

Thank you Mme Vice President for giving me the floor. My delegation would like to commend you on your able leadership in steering the process of the ECOSOC Longer Term Positioning Dialogues. We would also like to thank the UNDS as well as independent experts, for the qualitative background papers.

- As we approach the adoption of the post-2015 agenda, we believe that the United Nations should be a pivotal actor in its implementation. The UN has the capacity and the legitimacy to address global challenges, that no single member state on its own has.

- However, the United Nations central role cannot be taken for granted. Today, the UN faces strong competition from other actors. We believe that the UN provides a crucial "value added" that other venues simply cannot provide. Germany firmly believes that a strong UNDS should be in the interest of all states. In order to render the UN fit for purpose, we should discuss possible reforms.

- We appreciate the analytical categories of the first phase of the ECOSOC dialogues on the longer-term positioning of the UN development system. It has been extremely useful to gain more clarity on the functions before discussing the form the system should adopt.

- Germany welcomes the classification of nine functions introduced by Mr. Lopez-Acuna and Mrs. King. There are interesting new dimensions such as the function described as "direct action and operational work for filling gaps in exceptional situations". We need to focus on the UN development system's comparative advantages as reflected in those nine functions.

- We would also like to express our gratitude for the excellent discussions on funding, governance, capacity and impact, partnerships and organizational arrangements.

- We attach high value to partnerships. Partnership approaches are an important and indispensable component of the discussion on the future functioning of the UN development system. We have to ensure transparency of the UN's partnership efforts while ensuring enhanced accountability within the various partnership activities.

- The most challenging and sensitive task is to discuss the change of the institutional landscape. Organizational arrangements are essential for making the UN "fit for purpose". Past reforms such as the creation of UN Woman and Delivering as One – both are referred to as success stories in UNDS reform – have taken place in the field of organizational arrangements. In our view, radical changes are neither feasible nor positive. However, we have to think about selective and strategic integration. Let me cite from the background paper from Mr. Burley and Mr. Malick: "Some functions and some institutions are ripe for consolidation and merger. More of the same will not work."

- Lastly, in our opinion Member States may require the support of independent high-level experts in elaborating concrete options for the future of the UN development system. Germany would support any such endeavor. (Germany strongly supports any effort to set up such kind of high-level advisory panel.)