



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1 May 2018

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter, dated 30 April 2018, from H.E. Mr. Sabri Boukadoum, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Algeria and H.E. Mr. Ib Petersen, Ambassador and 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.

In this regard, I have further the honour to share the final draft of the resolution on the repositioning of the United Nations development system, in the context of the QCPR, which is now under silence procedure until Friday, 4 May 2018 at 1:00 p.m., New York time.

I would like to also take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation, and that of my Office, to the Co-facilitators for their able leadership in facilitating the consultations as well as to all delegations for their constructive engagement throughout the process.

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



Miroslav Lajčák

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



THE PERMANENT MISSION OF ALGERIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



30 April 2018

Excellency,

We would like to thank you for your engagement and constructive spirit throughout the course of the General Assembly process on the repositioning of the UN development system, in the context of the QCPR. After more than six weeks of intensive consultations, we have now come at a decisive moment.

Enclosed you will find the final draft of the resolution on the repositioning of the UN development system, based on the ideas, suggestions and feedback received. It will remain under silence procedure until Friday, 4 May, at 1:00 pm. We count on your continuous spirit of flexibility and cooperation so that we can adopt the text as is, and proceed without further delay with the implementation of the changes required to ensure a UN development system that is “strategic, accountable, transparent, collaborative, efficient, effective and results-oriented”, as we called for in the 2016 QCPR.

We are particularly grateful for your support to the proposed hybrid solution on the funding of the reinvigorated Resident Coordinator system. We did our best effort in reconciling and reflecting in the most comprehensive and yet concise manner all the different views on the best way ahead, while ensuring the necessary predictability and sustainability of resources that an impartial and empowered Resident Coordinator system will need. A technical note will be circulated shortly to provide information underpinning the key elements of this funding model.

We rely on your continued collaboration to conclude our work. The future of the UN development system, and its ability to support our efforts to realize the 2030 Agenda, depends on us. Let us come together and show a united resolve to move towards the system we need for the world we want.

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

Sabri Boukadoum
Permanent Representative of Algeria
to the United Nations

Ib Petersen
Permanent Representative of Denmark
to the United Nations

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

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

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming 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 and principles for the United Nations development system, to better position the United Nations operational activities for development to support countries in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda,

Taking note with appreciation of the reports of the Secretary-General on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of United Nations operational activities for development¹ and welcoming his efforts on repositioning of the UN development system,

II. A new generation of UN Country Teams

1. *Welcomes* a revitalized, strategic, flexible, results- and action-oriented United Nations Development Assistance Framework as the most important instrument for planning and implementation of UN development activities in each country, in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, to be prepared and finalized in full consultation and agreement with national governments;
2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to lead the efforts of the entities of the UN development system to collaboratively implement a new generation of UN country teams, with needs-based tailored country presence, to be built on the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and finalized through an 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, as well as enhanced coordination transparency, efficiency and impact of UN development activities, in accordance with national development policies, plans, priorities, and country needs;
3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to work through the United Nations Sustainable Development Group, and in consultation with concerned Member States, to determine appropriate criteria regarding the presence and the composition of the United Nations country teams, based on country development priorities and long-term needs, the approved United Nations Development Assistance Framework, in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter, as well as UN norms and standards;
4. *Request* the Secretary-General, in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 71/243, to conduct a review of the configuration, capacity, resource needs, role and development services of multi-country offices, in full consultation with involved countries to improve their contribution to country progress in achieving the 2030 Agenda, to be presented at the 2019 ECOSOC Operational Activities Segment;
5. *Calls on* the entities of the UN development system to strengthen the capacities, resources and skill sets to support national governments in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and,

¹ A/72/124-E/2018/3, A/72/684-E/2018/7 and A/73/63-E/2018/8

where relevant, build the capacities and expertise across UN agencies, funds and programmes to promote progress on those Goals lagging behind, in line with respective mandates and building on comparative advantages, and reducing gaps, overlaps and duplication across entities;

6. *Welcomes* measures by the Secretary-General for advancing common business operations, where appropriate, including common back-offices and with the target of 50% common premises by 2021, to enable joint work and generate greater efficiencies, synergies and coherence, and *requests* their implementation in accordance with General Assembly resolution 71/243;

