

SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AMBASSADOR ANA SILVIA RODRÍGUEZ ABASCAL. ECOSOC OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT SEGMENT.

21 to 23 May 2019

Madam Vice-president,

We thank the Secretary-General for the presentation of the report on the implementation of the General Assembly resolutions 71/243 and 72/279 and their annexes, and that of the UN Development Coordination Office. We hope to be able to consider the proposals presented in the Report on a case-by-case basis and to support an informed decision in that regard at the General Assembly.

Madam Vice-president,

Cuba attaches great importance to the United Nations Development System (UNDS) and its guiding principles. In this regard, we reaffirm that sustainable development is and must continue to be the cornerstone of the UNDS operational activities.

We underline the need for the System to continue to strengthen the leadership of national governments on their processes at all levels and the mechanisms of governance, transparency and accountability to national governments, particularly, with regard to the work of the Resident Coordinator and the Country Team.

Madam Vice-president,

The QCPR is the guideline for operational activities. We firmly believe that any effort to reform the System must be carried out with strict adherence to its mandates, concepts and notions.

In this regard, the repositioning process must preserve the System's presence or assistance in all countries under special situations and ensure a flexible and inclusive consideration to the priorities of the Country Programs and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, under the premise that "there are no unique solutions or pre-established formulas in development matters".

We support the figure of the Resident Coordinator and his authority over the Country Team, however, we reject any proposal that ignores the full respect for the sovereignty of the recipient countries, non-interference in their internal affairs and consequently, a proposal that hinders the interrelationship of the national authorities with the various actors of the System.

On the other hand, the regional review should be adapted to the peculiarities of each region. We hope that the proposals linked to the Regional Economic Commissions will preserve the effective fulfillment of the mandate of these entities, their roles and capacities, as well as their close and direct relationship with their member states.

Madam Vice-president,

We hope that the Funding Compact will contribute to overcome the System's financial challenges, promote sustainability of the financing mechanisms of the System of Resident Coordinators, while preserving the principles that guide UNDS financing architecture, particularly, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities between developing countries and donor countries.

Thank you very much.