ECOSOC Operational Activities Segment

Session 4: Dialogue with the Deputy Secretary – General on the report of the Development Coordination Office and the Resident Coordinator system

Statement by

Mr. Bård Vegard Solhjell Director General of the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation 21 May 2025

President of the ECOSOC

Deputy Secretary - General, Amina Mohammed

Thank you for your comprehensive presentation here today.

It is not easy to achieve the 2030 Agenda with the immense financial pressure the development system is facing. It is not easy to uphold the trust in the UN if it doesn't prove to be an effective partner for development, human rights and peace.

The Resident Coordinator system was our answer to these challenges, already back in 2019. We still believe in the system, but we must do better to fully implement the SDGs and the Pact for the Future.

Our suggestions are the following:

- Firstly; we must equip the Resident Coordinators with authority and skills to lead the country teams, moving the agencies out of their silos, to work for common outcomes with the Program country.
- Secondly; We must the shift the agency's incentives. I strongly believe that the UN agencies are at their best when they are true to their core mandates and play that out through integrated approaches.
- Thirdly; we must continue to work for sustainable financing of the RC system, for lean, but solid RC offices. Norway has fully supported the SG proposal for assessed contributions, and were pleased to see that partially agreed last yera. We have contributed to the Special Purpose Trust Fund since the eve of the reform.
- Lastly, the UN and sustainable development is too important to Norway to continue with business as usual. UN80 reform is an opportunity for a radical reset for the UN country teams and the whole UN development system. Thank you.