



Madam President, Madam Deputy Secretary-General, dear colleagues,

We align ourselves with the statement delivered by the European Union, and would like to make the following remarks in our national capacity.

I would like to begin by applauding the SG and DSG on their leadership in the reform process and steps already taken to make the UN system *fit for purpose*.

We see a clear need to first and foremost achieve progress in the following three points:

- 1) We need a better coordinated, coherent, more effective and impactful UN development system through stronger Resident Coordinators and a new generation of UN country teams.**
- 2) We need a reform of the funding structure in the interest of enhanced delivery against joint priorities.**
- 3) We want to stress that strengthening effectiveness, efficiency and accountability of the system in general is crucial.**

In all this work, we need to constantly pay attention to gender equality and strengthening of the system wide coordination role of UN Women.

In the next report of the SG we look forward to seeing the following key messages and answers to the following questions:

- After the reform, how will the UNDS support to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda cover all the three dimensions of sustainable development in a balanced manner, and how will the UNDS bring clear value added in comparison to other actors. We request clarification on the value added of the UNDS because as the SG puts it: "the UN cannot – and should not – be doing everything, everywhere."
- We find it very important that the next report highlights also the existing strengths of the UNDS. Which parts of the work are recognized as truly unique and should receive significant funding and why? What are the expectations that the UNDS does not currently fully meet and what should be strengthened and how?
- We also note that the specialized agencies need to be fully committed to the reform.
- On coordination; coordination at country level is a package that agencies must commit to in its entirety.
- We expect the UN system to aim at improved efficiency through overall rationalization, reduction of redundancies, cost-sharing, co-location and shared services and systems at all levels.
- How will opportunities for synergies and co-operation be utilized including possible consolidation of agencies, dismantling unnecessary structures and creating new mechanisms as necessary to improve coordination and impact?
- How will the effectiveness, efficiency, accountability and internal coordination of different departments of the UN Secretariat (esp. DESA) be improved?
- On a final note, we find it very important that the work and resources of the UNDS will clearly be focused on support to SDG implementation in least developed countries and in fragile and conflict affected states.