

UNITED NATIONS

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2011 ECOSOC OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES SEGMENT

Dialogue with the Executive Heads of UN Funds and Programmes

*“Looking to the future of operational activities for development of Funds and Programmes:
strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats”*

Geneva, 15 July 2011

10:00 am -1:00 pm

**Introductory remarks by
H.E. MR. GONZALO GUTIERREZ
VICE-PRESIDENT OF ECOSOC**

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to moderate this year’s dialogue of the Council with the Executive Heads of the UN funds and programmes.

I would like to start by warmly welcoming Ms. Michelle Bachelet and Mr. Babatunde Osotimehin who are taking part in this dialogue for the first time.

A very warm welcome also to Ms. Helen Clark, the Chairperson of UNDG and Administrator of UNDP; Mr. Martin Mogwanja, Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF; and Mr Ramiro Lopez da Silva, Deputy Executive Director of WFP

We live in a rapidly changing world. Development cooperation has been no exception. Its fast evolution challenges the UN system to adapt to meet the diverse and changing needs of developing countries.

UN agencies need to join forces to help countries to truly integrate economic, social and environmental development dimensions. They need to balance the focus on MDGs with the need to spur the broader development agenda, human rights, growth and productive capacities. They need to adjust to new aid modalities. They need to join forces with new actors and build new partnerships. Ultimately, they need to focus on

results and make an impact effectively and efficiently. How the UN system responds to these multiple demands will determine its continuing relevance in the future.

This year's operational activities segment should start a reflection on how the UN system can best address new challenges and opportunities. This is critical as we kick off the preparation of the 2012 General Assembly's comprehensive policy review of UN system operational activities (the QCPR).

Yes, the QCPR should look ahead. At the same time, familiar daunting challenges remain.

New formulas must be tried to help countries move along the path from crisis and relief to development, to aid LDCs to break out of poverty, and to assist Middle Income Countries in addressing deeply entrenched poverty and inequalities

The QCPR should build on what has been done thus far. It should take a hard look at progress in implementing the 2007 GA guidance (the TCPR) – which remains ever more valid. We need to ask ourselves how far the UN system has gone in making its support to developing countries more relevant, flexible, effective and efficient? We need to identify persisting weaknesses and obstacles. We also need to recognize advances made – and to build on lessons learned.

Today's dialogue is the occasion to do just that. It is the time to hear how funds and programmes are doing in the current development cooperation landscape. What they have achieved. How they are addressing difficulties and changing "old patterns" of cooperation. How they are gearing to address new challenges. We also look forward to the advice of Executive Heads on how UN system's operational activities should evolve, and what important areas should be addressed in the next QCPR.

It is now with great pleasure that I give the floor to Ms. Helen Clark, for her presentation. Madam, you have the floor.

[...]

I thank Mr. Ramiro Lopez da Silva for his statement. I would now like to invite questions and comments from the floor. Before we start, let me encourage all of you to bear in mind two important questions:

1. What are the critical trends and factors that are impacting the functioning of the UN development system at country level?

2. What are the critical factors and challenges in enhancing the coherence of system-wide support to developing countries?