

DRAFT
Closing statement by
H.E. Ambassador Gonzalo Gutiérrez Reinol
Vice-President of ECOSOC
2011 operational activities segment
Geneva, 18 July 2011

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have come to the end of the Operational Activities Segment.

We have examined many facets of UN development cooperation.

I would like to highlight a few key messages and ideas.

Clearly, Member States greatly value the development work of the United Nations.

It is recognized that the UN has no hidden agenda – but an internationally agreed one. Its work is – as it should be – under the ownership and leadership of the programme countries.

The UN development system has made headway to better gear its work towards development results and become more effective, coherent and efficient.

I sense that “Delivering as One” is more than a slogan. It is an idea which has begun to permeate the mindset in UN system organizations and their way of working.

But a host of factors – old and new- positive and negative - are converging to demand new responses and bolder approaches from the UN system.

The UN must clearly adjust fast - to seize today’s opportunities and confront challenges and threats.

The 2012 QCPR offers the opportunity to guide the UN system in this regard.

The resolution you just adopted highlights critical elements you want to address in the review.

Listening through our rich panels, I heard that: Doing the right things is more important than just doing things right.

The UN needs to be more strategic and gear its efforts and resources toward initiatives that have a catalytic and multiplying effect – such as addressing inequity or promoting gender equality.

While maintaining its focus on the LDCs and its niche in post-crisis/conflict situations, the UN development system must also improve its support to the middle income countries (MICs).

The agility of the UN in all country situations warrants further consideration. The UN must be fast – while never losing sight of national development priorities.

The UN should “join up for results” as Miss Clark said. This requires of course coordination among intergovernmental bodies. ECOSOC should fully discharge its responsibilities in this regard.

Coordination crucially needs to be enhanced at the country level. The willingness of agencies to be coordinated and to pool resources determines the quality of coordination.

The UNDAF process should be made as strategic and efficient as possible. UNDAF should guide not only the programming of activities but also its implementation. UN country teams could “peer review” agency specific programmes to ensure consistency with the UNDAF.

The resident coordinator reconciles the various mandates of agencies in responding to national demands. But the leadership of the RC cannot be imposed – it has to be earned. Still, agencies must empower and support the RC as they committed to do in the *Management and Accountability system*.

Bolder measures should be tried to simplify and harmonize business practices. One UN system back office can be a promising solution.

Cost efficiency is a critical challenge facing the UN system at the country level. Savings from administrative reform should be reinvested in development programme and lead to increased funding allocations.

Making the UN more relevant and responsive has funding implications.

The importance of core funding cannot be overemphasized. Improved burden-sharing would increase the predictability and stability of funding flows to the UN development system.

But the imbalance between core and non-core funding will not be reversed overnight. We need “fresh thinking”. It is important to better align non-core funding with national priorities and with the strategic plans of agencies. The executive boards of funds and programmes need to advance the definition of critical mass of core funding.

While addressing processes, the QCPR should not lose sight of results and impact.

The next QCPR resolution should be ambitious and lead to a transformation in the way the UN development system works at the country-level

The quality, relevance and vision of the QCPR guidance does not guarantee its implementation. Targets and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms should become an integral part of the QCPR guidance.

The independent evaluation of the “Delivering as One” and the planned survey of member states’ perspectives are important inputs to the QCPR. Your support for these processes is essential.

You have set high standards for the QCPR.

I am confident that together, we will meet the expectations.

My special thanks go to the Executive Heads of Funds and Programmes and UN Women and to all our panellists. During the last few days, I have been impressed by your wealth of knowledge and ideas and heartened by your frankness.

Thank you very much.

18 July 2:00 am