III. Reinvigorating the role of the Resident Coordinator system

7. *Reaffirms* that the Resident Coordinator system should remain sustainable development focused, with the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, consistent with the integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda, as its overarching objective, in line with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework as well as national leadership and ownership;
8. *Decides* to create a dedicated, independent, impartial, empowered, and sustainable development-focused coordination function of the UN development system by separating the functions of the Resident Coordinator from the UNDP Resident Representative, drawing on the expertise and assets of the entire UN development system entities, including non-resident agencies;
9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to strengthen the authority and leadership of Resident Coordinators over United Nations country teams and system-wide accountability on the ground for implementing the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and support countries in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as the highest ranking representative of the UN development system, through:
 - (a) enhanced authority for the Resident Coordinator to ensure alignment of both agency programmes and of inter-agency pooled funding for development with national development needs and priorities as well as with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, in consultation with the national government
 - (b) full mutual and collective performance appraisal to strengthen accountability and impartiality, with Resident Coordinators appraising the performance of UN country team heads and UN country team heads informing the performance assessment of Resident Coordinators
 - (c) the establishment of a clear matrixed dual reporting model, with UN country team members accountable and reporting to their respective entities on individual mandates, and periodically reporting to the Resident Coordinator on their individual activities, as well as on their respective contributions to the collective results of the UN development system towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda at country level, based on the United Nations Development Assistance Framework
 - (d) reporting by the Resident Coordinator to the Secretary-General and to the host government on the implementation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework
 - (e) a collectively owned internal dispute resolution mechanism;

10. *Emphasizes* that adequate, predictable and sustainable 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, *decides*, to provide sufficient funding in line with the report of the Secretary-General² annually from 1 January 2019 through:
 - a one percent coordination levy on tightly earmarked third party³ non-core contributions to UN development-related activities, to be paid at source;
 - doubling the current UNDG cost-sharing arrangement among UN development system entities;
 - voluntary, predictable, multiyear contributions to a dedicated Trust Fund to support the inception period;
11. *Strongly urges* all Member States to contribute to the Trust Fund, in particular as front-loaded contributions for the inception of the reinvigorated RC system, and in a timely manner, to ensure necessary, predictable and sustainable funding for the inception period;
12. *Calls* on all Member States in the relevant governing bodies of all UN development system entities to ensure that all entities double their agreed contributions under the current UNDG cost-sharing arrangement;
13. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultations with the UN development system entities, to present an implementation plan for the inception of the reinvigorated RC system, including on the operationalization of its funding arrangements, to the General Assembly, before the end of the 72nd session;
14. *Emphasizes* the need to ensure full achievement of efficiency gains envisioned in the Report of the Secretary-General⁴ in a timely manner and redeploy these efficiency gains for development activities, including coordination;
15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report annually to the ECOSOC Segment on Operational Activities for Development on the implementation of a reinvigorated Resident Coordinator system, including its funding, starting in 2019, to ensure accountability towards Member States;
16. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit for the consideration of the General Assembly, before the end of its 75th Session, a review with recommendations on the functioning of the reinvigorated Resident Coordinator system, including its funding arrangement;
17. *Endorses* the transformation of the UN Development Operations Coordination Office to assume managerial and oversight functions of the Resident Coordinator system under the leadership of an Assistant Secretary-General, and under the collective ownership of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group members, as a stand-alone coordination office within the Secretariat, reporting to the Chair of the UN Sustainable Development Group, and *requests* the Chair to present a comprehensive report on an annual basis, including on the operational, administrative and financing aspects of the activities of the UN Development Operations Coordination Office, to the ECOSOC Segment on Operational Activities for Development;

² A/72/684-E/2018/7

³ The levy would not be charged on local government cost sharing and cooperation among programme countries.

