



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

21 March 2018

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to transmit herewith a letter, dated 21 March 2018, from H.E. Mr. Sabri Boukadoum, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Algeria and H.E. Mr. Ib Petersen, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Denmark, co-facilitators of the repositioning of the United Nations development system, in the context of the General Assembly resolution 71/243 related to the quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR) of operational activities for development of the UN system.

The co-facilitators are circulating the zero draft of the UN General Assembly resolution on the follow up to the QCPR for the consideration of Member States.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Lajčák', written in a cursive style.

Miroslav Lajčák

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



THE PERMANENT MISSION OF ALGERIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

PERMANENT MISSION OF DENMARK
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



21 March 2018

Excellency,

We would like to thank you for the very constructive and detailed feedback on the draft annotated outline of the General Assembly resolution on the repositioning of the UN development system. Inputs received from groups of states and individual delegations have been circulated to all Member States.

Based on inputs and comments received from Member States, we are pleased to enclose the zero draft of the resolution. The upcoming meeting on Friday, 23 March, will offer an opportunity to discuss the draft. We would be grateful if delegations could provide general feedback, as well as specific comments on each section of the draft. Specific comments and suggestions on each section would help us to better understand the expectations of Member States.

Please note that translation will not be available on Friday due to commitments related to the General Assembly event on Water for Sustainable Development.

We would like to inform you that, in the spirit of full transparency, we will develop a compiled overview of inputs for the text, provided by Member States. The consultations will progress on the basis of a co-facilitators text, the overview will hopefully be useful for Member States by transparently presenting comments and proposals presented by Member States during the process.

We take this opportunity to also inform you about some changes in the proposed calendar of informal consultation. Attached you will find a newly updated calendar, which shows that on 9 April we will have consultations during the morning only. We had to do this to avoid conflict with an other event scheduled in the afternoon on this date.

Finally, we would like to remind you to kindly update your contact details through Gal Buyanover, gal.buyanover@un.org. This is meant to ensure that all communications reach every relevant individual at the Permanent Missions.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.



H.E. Mr. Sabri Boukadoum
Permanent Representative of Algeria
to the United Nations



H.E. Mr. Ib Petersen
Permanent Representative of Denmark
to the United Nations

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

Repositioning of the UN development system

**UPDATED DRAFT CALENDAR OF
GENERAL ASSEMBLY INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS
(as of 21 March 2018)**

DATE	TIME	VENUE
Friday, 16 March	3:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Trusteeship Council Chamber
Friday, 23 March	10:00 am - 1:00 pm 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Trusteeship Council Chamber
Tuesday, 27 March	10:00 am - 1:00 pm 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm	CR 4 ECOSOC Chamber
Tuesday, 3 April	10:00 am - 1:00 pm 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm	CR 1
Wednesday, 4 April	10:00 am - 1:00 pm 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm	CR 1
Monday, 9 April	10:00 am - 1:00 pm	CR 2
Tuesday, 10 April	10:00 am - 1:00 pm 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm	CR 1
Wednesday, 11 April	10:00 am - 1:00 pm 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm	CR 2
Thursday, 12 April	10:00 am - 1:00 pm 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm	ECOSOC Chamber
Friday, 13 April	10:00 am - 1:00 pm 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm	ECOSOC Chamber

**General Assembly resolution on the repositioning of the United Nations development system,
in the context of the QCPR**

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far reaching and people centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, and pledged that no-one would be left behind,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, *welcoming* the Paris Agreement, and *recalling* other relevant intergovernmental agreements,

Reaffirming also its resolution 71/243 of 21 December 2016 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of United Nations operational activities for development and its general guidelines for the United Nations development system,

Reaffirming its recognition that the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the reports of the Secretary-General on repositioning of the UN development system¹, and on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of the United Nations operational activities for development²,

