



**Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
Operational Activities Segment
Virtual meetings
19-22 May and 27 May 2020**

Draft Programme

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
18	19 Session 1: Opening and Dialogue with Secretary-General	20 Session 2a: UNSDG Chair report on the Development Coordination Office Session 2b: Funding Compact	21 Session 3: Dialogue with Resident Coordinators & UN country teams	22 Session 4a: Multi-country offices Session 4b: Regional Dimension
25 <i>UN Holiday Memorial Day</i>	26 <i>UN Holiday Eid al-Fitr</i>	27 Session 5: Dialogue with Deputy Secretary-General & Executive Heads	28	29
Date and time TBC, once it is possible to have it in-person at the UN				
Session 6: The future of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR)				

In view of time constraints, the General Debate will be reflected electronically. To encourage interactive dialogue, we invite regional groups and Member States to submit their formal statements on progress in implementing GA resolutions 71/243 and 72/279 electronically, by sharing these in advance with the Secretariat (qcpr@un.org). The formal statements will be posted on both [e-deleGATE](#) and the [QCPR website](#).

The views and main points presented in the statements will be reflected in the Vice-President's Summary of the operational activities segment.

Session 1

Tuesday 19 May 2020, 10:00am – 12:00pm

Opening and Interactive dialogue with the UN Secretary-General on the main findings and recommendations of his progress report on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR) and the repositioning of the UN development system

Opening

- H.E. Ms. Mona Juul, Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations, President of ECOSOC
- H.E. Mr. Juan Sandoval Mendiola, Deputy Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations, Vice-President of ECOSOC, Chair of the Operational Activities for Development Segment, ECOSOC

Keynote

- H. E. Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations (presentation of the Report of the Secretary-General on implementation of General Assembly resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, including the repositioning of the UN development system)

Interactive discussion with the Secretary-General, moderator TBC

Delegations are encouraged to engage through short interventions. Formal statements will be posted online on [e-deleGATE](#) and the [QCPR website](#).

Guiding questions:

- *How is the repositioned UN development system responding at national, regional and global level to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic? How is “leaving no one behind” mainstreamed into the UN response? How will the system engage in the recovery after the pandemic?*
- *When compared to the UN development system prior to the repositioning process, what has been improved? What are the experiences and lessons learned? How has the new system enabled coordinated action and more collaboration on the ground to confront the COVID-19 pandemic?*
- *How is the repositioning equipping the UN development system to support the Decade of Action for sustainable development?*
- *Is the UN system coming together to provide the necessary support to countries including for example, by enhancing cooperation and complementarity among humanitarian, development, peacebuilding and human rights action?*

Session 2

Wednesday 20 May 2020, 10:00am – 1:00pm

Session 2a

10:00 – 11:30am

Report of the Chair of the UNSDG on the Development Coordination Office

Chair and Moderator:

- H.E. Mr. Juan Sandoval Mendiola, Deputy Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations, Vice-President of ECOSOC, Chair of the Operational Activities for Development Segment, ECOSOC

Guiding questions:

- *What kind of improvements have been achieved through the reinvigorated RC system and what has been the impact on UN support to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?*
- *What have been the main challenges and what needs to be improved in the way forward?*
- *How has the Development Coordination Office (DCO) supported enhanced coordination?*
- *How are agencies adopting the Management and Accountability Framework? What are the challenges, if any, in doing so?*
- *Are we witnessing the type of behavioural change in UN country teams that will allow for transformative change in the UN's collective support to the 2030 Agenda?*

Presentation: Annual Report of the Chair of the UN Sustainable Development Group on the Development Coordination Office

- Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, and Chair of the UN Sustainable Development Group
- Mr. Robert Piper, Assistant Secretary-General and Director of the Development Coordination Office

Interactive Discussion

Session 2b

11:30am – 1:00pm

Briefing and Q&A on the Funding Compact: Are we delivering on our respective commitments?

