



**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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PERMANENT MISSION OF SOUTH AFRICA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL  
OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT SEGMENT,**

**UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK**

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Madam Vice-President,

At the outset, my delegation commends you for your stewardship of the Segment, and acknowledges with appreciation the discussions that have ensued over the past two days.

South Africa aligns itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished Permanent Representatives of the State of Palestine, and Senegal on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and the Africa Group, respectively.

My delegation takes note of the various reports on the General Assembly Resolutions 71/243 on the QCPR and 72/279 on the repositioning of the United Nations development system. In this regard we recognise that a scaled up and significantly strengthened role for the United Nations development system and its capacity to assist developing countries in achieving their developmental goals remains crucial in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In the implementation phase of the QCPR, and in line with its mandates, it is important to keep in mind the indivisibility of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and therefore to ensure that they are equally prioritised so that the UNDS does not deviate from its core mandate, which is to support demand-driven, and nationally determined led development efforts and enable programme countries to achieve the SDGs.

Madam Vice-President,

Whilst the mutually reinforcing relation between peacebuilding-humanitarian and development continuum is articulated in the QCPR, this should not adversely affect resources for development. The economies of the majority of programme countries remain vulnerable to external shocks and require continuous financial support through core resources that needs to be meaningfully resourced, including non-financial support to achieve the SDGs. My delegation thus underlines the importance of adhering to customised configuration of the UN Country Teams (UNCTs), given the different national contexts that may not require resource injection in areas outside of development.

Furthermore, programming countries are in the main developing countries, which continue to bear the brunt of global economic inequalities. It is thus imperative that the UN development system continues to pay due attention to

these countries' policy space, under national ownership and leadership, and also to operate towards the fulfilment of their national priorities and plans.

In this regard, the reinvigorated Resident Coordinator system and UN Country Teams (UNCT) should be responsive to national development plans, and be guided by the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), which in South Africa, was renamed to SA-UN Strategic Cooperation Framework to reflect the nature of the partnership. Furthermore, host countries should be involved in the identification of the relevant skills and competencies, if possible, and to also ensure a gender and geographical balance in the appointment of staff at country level.

Further, overall coordination of UNDS entities at the country, regional and global level and their oversight by Member States, including transparency is of utmost importance. This is a historical opportunity to strengthen the UN development system to better carry out its mandate in making development a tangible reality for all, as we continue on our journey to eradicate poverty, and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and to leave no one behind.

I thank you.