

STATEMENT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT

His Excellency Mr. Alejandro Palma Cerna (Honduras)

ECOSOC Dialogue – Informal Civil Society briefing

Conference Room F, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm, 16 June

Dear friends,
Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to the fourth and final of a series of civil society briefings and consultations on the ECOSOC Dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the UN development system.

As most of you know by now, the ECOSOC Dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the UN development system was mandated by the Council in 2014 to ensure that the system is fit to deliver on the development ambitions and challenges of the 2030 Agenda.

The first phase of the Dialogue focused on building a solid understanding among Member States of the current state of play in the UN development system as a whole.

One of the key messages that came out of this first phase was a general recognition among Member States that the UN development system must change to live up to the universal and integrated nature of the 2030 agenda and that the status quo is not an option.

We are now in the second phase of the Dialogue, which will be coming to a close in the coming weeks, and has marked a critical step in our work as we have discussed concrete proposals for strengthening the UN development system.

This phase has benefited from an Independent Team of Advisors appointed by the ECOSOC Bureau. ITA has developed a series of papers to assist Member States in analyzing, prioritizing and concretizing options for change in the areas of Functions, Funding, Governance Arrangements, Organizational Arrangements, Partnership Approaches, and Capacity and Impact of the UN development system.

As we bring the Dialogue to a conclusion, ITA has recently submitted its final two papers, one paper on the “interlinkages” of the six areas at stake, and one paper on its Findings and Conclusions, which will be discussed at the workshop on the 22nd and 23rd June.

Distinguished colleagues and friends,

Today, I would welcome your feedback on these final two papers.

That said, I would also welcome any further reflections you may have on the all of the papers produced by the ITA, should you have missed the opportunity to provide your feedback earlier. It is essential to have civil society’s perspectives on the kind of reforms required in the UN development system if the Organization is to be able to respond to the requirements of the 2030 Agenda.

I have heard your concerns that only delegations based in New York would have the opportunity to actively contribute to this process.

So I am pleased to share with you that today we will test an interactive online platform, which will allow us to have this meeting “live-streamed”, via a platform called WebEx.

WebEx allows those participants who are joining remotely to type their questions and comments. These will appear on our system here and will be given to me to respond.

Dear friends,

We are also fortunate to have here with us Ms. Hanaa El-Hilaly, Member of the Independent Team of Advisors. Ms. El-Hilaly will also be on-hand to respond to any questions that you may wish to pose to her.

I therefore now open the floor for reactions and comments to the work of the Independent Team of Advisors.

Thank you.