⁴ A/72/684-E/2018/7

IV. Revamping the regional approach

18. *Reaffirms* the role and functions of the United Nations development system at the regional level including the Regional Economic Commissions and the regional teams of the United Nations development system, and *underlines* the need to continue to make them fit for purpose in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and to revamp the regional structures recognizing the specificities of each region and bearing in mind that no one size fits all;
19. *Emphasizes* the need to address gaps and overlaps at the regional level and *endorses* a phased approach to revamp the UN development system at the regional level, and in this regard *requests* the Secretary-General to:
 - (a) as part of the first phase, implement the proposed measures to optimize functions and enhance collaboration at the regional and sub-regional levels; and
 - (b) provide options, on a region by region basis, 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

20. *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 ongoing review of General Assembly resolution 68/1;
21. *Takes note* of the Secretary-General's proposal to gradually merge the New York-based Executive Boards of funds and programmes, and *urges* Member States to continue making practical changes to further enhance the working methods of the Boards with the aim of improving the efficiency, transparency and quality of governance structures, including through deciding on ways to improve the functions of the Joint Meeting of the Boards;
22. *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 by the Secretary-General, including improving existing capacities;
23. *Welcomes* the decision by the Secretary-General to brief the Economic and Social Council in his capacity as Chair of the Chief Executives Board, to ensure full transparency in the activities of the Board and improve its effective interaction with and its responsiveness to the Member States;

VI. Funding the United Nations development system

24. *Recognizes* that significantly improving its voluntary and grant-based funding is vital to the successful repositioning of the United Nations development system as well as for strengthening its multilateral nature, with the aim of better supporting countries in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda in line with national needs and priorities in a coherent and integrated manner;
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 and accountability for system-wide actions and results, and, recognizing the need to address the imbalance between core and non-core resources, *takes note* of 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. *Welcomes* the Secretary-General's proposals to establish a dedicated coordination fund and, in this regard, *invites* Member States to provide voluntary contributions in the amount of USD35 million to the Resident Coordinator system, in support of system-wide activities on the ground associated with the implementation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;
27. *Invites* Member States to contribute on a voluntary basis to the capitalization of the United Nations Joint Fund for the 2030 Agenda at USD290 million per annum;
28. *Welcomes* the Secretary-General's commitment to reposition the United Nations development system in accordance with Member States' calls in General Assembly resolution 71/243 and the present resolution, *recognizes* that this commitment to reform is an essential component of a Funding Compact, and therefore *requests* the UN development system, as the starting point for 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) *comply with* the highest international transparency standards to enhance transparency and access to financial information in all UN development system entities;
 - (c) *undergo* independent system-wide evaluations of results achieved, at global, regional and country level;
 - (d) *comply with* existing full cost recovery policies and *further harmonize* cost recovery by individual UN development system entities through differentiated approaches;
 - (e) *allocate*, where applicable, at least 15% of non-core resources for development to joint activities;
 - (f) *enhance* visibility of Member States' contributions to core resources and pooled funds, and related results;
 - (g) *achieve* efficiency gains as envisioned by the Secretary-General in his report⁵;
 - (h) *achieve* common results at the country level;
29. *Welcomes* the Secretary-General's proposal to launch a Funding Dialogue in 2018 with the view to finalize a Funding Compact in the form of a commitment between the UN development system and Member States, and *requests* the Secretary-General to report on the outcome of the Funding Dialogue at the 2019 ECOSOC Segment on Operational Activities for Development, noting that the Funding Compact relates to voluntary funding of the UN Development system as well as other contributions;

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

30. *Requests* the heads of the entities of the UN development system, under the leadership of the Secretary-General, to submit to the 2019 ECOSOC Segment of Operational Activities for

⁵ A/72/684-E/2018/7

Development, for Member States' consideration, a system-wide strategic document in light of the present resolution and in line with General Assembly resolution 71/243, and to ensure that it is specific, concrete and targeted in addressing gaps and overlaps;

31. *Reaffirms* the role of the Department of Social and Economic Affairs and *looks forward to* the Secretary-General's update to the Member States on the alignment of the Department with the 2030 Agenda, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 70/299;
32. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure an effective and efficient transition to a repositioned UN development system, particularly to a reinvigorated Resident Coordinator system, including by giving due consideration to the role of a responsive UNDP as the support platform of the UN development system providing an integrator function in support of countries in their efforts to realize the 2030 Agenda;
33. *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 as part of his annual reporting to the 2019 ECOSOC Segment on Operational Activities for Development, and to the 74th session of the General Assembly for its further consideration and to inform the next cycle of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review to be launched in 2020.