



21 May 2025

**ECOSOC Operational Activities Segment**

**Dialogue with UNDS Executive Heads: Supporting countries  
to achieve sustainable development in the current context**

**Wednesday, 21 May 2025**

**3:00 PM – 4:30 PM**

**ECOSOC Chamber**

**Statement on behalf of the Permanent mission of Sweden to  
the United Nations**

Mr. Vice-President, Excellencies,

Sweden remains a steady and engaged UN Member State, not only as a donor but also as a partner and responsible board member of funds and programmes, actively participating in most UN fora.

We engaged early in the development of the new strategic plans, encouraging the funds and programmes to focus on their respective added value and their core-mandates, in response to current funding trends. We also highlighted that there is no alternative to full implementation of UN reform, with focus on enhanced joint impact and development results at country level, through the Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks. This includes active coordination and cooperation on programme planning, management, implementation and

follow-up, as well as dedicated engagement in joint cost-savings and efficiency measures in operations. Lastly, we urged the organizations to review their functions in different contexts, to guide appropriate presence.

As mentioned in the dialogue with the Secretary General yesterday, Sweden sees great potential in a slimmer, context-based and more adaptive UN presence, focused on technical expertise rather than senior representation – with all UN entities reporting to the Resident Coordinator. Funding is decreasing and changing, and funding modalities need to be considered when rethinking operational activities focusing on programme delivery.

It is disheartening to read the Secretary General's and the Deputy Secretary General's reports indicating the lack of follow-through by UN Sustainable Development Group entities on already agreed reforms - including derivation of individual programmes from the UN Cooperation Frameworks, the lack of information-sharing on resource mobilization efforts, deficiencies in incentive structures, and the lagging behind of efficiency measures, such as common back offices and the non-compliance with the Management and Accountability Framework.

We know you are committed, as evidenced by your presence here today. Mr. Steiner, as co-chair of the UN Sustainable Development Group, how can we encourage entities to change their respective business models, and fully integrate and truly deliver on the “UN as One”?

The UN system's role to uphold and promote the UN normative mandate is a core interest of Sweden. Ms. Bahous, how can UN Women ensure that the UN's mandate on gender equality is upheld?

Ms. Bogdan-Martin, as representative of a specialized agency, what can we as Member States do, to ensure follow-through also by the specialized agencies?

Mr. Vice-President, Excellencies. Let me again assure you of Sweden's full commitment to UN Development System reforms, which we will continue to advocate for in all fora.

Thank you!