



ECOSOC OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES SEGMENT
Statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States
25 February 2015

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Mr. President,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

We welcome this opportunity to take stock of progress with the implementation of the 2012 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of UN operational activities for development (QCPR). At the outset, we would like to thank the Secretariat – and DESA in particular – for all their hard work pulling together a comprehensive and evidenced-based SG report for this session.

Mr President,

Good progress continues to be made in implementing the QCPR. We note the increasingly positive perception of the "Delivering as One" approach by Governments highlighted in the SG report and welcome the release of the standard operating procedures (SOPs) for countries wishing to adopt the delivering-as-one approach in August last year. We would like to reiterate the importance we attach to the entire UN Development system – all funds, programs and specialized agencies – fully implementing the SOPs without further delay. More progress is needed in ensuring all the pillars of the DaO approach are implemented equally alongside better coordination between UN agencies and other bilateral and multilateral partners. Given the success of DaO, we believe this approach should be scaled up going forward.

The QCPR put heavy emphasis on the importance of further simplification and harmonisation of business practices as well as addressing bottlenecks at the headquarter level through streamlining of programming, funding, reporting and accountability mechanisms, in particular through the full implementation of the Management and Accountability Framework. We call for full implementation of this ambitious agenda by the UN development system.

We also continue to urge all funds, programmes and specialised agencies to implement and monitor the cost-sharing arrangement in support of the resident coordinator system in order to ensure the necessary resources are made available with the ultimate aim to achieve more impact at country level. More generally, we believe the authority and legitimacy of resident coordinators should be strengthened in accordance with their mandates.

Mr. President,

Member states share a collective responsibility to ensure adequate and timely funding of the work plans and budgets approved by their governing bodies of UN development agencies. We welcome the structured dialogues that were organised by the Executive Boards of several Funds and Programmes last year as called for in the QCPR on how to finance the development results agreed in the new strategic plans of the UN entities. We call for such dialogues to be organized on an annual basis by the governing bodies of the UN Development System to monitor and follow-up the predictability, flexibility and alignment of resources provided for the implementation of respective Strategic Plans, including funding gaps. We continue to observe that a limited number of countries are providing a major share of UN operational resources for development. In our efforts to ensure a more stable and predictable provision of financial resources, and to decrease dependence on a small number of donors, we should work towards broadening this funding base, particularly for core resources.

Mr. President,

We continue to believe that the principles confirmed at Busan in December 2011 of national ownership of development priorities; focus on results and managing for results; inclusive development partnerships, and transparency and accountability should guide the funding practices of all Member States. Equally, the UN system should continue to develop and put in place robust results frameworks and results-based management systems as called for in the QCPR in order to demonstrate development impact and ensure funding is aligned with strategic plans.

Mr. President,

The EU would also like to underscore the fundamental role of gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment to sustainable development. We welcome the progress made so far in implementing the mandates contained in the QCPR in this regard. We call for the UN system as a whole to implement and report on the UN SWAP, which we see as a critical tool for monitoring and driving progress towards the objectives of gender equality and the empowerment of women. We also look forward to the global review that the UNDG Task Team on Gender is undertaking in order to enhance the strategic use of gender scorecards also building on the implementation of the UN SWAP.

Mr President,

The UN system is the guardian of internationally agreed goals, objectives and norms, convening member states on critical global public goods agreements. Its operational window therefore plays a vital role in the international development architecture. Despite this crucial role, it is widely acknowledged that the United Nations development system remains complex and fragmented. The post-2015 agenda will intensify the need for the UN system to be more coherent, efficient and effective. It is therefore crucial that we build on the progress achieved thus far in implementing the QCPR.

In this regard, the European Union welcomes the ongoing ECOSOC dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the United Nations Development system. We thank the Secretariat and the Vice-President (PR of Colombia) in particular for their hard work putting together the

roadmap and programme for the dialogue covering the next 16 months leading to the 2016 QCPR. A UN "Fit for Purpose" must address the inter-linkages between the alignment of functions, funding practices, governance structures, capacity and impact of the UN Development system, partnership approaches and organizational arrangements. The European Union is looking forward to contributing actively to these transparent and inclusive discussions. Ensuring that the UN development system is "fit for purpose" at headquarters as well as at country level is important for achieving the new post-2015 agenda.

Mr. President,

The European Union and its Member States attach great importance to the full implementation of the QCPR. The UN system is making efforts to ensure that it plays its part and it can be assured of full support from the EU to meet these challenges.

Thank you.