

ECOSOC Operational Activities Segment 2023
High-level dialogue between the Secretary-General and Member States

Intervention by Dongwoo Shin, Counsellor, the Republic of Korea to the UN

Mr. Secretary-General,

First of all, thank you for the comprehensive and insightful report, and I appreciate your dedication and efforts for the implementation of the QCPR and reform of the UN development system.

We are now standing at the midpoint toward achieving the 2030 Agenda. The multiple crises we are facing and the rising development and humanitarian needs are threatening to undermine our previously earned achievement of the SDGs.

It is encouraging, however, that there has been progress in the leadership of the RC System and the UNCT and their responses to the country needs and priorities under the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework.

While commending the achievement made thus far, it would be desirable for the UNDS to harness the momentum for reform in a more innovative approach and strengthen solidarity and support among member states.

In this regard, I would like to make brief comments on the SG report and share the following priorities of the Korean Government.

Firstly, in the contemporary complex crises, HDP Nexus is relevant more than ever. We are pleased that the RC system has created greater synergies in HDP Nexus with UN entities working in close collaboration across HDP pillars. The Korean Government will stand firmly behind the efforts for a stronger HDP Nexus actively engaging across the UN system.

Secondly, we need to continue exploring more innovative ways to narrow the funding gap. What is encouraging is that the core share of development funding exceeded the target of 30 per cent for the first time since the funding compact was adopted. But the USD 85 million funding gap of the RC system shows that we still have a long way to go.

We should accelerate the implementation of the funding compact, while the UNDS should also make continued efforts to reduce cost, diversify partnerships and enhance efficiency.

Let me add that the ODA of Korea has over tripled since it joined the OECD DAC in 2010, and scaled up its ODA by over 21% despite a very tight budget. We will fulfill our responsibility as the Global Pivotal State.

Thirdly, we need to strengthen the coordination capacity of the UNCT to reduce competitive practices among UN entities and ensure closer communication and collaboration in the host countries. In this regard the RC system and OCHA have made considerable accomplishment.

Lastly, the UNDS will produce better results by promoting tailored country-level support, especially in the human and digital capacity building, and localization of the assistance so that the maximum number of people in need can benefit.

Mr. Secretary-General,

In closing, I once again reiterate Korea's commitment to UNDS reform as well as our unwavering support to you in this ongoing endeavor.

I thank you. /End/