II. A new generation of UN Country Teams

2. *Welcomes* a revitalized, strategic, and results-oriented United Nations Development Assistance Framework as the single most important instrument for planning of UND activities in each country, aligned with national priorities and outlining a clear UN response;
3. *Calls upon* the entities of the UN development system to collaboratively implement a new generation of UN country teams, shifting from a model of representational presence to tailored country presence based on the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and in open and inclusive dialogue between the host Government and the UN development system, facilitated by the Resident Coordinator, to ensure the best configuration of support on the ground, in accordance with national development policies, plans and priorities;
4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to work through the United Nations Sustainable Development Group in ensuring the use of needs-based and indicative quantitative criteria to determine the presence and the composition of the United Nations country teams, taking into account country priorities and national Governments’ requests;

¹ A/72/124-E/2018/3 and A/72/684-E/2018/7

² A/73/63-E/2018/8

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to conduct a review of the configuration, role and development services of multi-country offices, in full consultation with relevant countries
6. *Encourages* the entities of the UN development system to strengthen the expertise and skill sets, particularly to deliver on those Sustainable Development Goals that are lagging behind the most, , as identified in the system-wide outline of present functions and existing capacities of the United Nations development system;
7. *Welcomes* measures for advancing common business operations to enable joint work and generate greater efficiencies;
8. *Reiterates* its call for the entities of the United Nations development system, in full compliance with the respective mandates, to enhance coordination with humanitarian assistance and peacebuilding efforts at the national level in countries facing humanitarian emergencies and in countries in conflict and post-conflict situations;

III. Reinvigorating the role of the Resident Coordinator system

9. *Decides* to create a dedicated, impartial, empowered, and development-focused coordination function of the UN development system by separating the functions of the Resident Coordinator from the UNDP representational function, drawing on the expertise and assets of the entire UN development system entities, including non-resident agencies;
10. *Reaffirms* the important role of UNDP in supporting countries in their efforts to realize their national development goals and targets in accordance with the 2030 Agenda, and *requests* UNDP to place its assets and expertise at the service of the wider development system, under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator;
11. *Requests the Secretary-General to strengthen* the authority and leadership of Resident Coordinators and system-wide accountability on the ground for implementing the 2030 Agenda, through:
 - (a) enhanced authorities for the Resident Coordinator to ensure alignment of both agency programmes with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and of inter-agency pooled funding with national priorities
 - (b) full mutual performance appraisal to strengthen accountability, with Resident Coordinators appraising the performance of UN country team members and UN country team members informing the performance assessment of Resident Coordinators
 - (c) the establishment of a matrixed reporting model, with UN country team members accountable and reporting to their respective entities on individual mandates and reporting to the Resident Coordinator on respective contributions to collective results towards achievement of Agenda 2030 at country level
 - (d) a collectively owned dispute resolution mechanism;
12. *Welcomes* the strengthening of capacities of Resident Coordinators and staff in the Resident Coordinator offices to be fully in accordance with country needs and priorities and in accordance with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;

13. *Welcomes* the strengthening of the Resident Coordinator recruitment process, including with due consideration to gender parity and geographical balance, and, *emphasizes* the need to ensure appropriate competence, expertise and development focus of Resident Coordinators' profiles, and to strengthen the training and interagency recruitment process to that end;
14. *Emphasizes* that the adequate and predictable funding of the Resident Coordinator system is essential to deliver a coherent, effective, efficient and accountable response in accordance with national needs and priorities, and, in this regard, *endorses* the SG's proposal to provide USD255 million annually through assessed contributions to ensure the necessary funding of the Resident Coordinator system;
15. *Welcomes* the Secretary-General's proposals to establish a dedicated coordination fund and, in this regard, *stresses* the need for providing USD35 million to the Resident Coordinator system in support of system-wide activities on the ground and invites Member States to contribute to the capitalization of the United Nations Joint Fund for the 2030 Agenda at USD290 million per annum.
16. *Endorses* the transformation of the UN Development Coordination Office to assume managerial and oversight functions of the Resident Coordinator system under the leadership of an Assistant Secretary-General, as part of the United Nations Secretariat, as a stand-alone coordination office;

IV. Revamping the regional approach

17. *Reaffirms* the critical role of the United Nations development system at the regional level, particularly the Regional Economic Commissions, in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, recognizing the specificities of each regional context and of each Regional Economic Commission;
18. *Endorses* a phased approach, including immediate steps and longer-term options, to strengthen the UN development system at the regional level, and in this regard:
 - (a) *Encourages* the Secretary-General to immediately implement the measures proposed to optimize functions and enhance collaboration at the regional and sub-regional levels; and
 - (b) *looks forward* to options for longer-term reprofiling and restructuring of the regional assets of the United Nations at the 2019 ECOSOC Segment on Operational Activities for Development;

