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**UNITAR training for Member States on the QCPR**

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Module 4: Looking forward to the 2024 QCPR

Session: Recap and key messages from the training series

Dear distinguished participants, colleagues.

I want to thank UNITAR and the Permanent Mission of Switzerland, as co-organizers with DESA, for supporting this important training opportunity for Member States and QCPR delegates.

The new 2024 QCPR resolution, which will be negotiated in the coming weeks, will provide key policy orientation and strategic guidance to the United Nations development system over the next 4 years - the last full quadrennial cycle ahead of the 2030 deadline.

The 2024 QCPR resolution can catalyze a more concerted push towards achieving the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As such, the timing of this resolution is unique.

The resolution comes at the end of the 2020 cycle that has seen the transformation of a repositioned UN development system, and three years after the review of the resident coordinator system.

Just over a week ago, in the Pact for the Future, Member States recommitted to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the 2023 SDG Summit Political Declaration through urgent and scaled-up action, policies and investments with the goal to end poverty and hunger and leave no one behind.

The QCPR will also guide the UN development system's response and follow-up to key upcoming global events including the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, the Second World Summit for Social Development and the UN Climate Change Conferences.

During the first three modules of the UNITAR training series delegates have discussed key QCPR topics, across key aspects of the United Nations Development System support to Member States, acceleration of the SDG

implementation, funding of the UN operational activities for development and financing for the SDGs.

I'd like to offer a few points to recap some key takeaways from the earlier modules touching on important achievements of the UN development system, gaps and challenges over the cycle and some policy implications to consider moving forward.

### **Achievements of the System**

Firstly, the discussions and briefings in the first three training modules showed that the United Nations development system has made notable achievements in recent years. The system is now fully repositioned and able to support the needed SDG acceleration.

The Resident Coordinator System and the new generation of Cooperation Frameworks have significantly strengthened the United Nations ability to scale up joint planning and respond to national needs in a more coordinated and effective manner.

Compared to 2020, United Nations country teams' support is better aligned with national priorities, leading to more targeted and integrated development assistance.

The United Nations has achieved \$553 million in efficiency gains in 2023, representing a 37% increase from the previous year, allowing for reinvestment into programmes.

However, the system must continue evolving. The new QCPR cycle offers an opportunity for further refinement.

### **Gaps and Challenges**

The UN development system is entrusted with supporting countries' SDG achievement. Yet, there is more that can be done to integrate the SDGs into government action. With under a fifth of the SDGs on track, more ambitious policies are acutely necessary to meet the targets.

LDCs and SIDS have been disproportionately affected by the economic fallout of COVID-19, with significant drops in GDP growth and high levels of debt, limiting their capacity to invest in SDG progress.

Declining core funding remains a significant concern, affecting the UN's ability to implement development programmes.

Private sector engagement, while improving, remains underutilized, and inefficiencies persist in business tools and service delivery.

Many countries struggle to mobilize finance, especially in terms of closing the financing divide and boosting private-sector collaboration for sustainable development.

The UN development system can be empowered to play a much greater role in supporting efforts for tailoring expertise and policy solutions to the individual needs of countries and also boosting its capacity for supporting efforts to finance SDG acceleration.

Another area is ensuring the UN development system can better provide a systems-approach to expertise and policy advice.

Coordination between humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding efforts is still fragmented, requiring more structured integration.

And while climate change has been integrated into many cooperation frameworks, issues like biodiversity and pollution are under-addressed despite their critical importance to sustainability.

### **Key policy considerations**

To accelerate progress toward the SDGs, several policy considerations came through:

1. **Supporting systemic transitions for SDG achievement** by tackling key SDG gaps and areas that can have positive spillovers for other SDGs to boost synergies and minimize trade-offs across sectors, for example in areas of energy, environment and food systems.
2. **Accelerating SDG-oriented policy frameworks and improving resilience**, including through public-private partnerships and investments in human capital.
3. **Boosting the system's capacity to support national SDG Financing** and play a more integrated role in supporting national efforts, including through Integrated National Financing Frameworks and through leveraging the Resident Coordinator's convening role.

4. **Tailoring solutions** to the specific needs of countries, particularly those with fragile economies, countries in complex situations to ensure ambitious but practical support to foster sustainable development pathways.
  
5. **Delivering system-wide support and alignment with national priorities** embodied through the cooperation frameworks and reflecting different lenses of support, including UN expertise at regional and global level.
  
6. **Fulfilling mutual accountability and Funding Compact commitments** including increasing core and pooled funding is crucial for flexible and sustainable financing. This means moving away from short-term project-based funding toward sustainable, integrated policy-based financing, especially in vulnerable and least developed countries. It also means exploring options for more effective private sector engagement.
  
7. **Improving coherence in accountability and oversight with Member States continuing to play a central role**. This means through the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, to ensure coherence and common support across UN development system governing bodies to enable better system-wide delivery.

These reflections from the training series highlight areas where your guidance is needed in the upcoming QCPR negotiations.

I wish you a productive session ahead and can assure you of my offices' continued full support on this journey.

Thank you!