

**Talking Points OAS Session 'Integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda: the role of the UNDS in LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS and countries emerging from conflict'**

ECOSOC Chamber, 2 March, 11:30 – 13:00

Implementing the 2030 Agenda will both build resilience in the poorest countries both to respond to and to help prevent humanitarian crisis. It is up to States, individually and collectively, to take the new Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris climate agreement, to set achievable goals and economic, social and environment policies to meet the ambitions agreed at the highest level in 2015. The multilateral system, with the United Nations at its heart, has a critical role to play in supporting national implementation at the global level.

It is now our shared opportunity and responsibility to ensure progress is achieved. The new global goals are universal and challenge all countries, at all levels of development, to take action in a broad range of sectors, including energy, food, water, climate, peace, governance, jobs and urbanisation.

Ireland believes that in an era of Agenda 2030 the system must reform to become responsive to the demands of States implementing the SDGs. This will mean change in the way that all members of the UN system work individually, as well as collectively and must be driven by collaboration.

In implementing the SDGs, we must reach the furthest behind first. That requires the UNDS to work with member states (LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS) to enable national ownership of development processes, and results focused implementation of the 2030 Agenda. LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS are particularly vulnerable to fragility due to conflict, disasters and the effects of climate change. Whilst they may be particularly vulnerable, they are also where the UN Development System can have the most impact and should be considered priority groups for the UNDS.

Building the operational and technical capacities of LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS will be crucial to achieving the SDGs, something the UNDS is well placed to do with its programmatic, statistical and technical expertise. Partnerships will also be key in supporting national capacity building. The UNDS is uniquely placed to provide normative guidance and support to creating coherent approaches and policies across national departments to support SDG implementation. We welcome the request in the QCPR resolution for the UN Secretary-General, in cooperation with UN resident coordinators, to conduct a biennial survey, on the *quality, relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of the support of the UNDS for national development priorities and plans* and we look forward to discussing the results in due course. Ireland also welcomes the reflection in the QCPR that core funding is bedrock of the UN operational activities for development.

Sustainable development within LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS cannot be achieved without addressing the pernicious effects of climate change and disasters, one of the root causes of vulnerability. The UNDS should support planning processes that promote resilience and enhance national capacities for early action, minimising the impacts of climate change and ensuring that disasters do not push back progress made.

The UNDS has a critical role to play in supporting the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS in implementing the SDGs in a cross-sectoral and coordinated way. It is crucial that the UNDS is able to be flexible in this; in 'leaving no one behind' it is important to adjust implementation to suit country needs as 'one size does not fit all'. However, the principles of the 2030 Agenda should remain constant in that work. Therefore, actions outlined in the QCPR therefore provide a platform for tailoring sustainable development work of the UNDS in LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS.