

**2024 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities**  
**17 May 2024**  
**President's Summary**

**H.E. Mr. Zephyrin Maniratanga, Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations and President of the 2024 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities**

The 2024 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities was held on 17 May 2024, at the United Nations Headquarters, New York. This was the first Pledging Conference for development activities since Member States reviewed the format and relevance of the Pledging Conference in 2021 and adopted General Assembly decision 75/511. The 2024 Pledging Conference included a substantive dialogue initiated by a panel of high-level Government representatives and senior UN officials.

The Conference elected **His Excellency Mr. Zephyrin Maniratanga, Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations**, as President. In his remarks, the President highlighted changes made to the Conference with the adoption of General Assembly decision 75/511, including the adjustment that focuses the Conference on activities delivered together by the United Nations development system.

**Mr. Li Junhua, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs**, contextualized the Pledging Conference in the current status of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with most of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) lagging or regressing. Despite this, Mr. Li underscored the continued commitment of countries to the SDGs, expressed through the Political Declaration adopted at the 2023 SDG Summit and the high interest in countries offering to present voluntary national reviews at the High-Level Political Forum each year. He noted the key role of the United Nations system in supporting SDG implementation.

*“For the system to reach its full potential and provide the effective, strategic support that countries need, funding that is sustainable, flexible and predictable (is required).”*

Mr. Junhua Li, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)

**Mr. Navid Hanif, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs**, presented an overview of the quantity and quality of funding to the United Nations development system, referencing the [addendum to the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the QCPR](#)<sup>1</sup>.

*“(The) low proportion of core funding poses a threat to the coherence and effectiveness of the United Nations development system's work.”*

Mr. Navid Hanif, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)

Mr. Hanif highlighted that funding to the UN development system increased by 17 per cent in 2022 compared to 2021, with growth attributed to an increase in non-core funding. This resulted in the share of core funding dropping to just 16.5 per cent of total funding, which he said posed a threat to the coherence and effectiveness of the UN development system's work. Mr. Hanif emphasized the importance of scaling-up pooled funding mechanisms that drive joint

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<sup>1</sup> A/79/72/Add.1-E/2024/12/Add.1

action across United Nations entities. He noted that funding to inter-agency pooled funds had generally been on the rise since 2015, though a small decline was seen in 2022. He therefore underscored the importance for the UN development system to further promote this funding mechanism. More broadly, he noted that attracting high quality funding continues to be a major challenge for the United Nations development system.

Mr. Hanif also expressed concern over the narrow donor base of the United Nations development system, pointing to the fact that 3 government contributors accounted for over 40 per cent of all funding in 2022. He mentioned that contributions from host country governments can help alleviate some of this high dependency on the traditional top donors. To that end, a 42 per cent increase in funding received from host country governments was noted since 2015. Though he also underscored the importance of the UN development system to expand its funding base beyond governments, including the private sector and other multilateral organizations.

**H.E. Mr. Abdulaziz Alwasil, Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations**, noted the importance of the Pledging Conference, and its crucial role in mobilizing resources to address global development challenges and to improve the lives of people worldwide. He underscored the necessity to build resilience to navigate today's global challenges. He emphasized his country's commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to international cooperation, referencing Saudi Arabia's position as one of the top providers of foreign aid, including Official Development Assistance. He highlighted Saudi Arabia's partnership with the UN development system, which has strengthened in recent years with a focus on South-South development cooperation and through financial support to the preparations of UN Conferences for SIDS and LLDCs. He also highlighted the need to expand the funding base of the UN development system, including through strengthened partnerships with Member States, the private sector and international financial institutions.

*"I want to reaffirm the importance of this conference, and its crucial role in mobilizing resources to address global challenges such as poverty alleviation, healthcare access, education, infrastructure development, and much more)."*

H.E. Mr. Abdulaziz Alwasil, Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations

*"Strong multilateralism requires strong funding mechanisms. Inter-agency pooled funds, by promoting more flexibility and predictability, are crucial for adapting to dynamic global challenges and ensuring sustained support for joint actions aligned with the SDGs."*

Ms. Jennifer Topping, Executive Coordinator, UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office

**Ms. Jennifer Topping, Executive Coordinator, UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office**, noted the importance of flexible and predictable funding to the UN system. She highlighted the transformative role of inter-agency pooled funds through leveraging the strengths of individual UN entities, and fostering collaboration and coherence to address complex, multidimensional issues that no single actor can address alone. Ms. Topping also emphasized that inter-agency pooled funding facilitates cohesion in UN country teams by providing resident coordinators with a partnership platform to coordinate

joint action and establish strategic dialogue with stakeholders.

Following the panelists remarks, Member States made interventions, highlighting the importance of the Conference as a mechanism for giving visibility to their financial contributions to the UN development system to support sustainable development in their own countries, as well as in other programme countries. Member States also welcomed the reformatted Pledging Conference, observing that the

discussions built naturally on the 2024 ECOSOC operational activities for development segment, laying a good foundation for future meetings. Some delegations stressed the need for more advance planning for future Pledging Conferences, while building on its proximity to the ECOSOC operational activities for development segment.

The Conference heard the announcement of pledges by several Governments to specific United Nations programmes and funds, while others indicated their intent to announce contributions in the future. In his concluding remarks, the President informed that the Secretary-General would maintain a list of pledges made or announced until 31 December 2024, to which Member States may continue to contribute, following the closing of the Conference.

The Conference was attended by representatives of Member States, Observer States and representatives of international organizations, including the United Nations system.