V.Strategic direction, oversight and accountability for system-wide results

19. *Takes note* of the Secretary-General's proposal on the repositioning of the Operational Activities Segment of the Economic and Social Council and looks forward to the outcome of the review of General Assembly resolution 68/1;
20. *Takes note* of the Secretary-General's proposal to gradually merge the NY-based Executive Boards of funds and programmes, and *decides* to grant decision-making authority on areas of joint action to the existing joint meeting of the Executive Boards, and formalize its rules of procedure to increase its impact and value;

21. *Stresses* the need to improve monitoring and reporting on system-wide results and, in this regard, *welcomes* the strengthening of independent system-wide evaluation measures and the establishment of a dedicated unit to that end, as proposed by the Secretary-General;

VI. Funding the United Nations development system

22. *Stresses* the importance of increasing core funding and improving the quality of non-core resources, noting that non-core resources represent an important contribution to the overall resource base of United Nations operational activities for development as a complement to, and not a substitute for, core resources;
23. *Encourages* the UN development system to work systematically and in a collaborative manner to broaden and diversify the contributors' funding base to increase the volume and sustainability of funding;
24. *Encourages* the entities of the United Nations development system to complement core funding by enhancing the use of inter-agency pooled funding mechanisms that reflect and support common objectives and cross-cutting issues for United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, and also encourages entities of the United Nations development system to increase entity-specific thematic funds to improve the quality of earmarked funding;
25. *Welcomes* the Secretary-General's call for a Funding Compact, as a critical tool to maximize the investments of Member States in the United Nations development system and the system's transparency of development spending and accountability for system-wide results, including the Secretary-General's proposals to bring core resources to at least a 30% level in the next five years, double both inter-agency pooled funds to a total of USD3.4 billion and entity-specific thematic funds to a total of USD800 million by 2023;
26. *Requests* the UN development system, as part of its commitment to the Funding Compact, to:
- (a) *provide* annual reporting on system-wide support to the Sustainable Development Goals and present aggregated information on system-wide results by 2021;
 - (b) *enrol* into the International Aid Transparency Initiative or similar initiatives to enhance transparency and access to financial information in all UN development system entities, and comply fully with international transparency standards;
 - (c) *undergo* independent system-wide evaluations of results achieved, at global, regional and country level;
 - (d) *comply fully* with existing full cost recovery policies and *further harmonize* cost recovery by individual UN development system entities through differentiated approaches;
 - (e) *allocate* at least 15% of non-core resources to joint activities
 - (f) *enhance* visibility of Member States' contributions to core resources and pooled funds, and related results;
27. *Welcomes* the Secretary-General's proposal to launch a Funding Dialogue to operationalize the Funding Compact and serve as an accountability platform for the implementation of and follow-up to the Funding Compact;

VII. Following-up on the UNDS repositioning efforts at the global, regional and country level

28. *Requests* the UN Sustainable Development Group to streamline the system-wide strategic document in light of the present resolution and the feedback provided over the course of consultations, and *further requests* the Secretary-General to submit the next system-wide strategic document to the 2019 ECOSOC Segment of Operational Activities for Development;
29. *Reaffirms* the role of the Department of Social and Economic Affairs, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 70/299;
30. *Welcomes* the Secretary-General's proposals to strengthen a UN system-wide approach to partnerships, *notes* the partnership agreement with the World Bank and *further urges* the UN development system to strengthen its relationship with the International Financial Institutions, while upholding the principles, objectives and priorities of the United Nations;
31. *Stresses* the importance of supporting South-South and triangular cooperation, recalling that South-South and triangular cooperation is a complement and not a substitute for North-South cooperation;
32. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Economic and Social Council on progress in the implementation of the mandates contained in the present resolution, and the mandates contained in the QCPR resolution 71/243 at the 2019 ECOSOC Segment on Operational Activities for Development, and to the 74th session of the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, to inform the next cycle of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review to be launched in 2020.