

Introductory remarks

Dialogue with the Executive Heads of the Funds and Programmes 24 February, 10 a.m. – 13:00 p.m.

Excellencies,
Dear colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to the Dialogue of the Executive Heads of the funds and programmes with Member States, which takes place every year during the Operational Activities Segment of the Council.

This year, the Dialogue with the Executive Heads will have two objectives:

First, to take stock of progress on the QPCR implementation, with a focus, in particular, on those mandate in the QCPR that need accelerated or scaled-up action in order for the UN system to be ready for the challenges of the post-2015 development agenda.

Second, to give their perspectives, as executive heads of agencies, on those core issues of the QPCR – issues that are recurring in our dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the Un development system, namely around coherence, coordination; integration requirements; and the implications of the growing diversity in terms of needs, capacities and priorities of programme countries.

You have before you, as the main background document for the Operational Activities Segment, the Secretary General's progress report on the implementation of the QPCR. This report presents evidence on progress to date, as well as challenges, and recommendations for your consideration. Yesterday, Under Secretary-General Wu also presented key messages from this year's report.

The QCPR resolution, as we heard several times yesterday, is a key instrument at the intergovernmental level in fostering system-wide coherence and coordination among the 34 UN entities that receive contributions for operational activities.

Operational activities of the UN system account for nearly two-thirds of all activities of the Organization. They are also 95 per cent voluntarily-funded.

The QCPR is an important instrument to ensure that the sum total of the UN development system is larger than the individual parts. This, of course, is not an easy task in an Organization where governance lines, programming lines, business operations and accountability lines, are all vertical.

Already, in our ECOSOC Dialogue session of 30 January, we have started to pose the question of what kind of QPCR in 2016 – what nature, what scope?

And what kind of guidance from Member States is needed in the post-2015 outcome document on UN development system's the "fit-for-purpose" ?

These are important questions for our dialogue with Executive Heads this morning, that I will ask you to consider as you listen to their presentations, and engage with them on.

I am delighted that we have at this year's Dialogue:

- Ms. Helen Clark, Chair of the United Nations Development Group and Administrator of UNDP;
- Ms. Anthony Lake, Executive Director of UNICEF
- Mr. Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director of UNFPA , who will be kindly joining us by video-link from Tunisia;
- Ms. Lakshmi Puri, Deputy Executive Director of UN-Women, and
- Mr. Amir Mahmoud Abdulla, Deputy Executive Director of WFP.

We are also very honoured to have H.E. Fernando Carrera Castro, the Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the United Nations and the current chair of the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board, as the lead discussant.

I would now like to begin our Dialogue by first inviting Helen Clark, Chair of UNDG and Administrator of UNDP, to deliver her opening remarks.

Thank you.