

**Draft Statement on behalf of the African Group by the Permanent
Representative of Burundi
2024 ECOSOC Operational Activities Segment
High-Level Dialogue with the Secretary-General**

14 May 2024

Mr. Vice President,

Mr. Secretary General,

Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates,

1. I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group.
2. The African Group aligns itself with the statement delivered by Uganda on behalf of the G77 and China.
3. We thank you, Mr. Vice President, for convening this meeting and Mr. Secretary-General for your pivotal report on the QCPR, reflecting significant reforms that enhance the UNDS's operational effectiveness. We also appreciate the dedicated efforts of Madam DSG, DESA and DCO in supporting these reforms.
4. We appreciate the increased transparency in governance and oversight provided by the ECOSOC OAS over the RC System and DCO, as affirmed by resolution 72/279, and value the enhanced reporting and availability of technical support from the DCO which sufficiently meets our Group's needs.
3. These efforts are essential for promoting coherence and ensuring that integrated policy support meets the specific needs of program countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, tailored according to national priorities. We look forward to the comprehensive deliberations expected over the next few days.

Excellencies,

4. The African Group has consistently supported the UNDS reforms, engaging with the Member States to advance these efforts. As the largest recipient of the RC system, which includes 53 RCs and offices, Africa directly feels the impact of any challenges within this system.

5. Our continent's diverse needs, from hosting SIDS, MICs to LDCs and LLDCs, we require tailored support from the UN to advance the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, along with the Agenda 2063. Data shows that post-reforms, the UNDS, led by the RCs, is providing support tailored to each country's specific needs.
6. We welcome the more detailed, evidence-based reports provided to the ECOSOC, which offer greater specificity regarding the RC system's budget and staffing. This aligns with the Secretary-General's budget report and enhances our understanding of the operational dynamics.
7. We acknowledge with appreciation the feedback provided by the African countries through the DESA surveys is clear:
 - 91% of respondents agree that Resident Coordinators possess the necessary profiles and skillsets.
 - 92% confirm that Resident Coordinators effectively lead the UN Country Teams in delivering strategic support for national plans and priorities.
 - 94% approve of how Cooperation Frameworks have enabled ensuring that UN activities effectively respond to national priorities.
8. We commend the progress made in the implementation of the reforms and the concrete results achieved by the UNDS and the RC system, particularly in countries like Kenya, Egypt and the Democratic Republic of Congo from our Continent. The integration of expertise across the system and the convening of partners under the leadership of the RCs to mobilize implementation means for the SDGs has markedly improved.
9. However, we remain deeply concerned about the funding situation. The current shortfall of \$64 million out of a total budget of \$281 million risks undermining the effective delivery of programmatic activities. This funding gap threatens the sustainability of the RC system in developing countries—a situation that Africa cannot afford.
10. We reiterate our support for the Secretary-General's proposal for predictable and sustainable funding for the RC system and urge all delegations to engage constructively in the Fifth Committee to resolve this funding issue. The Funding Compact remains a critical tool for quality funding of the UNDS. While we commend the efforts made by the UNDS to meet their commitments, it is regrettable that Member States have not met their agreed targets.

11. In conclusion, we look forward to strengthening discussions on funding, both here in New York and at the country level and welcome the new Funding Compact as a vital instrument to support the repositioned UNDS in delivering on Member States' expectations.

I thank you.