’s transformative results. In this context, we see the RCs more as “amplifiers and enablers” of our work on the ground.

Madam Chair, Distinguished delegates,

The RC system’s ability to deliver more strategic and better-integrated results is interlinked with the redesign of UNDAF, renamed UNSDCF or,

for short, the “Cooperation Framework”. UNFPA will proactively support the RCs and UN Country Teams to coordinate and lead the cooperation framework planning process.

The new generation of frameworks will be tailored to the relevant country context. Ultimately, each should be unique; because each country is unique. A stronger analytical process now underpins the cooperation framework to better identify and prioritize national priorities.

UNFPA welcomes the introduction of a formal feedback mechanism on the configuration and capacities required to implement the cooperation framework. We see this also as an opportunity to reflect on effective, innovative and modern models to support programme delivery.

We have a unique business model customized to a country’s needs. This model is particularly relevant in the context of the ongoing multi-country office review. It can be considered by the UN Development System to optimize its collective response in addressing the needs of multi-country offices in the Pacific and Caribbean. In fact, UNFPA effectively applies this approach to the cluster of countries in Eastern Europe and Latin America, sharing and pooling representation, management coverage and expertise across the countries and territories.

At the same time, UNFPA is aligning its internal procedures, systems and processes with the new cooperation framework guidance, particularly those related to monitoring, evaluation and reporting at country, regional and global levels. Two global webinars were conducted to prepare UNFPA

offices for the new way of working and the changes in programming at the country level. Concurrently, an internal global pool of UNFPA experts will be created to support offices as needed. A resources toolkit for is also being finalized.

Madam Chair,

UNFPA is committed to ensure its regional assets are used to maximize programmatic results of the development system as a whole. Regional Offices of Funds and Programmes play invaluable role with respect to oversight and support of Country Offices and results delivery, together with issues of regional and sub-regional importance. We collaborate with Regional Economic Commissions to convene a wide range of partners to discuss progress made in specific aspects of the SDGs, be it youth employment, health, education or child rights. We have the capacity provide advice on how to integrate the standards and resolutions into a cooperation framework, with a theory of change and results-based management perspective.

We will continue to engage closely in the next phase and steps of the regional review, guided by the debate and outcomes of yesterday's rich discussion.

Madam Chair,

All UN development system documents should be underpinned by a robust data system for sustainable development. In that connection, UNFPA is

piloting an innovative Population Data Platform, a one-stop shop for population data that facilitates access to multiple data sources like censuses, surveys, and geospatial infrastructure data that would be available throughout the United Nations system.

Jointly with UN Country Teams, we look forward to strengthening our leadership in the area of data. That includes intensifying support to enhance national statistical capacity to collect, analyze and use data for planning and monitoring, as well as addressing data “dark spots.”

Madam Chair, distinguished delegates, dear colleagues,

Of course, there is much more to say about the UN development system repositioning that I won't be able to cover today. But rest assured that UNFPA is committed to providing regular updates to the Member States and partners on how we are preparing to implement these reforms.

In an evolving development landscape, change is an opportunity for us to become even more results-oriented, agile and innovative. This, in turn, will help UNFPA engage more proactively with partners and galvanize the energy and resources needed to fulfil our mandate.

UNFPA is committed to the implementation of UN development system reform and is working together with UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women and others to build on the lessons we have learned and strengthen our impact on the ground. Together we can do more, we can do better, and we can bring results to all of the people around the world who count on us.

Thank you.