



BRAZIL

ECOSOC

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Operational Activities Segment

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Regina Maria Cordeiro Dunlop

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(Check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I wish to seize this opportunity to thank you for your able chairmanship of the Operational Activities Segment. Throughout the Segment our delegation has participated with great interest in all the very enlightening panel discussions so well organized by you, the President of ECOSOC and the other members of the Bureau. We also wish to commend the Secretariat for the excellent reports presented to the consideration of Member States.

Our delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by Algeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China as well as by Chile on behalf of CELAC and would like to add the following comments in its national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

The Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review is the most important tool for Member States to evaluate the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and impact of UN operational activities for development and to exercise their strategic governance role over United Nations agencies, funds and programs.

The QCPR will provide the overall framework and political guidance under which the nearly 23 billion dollars annually allocated to the UN operational activities will be received, managed and spent over the next four years. By way of comparison, this amount represents more than twice the annual regular budget of the United Nations, including for peacekeeping operations.

The last Comprehensive Policy Review covered issues as varied as capacity-building and funding, South-South Cooperation and gender equality and empowerment of women. Among the many important questions the General Assembly will address under the QCPR, we would like to highlight three cross-cutting priority areas, namely: presence, flexibility and governance.

Presence

In order to be a relevant partner in the efforts of developing countries to overcome historical barriers and achieve equitable sustainable development, United Nations operational activities must, first of all, be present in those countries. UN funds and programs must be on the ground to assist national governments to design development plans, to offer policy and funding alternatives and to help in their implementation.

The capacity of funds and programs to better support national efforts depends largely on their familiarity with each country's specific challenges.

Their ability to offer the best solutions relies on their acquaintance with different development scenarios and their knowledge of what has and what has not worked in other similar settings. Broadening the presence of UN operational activities will result in an enhanced capacity of the system to facilitate and promote South-South Cooperation and thus benefit countries in special situations, such as the LDCs and countries emerging from conflict.

Flexibility

Despite sharing similar hurdles in their road to achieving inclusive economic growth and sustainable development, developing countries face different challenges and present different capacities. The size of their population and territory, their administrative organization and political system, their respective development achievements, all have a strong bearing on the kind of assistance UN operational activities can and must offer.

In all panels held under this Segment we heard, time and again, that in development assistance there should be no "one-size-fits-all" approach. This should be made true especially in terms of

the model of assistance to be offered by the system. There is no "One Model" that presents an absolute paradigm of coherence and coordination.

In addition, a significant part of the challenges presented by the current funding situation derives precisely from the lack of flexibility that non-core contributions impose on UN funds and programs.

Governance

We believe that it is of the utmost importance that we make progress on the question of governance of UN Operational Activities by Member States. If each agency, fund and program benefits from its own comparative advantages, every one of them also gains from a shared collective strength: its multilateral, politically unbiased nature.

In order to further improve this fundamental feature we must empower all Member States to fully participate in all decision-making governance structures of UN operational activities, especially in the Executive Boards of Funds and Programs.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, we must also look at the question of funding from the perspective of improving governance. The Secretary-General's report points out that availability of funding has increased in the last few years, despite the dire effects of the economic and financial crisis. However, practically all the increase in real terms resulted exclusively from non-core contributions, which now amount to almost three fourths of the total funding for operational activities.

In that connection, the main challenge we must address with determination is the growing imbalance of core and non-core resources.

Earmarked contributions pose a serious threat to UN Funds and Programmes. In addition to limiting the predictability of operational and administrative budgets, they impose excessive rigidity, divert attention from both Strategic Plans and national priorities and completely disregard the formal governance structures of UN operational activities.

It is time we move beyond the mere reaffirmation of principles and take concrete action that provides incentives to the kind of contributions we all agree are better aligned with the priorities of national governments and UN funds and programmes, and are consistent with the multilateral and universal nature of UN operational activities.

Mr. Chairman,

In times marked by a persistent financial and economic crisis, which continues to stifle employment and income creation and threaten to jeopardize the hard-won progress achieved by many developing countries, we need more development cooperation. Not less.

We need a stronger, more diverse and capable UN development system that is relevant and present, flexible and capable and that responds to Member States mandates, to the benefit of all.

Brazil hopes that the QCPR will represent an important, resolute step in that direction and renews its commitment to contribute to such an outcome.

Thank you.