



ECOSOC GUIDING UN WORK ON THE GROUND - OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT SEGMENT (20-22 MAY 2025)

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Exercise from the QCPR Delegate's retreat (June 2024)

How to explain the QCPR to a primary school child?

Countries team up to tell parts of the UN what to do to help solve big problems like poverty, hunger, and unfairness. They write these instructions in a document and check every year to see if it's working.

And the translation:

Countries team up to tell parts of the UN ([UNDS](#)) what to do to help solve big problems like poverty, hunger, and unfairness ([OAD](#)). They write these instructions in a document ([the QCPR](#)) and check every year to see if it's working ([ECOSOC OAS and the General Assembly](#)).



What is Operational Activities for Development (OAD) and who is the UN development system (UNDS)?

What is OAD?

Operational Activities for Development (OAD) are UN development activities delivered to 162 countries and territories to support the 2030 Agenda and achieve the SDGs.

What is the UNDS?

The **UN development system (UNDS)** includes all UN entities conducting operational activities for development (OAD).

How much was spent on OAD in 2023 (USD)?

\$51.3 billion
UNDS OAD (75% of all UN spending)

**\$20.5 billion in
Development
assistance**

**\$30.8 billion in
Humanitarian
assistance**



What is the UN Sustainable Development Group?

- The UNSDG is the internal UN strategic coordination and policy mechanism for the UN development system.
- **Chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General**, it includes **38 entities**

UNDP, UNCDF,
UNV, UNEP,
UNFPA,
UN Habitat,
UNHCR, UNICEF,
UNRWA,
UN Women, WFP

11 Funds &
programmes

FAO, IFAD, ILO,
ITU, UNESCO,
UNIDO, WHO,
WIPO, WMO

9 Specialized
agencies

DESA, ECA, ECE,
ECLAC, ESCAP,
ESCWA, OCHA,
OHCHR,
UNCTAD, DPPA,
PBSO, UNOCT,
UNODC, UNDRR

14 Secretariat
departments

IOM, ITC,
UNAIDS, UNOPS

4 Other Entities

What is the QCPR? ([A/RES/79/226](#))

- General Assembly resolution [79/226](#) titled “**Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system**”

Q Since 1969, **quadrennial** from 2012, next review 2028

C **Strategic guidance** to the whole UN development system.

P **System-wide policy** for country level cooperation

R Assess **effectiveness, efficiency, coherence & impact**

Key issues for the 2024 QCPR

- Improving support to countries through the **resident coordinator system, UN country teams**, regional and global integrated policy support and business operations
- Improving **policy actions and tools**, for better UN collective support and configuration, delivering more effective tailored support to country situations and to leave no one behind
- Scaling **up means of implementation** through financing for development, partnerships, science, technology and innovation, including digital and data systems.
- Fortifying **UNDS accountability and oversight** including funding

ECOSOC OAS is the accountability platform for the UNDS and QCPR



General Assembly (2C)

- Policy guidance through the QCPR
- Annual GA Second Committee resolution (Q4)



ECOSOC (OAS)

- Annual reviews of UNDS performance
- ECOSOC Resolution (Q2)



United Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs

ECOSOC OAS documentation

Annual Reports to ECOSOC:

Secretary-General's Report on the QCPR:

- QCPR implementation, including funding & expenditures.

UNSDG Chair's Report:

- Development Coordination Office (DCO) operations and the Resident Coordinator system

Information and evidence

- Administrative data, key policies and updates
- DESA QCPR surveys to Governments and UNDS
- [QCPR Monitoring Framework indicators](#)
- [Statistical Annex of Funding data](#)

ECOSOC OAS structure and outcome

Structure:

- **Day 1:** PR-level interactive dialogues with the Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General on their reports and the UNDS.
- **Days 2 & 3:** Interactive sessions with high-level UNDS & experts on UNDS policy, performance, challenges, and priorities.

Outcome:

- Non-negotiated [Chair's Summary](#),
- ECOSOC may adopt a [resolution](#) after the Segment

ECOSOC OAS High-level participation (2024)

PGA	PECOSOC	SG	DSG
<div>10</div> <div>Executive Heads of UNDS Entities</div>	<div>6</div> <div>Heads of Offices / Deputy Executive Heads</div>	<div>9</div> <div>Permanent Representatives</div>	<div>3</div> <div>UNDS Governing Body Presidents /Vice Presidents</div>
<div>7</div> <div>RCs, RC/HCs, or RC/HC/DSRSGs</div>	<div>2</div> <div>UNCT Entity Representatives</div>	<div>2</div> <div>Executive Directors of Think Tanks</div>	

How to better engage in the OAS (20-22 May)

Improve awareness

- Know where to find information in the reports
- Review the key messages, data and recommendations
- Reach out with questions

System-wide messaging

- Encourage consistent views and messaging across participation in UNDS Governing Bodies and Executive Boards

Actively engage in the sessions

- Secure high-level participation from your delegation
- Take advantage of the interactive format and UNDS presence

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<https://ecosoc.un.org/en/what-we-do/oas-qcpr>