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**Informal consultation on QCPR status reporting  
7 February 2024, 10-11am, ECOSOC Chamber  
Summary**

On 7 February 2024, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) convened an informal consultation with Member States, in line with General Assembly resolution [78/166](#) of 19 December 2023, which requested the Secretary-General to provide, within existing resources and beginning June 2024, status reporting on the implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities of the United Nations system (QCPR) following open and inclusive informal consultation with Member States. The informal consultation, with opening remarks by Mr. Li Junhua, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, and moderated by Mr. Navid Hanif, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, provided an opportunity for Member States to voice their expectations and provide suggestions for enhancing QCPR status reporting to support engagement in negotiating a new QCPR in 2024.

In his opening remarks, USG Li set the stage for the discussion by underlining the criticality of 2024 as a pivotal year for the multilateral system. Noting the slow progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and amid multiple global crises, USG Li stressed the urgent need for collective action to implement the 2030 Agenda, whose vision remained central as reiterated in the SDG Summit Political Declaration. The United Nations development system (UNDS) was demonstrating its value in supporting Member States' efforts to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Through the 2024 QCPR, the General Assembly would have the opportunity to orient the UN's development work until the end of 2028, just short of the 2030 deadline.

USG Li noted that this consultation would play a key part in highlighting the context and priorities to be addressed in the next QCPR cycle. Also underscored were the significance of the ECOSOC operational activities for development segment (OAS) as the accountability platform for the UNDS, as well as meetings of the UNDS entities' governing bodies for meaningful engagement with Member States on relevant issues such as the reform checklist. USG Li reiterated the Secretariat's commitment to deliver a comprehensive analysis of progress in the implementation of the current QCPR, in the 2024 Secretary-General's report and the UNSDG Chair's report on the Development Coordination Office. Both reports would be complemented by detailed annexes and addenda, including the QCPR Monitoring Framework and the Resident Coordinator system Results Framework, as well as data on the system-wide contribution to the SDGs and detailed funding and expenditure statistics, including an overview of resources of the Resident Coordinator system Special Purpose Trust Fund. Lastly, USG Li laid out the Secretariat's plans, in cooperation with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), to hold a series of capacity building training activities on the QCPR to support Member States for the upcoming QCPR negotiations.



ASG Hanif framed the interactive discussions around three key questions, namely: (i) what were the gaps in the current QCPR framework; (ii) how to improve the flow of information to Member States; (iii) how to improve policy integration to support countries in their efforts to implement Agenda 2030? These were the crux of paragraph 10 of UNGA resolution 78/166 calling for the consultations.

During the interactive discussion, delegates expressed their appreciation for the informal consultation and for the activities envisaged by the Secretariat ahead of the QCPR negotiation, including the proposed UNITAR training series. It was noted that Member States would benefit highly from learning not only what has worked well, but also the gaps and challenges that the UNDS is facing in QCPR implementation. They mentioned the need for more disaggregated data, as well as other data sources besides the quantitative QCPR surveys, to provide the evidence base for QCPR status reporting.

Many delegations expressed particular interest in learning more about how the regional level activities of the United Nations development system affected country level support and results.

They also requested more focused reporting on the engagement efforts across UN entities with critical stakeholders, such as international financial institutions and civil society organizations. This could be achieved through informal briefings that would include the participation of various stakeholders.

Several delegates highlighted the need for addressing the normative aspects of UNDS support to countries, particularly in the areas of gender equality and women's empowerment, disability inclusion, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, as well as climate and environment. They requested more information on how the repositioned UNDS, including resident coordinators and United Nations country teams, was offering enhanced coherence in these fields.

There was also keen interest in establishing a clearer focus on support to Middle Income Countries (MICs), with delegates stressing that MICs faced several constraints to sustainable development, particularly with respect to accessing development finance. To revive progress towards the SDGs, it was essential to make a clear assessment of MICs' national priorities and needs, as well as to develop new measures of progress beyond GDP.

Several delegates also noted the need to gain insight on how the system was working together across humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding pillars, noting the importance of better understanding the links across these "triple" interventions, in addition to information on collaboration across humanitarian-development on the one hand and development-peacebuilding on the other.

Interest was also expressed on an assessment of the focus and results of joint United Nations business operations.



Throughout the interactive discussion, it was pointed out that 2024 would be a particularly busy year for delegations with preparations for the Summit of the Future and other important intergovernmental processes. Thus, keeping in mind capacity constraints in the Permanent Missions, delegates requested for additional information on QCPR status reporting to be provided in a concise and focused manner, including through dedicated briefings. Delegates also called for improved information flow of existing data and documents, suggesting the setting up of a dedicated webpage where relevant information could be centralized. A QCPR timeline highlighting key steps in the 2024 QCPR process was also requested.

Following the interventions by Member States, ASG Hanif thanked participants for their insightful views and invited Mr. Neil Pierre, Director a.i., UNDESA Office for Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for sustainable development, and Mr. Christopher Stokes, Senior Advisor to the Director, Development Coordination Office, to address some of the questions and comments raised by delegations. Mr. Pierre emphasized the importance of qualitative analyses alongside quantitative data in understanding the impact of United Nations development system's work on the ground and informed that the Secretariat would prepare a list of topics for briefings on QCPR status reporting based on the views expressed at the consultation. He further acknowledged the necessity to involve various stakeholders in the briefings and ensure improved accessibility to information through online resources, the links for which will be provided.

Mr. Stokes expressed appreciation for the issues discussed and acknowledged the value of deep diving to fully understand some critical issues. He noted in particular the complexity of working at the regional level and the two major functions it entailed: management and support to country offices in a more decentralized manner, as well as regional programming. He also acknowledged the relevance of providing more information on the United Nations' work across humanitarian, development, peace interventions and the specific challenges faced by the UNDS in contexts where UN peacekeeping missions were drawing down. The need for improved reporting on support to MICs was also acknowledged. Mr. Stokes also mentioned DCO's efforts to further improve visibility of system-wide results at country level. In conclusion, he stated that DCO will work closely with DESA to fully support Member States' discussions on QCPR status reporting in preparation for the next QCPR, including on the funding analysis, especially in the context of the Funding Compact.

ASG Hanif concluded the session by stressing the importance of economic recovery and achieving SDGs for people and planet. He emphasized that funding was one of the key drivers to bring together the UNDS to work as one, including adequate and predictable funding for the resident coordinator system, which was essential for a cohesive, effective and efficient UNDS. He concluded by expressing the commitment of the United Nations to continue improving its support to countries in achieving the SDGs.

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