

Statement of the Like-Minded Group of Countries Supporters of Middle-Income Countries
Operational Activities Segment – Opening and High-Level Dialogue with the Secretary General
23 May 2023, 10:00am – ECOSOC Chamber

Mr. President,
Mr. Secretary General,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Like-Minded Group of Countries Supporters of Middle-Income Countries, upon request from the Chair of the Group, composed of Armenia, Belarus, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Jamaica, Lebanon, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Uruguay, and my own country Guatemala.

The Group would like to express its appreciation to the Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General for the comprehensive, analytical, and detailed reports on the implementation of the QCPR and on the Development Coordination Office.

The Group welcomes the progress achieved thus far in the implementation of the key mandates of the repositioning of the UNDS, with the Resident Coordinator System at its heart. We acknowledge the continuous crucial role of the UNDS in supporting national efforts of program countries for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and to overcome the multiple recent crisis.

It is our view that the UNDS can continue improving the support structure it offers to all developing countries, and notably to Middle-Income Countries. The LMG-MICs appreciates the continuous efforts of the UNDS in providing targeted support to MICs considering their varying development needs, as called for in the QCPR.

Our Group expresses its concerns, however, on the current funding situation of the Resident Coordinator System. We reiterate, and we join other delegations in the call for a sustainable, predictable, and adequate funding for the RC system. Our countries continue to face multidimensional challenges that requires adequate support and presence of the RC system offices and UN country teams. The current challenging

international juncture cannot afford the negative repercussions of the current shortfall in the funding of the RC system.

Excellencies,

We appreciate that the SG's report highlights the fact that to revive progress towards the implementation of the SDGs, it is crucial to develop new measures of Development and wellbeing that go beyond GDP as one of the SG's priorities towards gaining a full understanding of countries' vulnerabilities and needs.

This has been a consistent and persistent call by our group to have a comprehensive and inclusive international development cooperation with all developing countries, including for Middle-Income Countries.

In that vein, and as we are expecting the policy brief of the SG on Beyond GDP, we request the UN funds and programs to enhance the application of measures of progress that go beyond GDP to inform a better allocation of their support and resources, reflecting multidimensional vulnerabilities and structural weaknesses of each country, including disaggregated social and environmental indicators and risks, resilience to shocks, income and wealth inequality, among others

In this regard, the benefits of the application of measures of progress that go beyond GDP should also be included in the analysis of the mapping exercise that is expected to be finalized and presented in the 78th Session of the General Assembly, with a view to enhance development cooperation and provide inclusive support to MICs based on their specific challenges and diverse needs.

In this regard, we kindly invite the Secretary General to brief Member States on the progress made on this mandate, in view of considering the elaboration of a comprehensive-system wide response plan, recognizing the multidimensional challenges of Middle-Income Countries.

I thank you for your kind attention.