This session will highlight major trends in funding and take stock of where we stand on the respective commitments of the Funding Compact. Through the compact, the UN Sustainable Development Group and its individual entities committed to provide greater transparency and accountability on what they do, how they use resources, and the results they achieve on the ground; to work more systematically together and deliver on common objectives, as well as to be more efficient. On their part, governments committed to providing more of the type of funding that allows the UN to deliver results –namely more ‘core’ resources, support to inter-agency and agency-specific pooled funds, and multi-year funding. The session will assess progress, highlight good practices, existing challenges and the necessary measures to move forward with regard to delivering commitments under the Funding Compact.

Guiding questions:

- *What progress has been achieved to date? What are the further plans for ensuring that the UN Sustainable Development Group commitments in the Funding Compact are met?*
- *What processes are in place to obtain the efficiency gains envisioned as a result of the repositioning of the UN development system? When would results be visible?*
- *Are Member States changing the way they fund due to the Funding Compact? What are the success stories from specialized agencies, funds and programmes regarding joint initiatives?*
- *How can we ensure the sustainability of funding for the RC system in support of operational activities including through broadening the donor base?*
- *What are the lessons learned concerning the implementation of the three funding streams for the new RC system?*
- *What are the norms and standard for entities of the UN development system in mobilizing resources from private sector, civil society and other stakeholders in programme countries? What is the mechanism in coordination and oversight?*

Chair:

- H.E. Mr. Juan Sandoval Mendiola, Deputy Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations, Vice-President of ECOSOC, Chair of the Operational Activities for Development Segment, ECOSOC

Panellists

- Ms. Natalia Kanem, Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) (TBC)
- Mr. David Beasley, Executive Director, United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) (TBC)

Moderator:

- Ms. Jennifer Topping, Executive Coordinator, United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office

Interactive Discussion

Session 3

Thursday 21 May 2020, 10:00am-1:00pm

The new RC system after 16 months: successes and challenges in UN country teams

This session will involve one Resident Coordinator (RC), one senior UN country team (UNCT) member and if possible, one government counterpart from each of the five regions, each with a different profile. Each RC/UNCT team member will present what is changing on the ground as a result of the actions on the repositioning of the UN development system and how those changes are helping them in confronting the COVID-19 pandemic in a coherent manner. This will include, among others, a discussion of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and the Management and Accountability Framework, good practices and remaining challenges in implementing the QCPR (including the repositioning) and supporting accelerated SDG progress.

Guiding questions:

- *What measures have been taken by the RCs and UNCT members to coordinate the work of the UN country teams and enhance collaboration, also ensuring that no one is left behind? How did this help for the response to the COVID situation? What are lessons learned?*
- *What has been achieved through the repositioning reforms at the country level, especially to support the development of different types of countries, including LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS and MICs?*
- *How can UNCTs best respond to the needs and priorities of programme countries? What is the experience with the Common Country Analysis and the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (Cooperation Framework)? How can RCs and UNCT fully consult with programme countries in formulating the Cooperation Framework and in reporting on their work?*
- *How are UNCTs, under the leadership of the empowered RCs, working with other UN actors on the ground, especially in the areas of humanitarian action, human rights and peacebuilding?*

Chair:

- H.E. Mr. Juan Sandoval Mendiola, Deputy Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations, Vice-President of ECOSOC, Chair of the Operational Activities for Development Segment, ECOSOC

Introductory remarks:

- Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations

Moderator:

- Mr. Robert Piper, Robert Piper, Assistant Secretary-General and Director of the Development Coordination Office (DCO)

Panel 1

- Ms. Mireia Villar Forner, Resident Coordinator in Uruguay and a senior UNCT member
- Mr. Shombi Sharp, Resident Coordinator in Armenia and a senior UNCT member
- Mr. Nicholas Rosellini, Resident Coordinator in China and a senior UNCT member

Panel 2

- Mr. Bruno Lemarquis, Resident Coordinator in Haiti and a senior UNCT members
- Ms. Christine Umutoni, Resident Coordinator in Mauritius and a senior UNCT member
- Ms. Lise Grande, Resident Coordinator in Yemen and a senior UNCT member

