

STARTS

Thank you Chair, Excellencies,

This is a pivotal moment to accelerate our collective efforts. The 2024 QCPR provides a clear roadmap for an impactful, coordinated, and efficient UN Development System. The focus must now shift to delivery.

This requires strong leadership from Heads of Agencies. Without clear direction and commitment from the top, we risk falling short of the transformation the QCPR envisions.

In the broader context of UN80 and a rapidly evolving global landscape, now is the time for entities to ask themselves tough questions: are you structurally and culturally set up to enable collaboration at the country level? What changes need to be made to business models, policies, and guidance to ensure the right incentives are in place for system-wide responses? And, as you develop your strategic plans, how can outcomes be realigned to promote joint action?

The QCPR reaffirmed the RC's central role in ensuring coherence and supporting national development goals. The RC system is a shared investment, and the cost-sharing arrangement is a critical pillar of the funding model. Now is the time for agencies to fully back the RC system on the ground.

I offer three points for consideration:

- First, Agencies must align behind the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework at the country-level. The Cooperation Framework should act as the single guiding plan to unite UN Country Teams, foster collaboration and avoid duplication in activity. In this regard, we question if there is a need for separate Country Programme Documents, and if their existence inhibits coherence in-country.

Second, Entity presence should reflect country needs in accordance with agreed outcomes and priorities in the Cooperation Framework. Country configuration should be determined by the Resident Coordinator, in agreement with host governments, and complemented by a stronger regional system, enabling agencies to provide targeted technical and policy support as needed

- Third, the Secretary-General's report highlights continued gaps in adherence to the Management and Accountability Framework, with inconsistent awareness among entity staff. As a cornerstone of UNDS reform outlining expectations within UN Country Teams, what guidance are you providing to your country teams? And how are you monitoring compliance?

Excellencies, through the QCPR and UN80, we are committed to working together – through Executive Boards and beyond – to build a stronger, more unified system which provides the greatest and most urgent support to accelerating delivery of the SDGs.

Thank you.

ENDS