Mr. Vice-President,

First of all, I would like to associate myself with the statement made by the Netherlands on behalf of the EU.

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda stresses indeed the importance and relevance of the more strategic UNDS and the revised QCPR as the vital mechanism through which the effectiveness, efficiency and coherence of the UN Development System is carried on. Fragmentation, duplication and overlap of work must be eliminated or at least reduced; and tighter synergies between the normative and operational activities should be explored towards the implementation of the sustainable development agenda.

The UNDS should primarily focus on the most vulnerable, and investment in fighting prevailing inequalities should be increased. Breaking a cycle of poverty can be achieved by providing equal education. As the great Czech philosopher and pedagogue who lived in the 17th century, Ioannes Amos Comenius claimed, “The school is the manufactory of humanity”.

As regards the imbalance between core resources and extra-budgetary or non-core funding used for operational activities, mentioned by a number of speakers, what really matters is a greater level of predictability of funding. It is needed for the new funding model to work more effectively and in innovative ways in order to gain funding leverage from other partners, incl. private sector.

Fit for purpose means for us simplifying business practices, making the Resident Coordinator system work well, and focusing on better results. In addition, we wish to underline that the UNDAF should be clearly guided by principles of national sovereignty and ownership. As the main responsibility for SDGs implementation lies with national governments, the UNDS should focus on such activities where its added value is highest and demand-driven.

The next cycle of the QCPR is a historic opportunity to adapt the UNDS to the new global reality. This opportunity should not be missed, even if it brings a revolutionary change of the existing system. However, we need to act swiftly and decisively to deliver on the SDGs within the adopted timeframe.

The Czech Republic trusts that the ongoing ECOSOC Dialogue on its longer-term positioning and the upcoming QCPR negotiations will ensure success in this regard.

Thank you.