Interactive Discussion

Session 4

Friday 22 May 2020, 10:00am – 1:00pm

Session 4a

10:00am – 11:30am

Responding to needs and priorities of countries serviced by multi-country offices

The session will examine the Secretary-General's recommendations for strengthening multi-country offices (MCOs) so that they are better equipped to support the programme countries they serve in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Panelists will discuss how the system envisions better functioning MCOs, along with the need for sustained funding and tailored-made support mechanisms, taking fully into account the unique circumstances of each country served by an MCO, noting that in most cases, these are Small Island Developing States. Special attention will be given to the analysis of how MCOs have reacted and supported the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The discussion will also address the resource implications for meeting these proposals, the criteria for the creation of new offices, and the key role of specialized agencies, funds, and programmes in this process.

Guiding questions:

- *How can the functioning of MCOs be improved? How would these adaptations have made a difference in tackling the COVID-19 pandemic? How are the proposals adapting the work for the response and recovery of the pandemic?*
- *How does the system envision better functioning MCOs under the new Development Coordination Office (DCO) arrangement? What role would UNDP play vis-à-vis other specialized agencies, funds and programmes?*
- *What were the criteria used to justify the recommendations for the MCOs including criteria to establish MCOs?*
- *How does the UN system intend to support territories covered by MCOs as they seem to require a different support mechanism within the MCO and a different source of funding? Does this affect MCOs in any form?*
- *What is the status of the fundraising efforts thus far in support of the proposals made under the MCO review? How will the Development Cooperation Office ensure adequate and sustained funding for the new posts?*
- *What is the cost breakdown of the regional and MCO proposals? What additional detail is available to show how these proposals will be cost-neutral?*

Chair:

- H.E. Mr. Juan Sandoval Mendiola, Deputy Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations, Vice-President of ECOSOC, Chair of the Operational Activities for Development Segment, ECOSOC

Moderator (TBC)

Panellists:

- H. E. Ms. Lois Young, Permanent Representative of Belize to the United Nations and Chair of the Alliance of Small Island Developing States (AOSIS)

- H.E. Ms. Jane J. Chigiyal, Permanent Representative of the Federate States of Micronesia to the United Nations (TBC)
- Mr. Haoliang Xu, Assistant Secretary-General and Director of the Bureau of Policy and Programme Support, UNDP and co-chair of the Interagency Working Group on Multi-Country Offices
- Ms. Marina Walter, Resident Coordinator, Trinidad and Tobago
- Mr. Sanaka Samarasinha, Resident Coordinator, Fiji Multi-Country Office

Interactive Discussion

Session 4b

11:30am – 1:00pm

Unleashing the UN development system's regional assets: the path forward

This session aims at gaining a full understanding of the Secretary-General's proposal on the regional dimension and their implications for the UN system actors that are involved. Panelists will include key regional level actors, namely, the Regional Commissions, and Regional Offices of Specialized Agencies, Funds and Programmes, and the Development Coordination Office. Furthermore, they will present the views of the five regions. In this session, the UN development system entities will present the proposal for how they plan to coordinate in the future so that Member States can have a better understanding in order to make a decision about the revamping of the regional assets.

Guiding questions:

- *How will the revamping of the regional dimension bolster the interface of the analytical, policy and operational work of the UN development system at the regional level?*
- *How do Regional Collaborative Platforms (RCPs) reduce gaps and overlaps at the regional level and optimize UN regional assets? How will RCPs coordinate with Regional Commissions? What is the region-by-region configuration for the RCPs?*
- *How will the Regional Commissions be able to play the role of RCP co-chair and secretariat within their existing mandate, capacity and resources?*
- *How will the views of Member States be reflected in the RCPs?*
- *How will the UN development system be held accountable for its work at regional level? What are the system-wide reports and reporting lines to Member States, to include the regional level?*
- *How will the oversight of and advice to Resident Coordinators and UN country teams be performed? What is the role of the regional offices of the Development Coordination Office?*
- *How are the analyses carried out by Regional Commissions on the impact of COVID-19 in their region being reflected in the activities of the system's operational entities?*

Chair:

- H.E. Mr. Juan Sandoval Mendiola, Deputy Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations, Vice-President of ECOSOC, Chair of the Operational Activities for Development Segment, ECOSOC

Moderator:

- Mr. Jens Wandel, Under Secretary-General, Special Advisor to the Secretary-General on Reforms

Panellists:

- Ms. Vera Songwe, Coordinator of the Regional Commissions and Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
- Ms. Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- Mr. Mourad Wahba, Assistant Secretary-General and Director, Regional Bureau for Arab States, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

- Ms. Alanna Armitage, Regional Director for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- Mr. Neil Buhne, Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, Development Coordination Office (DCO)

Interactive Discussion

Session 5

Wednesday 27 May 2020. 10:00am -1:00pm

Dialogue with the UNSDG Chair and Heads of entities:

Working together to accelerate SDG progress during the Decade of Action and in light of the COVID-19 pandemic

The dialogue will focus on the progress on the ground in advancing a more cohesive, transparent and accountable support to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It will include the specific efforts and experience of individual entities as members of a new generation of UN country teams working towards national priorities, particularly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Executive Heads of UN entities will also be encouraged to provide suggested key messages for Member States' consideration as part of the 2020 QCPR. The messages would need to build on progress made implementing the QCPR, including the repositioning mandates. The session will also examine how the system as a whole, including through specific agency commitments, can best support the Decade of Action for delivery of the SDGs in the context of the recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic. The Deputy Secretary-General will provide opening remarks while Executive Heads will reply to questions posed by the moderator on the current QCPR and the repositioning, as well as their views on the 2020 QCPR. Participants from the floor will also take part in the moderated discussion.

Guiding questions:

- *What have been breakthrough advances at Headquarters and in the field, thus far?*
- *What are UN development system entities doing to adapt and to align processes related to their Country Programme Documents/Programme of Work with the Cooperation Framework ? How are they aligning their internal processes, including management and human resources aspects?*
- *What are the comparative advantages of the UN and how is the UN development system strengthening its support in realizing key SDGs highlighted by developing countries such as poverty eradication, rural development, addressing natural disasters, basic social services, infrastructure, among others?*
- *How have the changes related to the repositioning of the UN development system impacted the response to COVID-19? Are there additional measures that would have helped the system in coming together as one?*
- *How can non-New York based UN entities be better engaged in UN development system reform?*
- *Is there still scope for further adjustment in the policies, rules and regulations in your own organization? What are the key areas for further enhancing coordination and collaboration among UN development system entities?*
- *What new issues should be addressed in the 2020 QCPR?*

Chair and Moderator:

- H.E. Mr. Juan Sandoval Mendiola, Deputy Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations, Vice President for the Operational Activities Segment, ECOSOC

Introductory remarks:

- Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations

Panellists:

- Mr. Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Vice-Chair, UN Sustainable Development Group
- Mr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, World Health Organization (WHO) (TBC)

- Mr. Guy Ryder, Director-General, International Labour Organization (ILO) (TBC)
- Ms. Henrietta Fore, Executive Director, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) (TBC)
- Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director, United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) (TBC)
- Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director, UN Women (TBC)

Closing

- Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations
- Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Under Secretary-General, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
- H.E. Mr. Juan Sandoval Mendiola, Deputy Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations, Vice-President for the Operational Activities for Development Segment, ECOSOC

Session 6

Date and time TBC, once it is possible to have it in-person at the UN The 2020 QCPR

This session will address outstanding mandates from the 2016 QCPR and identify new issues for the 2020 QCPR, notably how the UN development system could help accelerate SDG progress as part of the Decade of Action, also taking into account the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. It will discuss progress and remaining challenges in how the UN system is stepping up its efforts to adopt a whole-of-system response in support of the Decade of Action, including greater cooperation and complementarity among humanitarian action, disaster risk reduction, development and sustaining peace. The session will pay particular attention to how the UN development system is assisting countries in addressing inequalities, including gender inequality, promoting and protecting human rights and reaching those left furthest behind.