

*2023 Report of the Secretary-General on the Implementation of General Assembly resolution
75/233 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review
of operational activities for development of the United Nations system*

*Remarks by PR Mona Juul
High-level dialogue between the Secretary-General and UN Member States
23 May 2023*

Let me first take this opportunity to thank the Secretary-General for his report, providing us with an update on the system-wide implementation of General Assembly guidance on the QCPR and the repositioning of the United Nations development system.

Our overall reaction is that the report is evidence of a repositioned system that is moving in the right direction.

'When the world changes, so do our options for action', said Minister of Foreign Affairs Anniken Huitfeldt in her address to the Norwegian parliament two weeks ago.

The litmus test of the repositioning of the UN development system is whether it is able to deliver better results on the ground in a changing world.

We need UN Country Teams that are cohesive, flexible, efficient and focussed in their scope. We need Country teams that can respond to evolving national priorities in an integrated and holistic way. Country Teams where individual UN entities combine their unique approaches into a collective effort. Country Teams led by strong and visionary Resident Coordinators.

Let me turn to the funding of the UN Development System:

- Member states have agreed that preferred funding modalities are: core contributions and thematic funding to individual agencies combined with pooled inter-agency funding mechanisms. Unfortunately, actual funding trends do not reflect this agreement. A fragmented funding base maintains a fragmented system.
- Fragmentation does not begin at the UN. It is a reflection of the priorities and actions of Member States, but also of the way the system mobilizes resources.
- We need to overcome the present mismatch between what we want from the system and the way we fund it. We welcome your initiative to revisit the Funding Compact to see how we can make it into a more focused and effective driver of reforms.

Joint programs and joint funding opportunities provide important opportunities to pool strengths and work together and minimize duplications. But entities' old habits of raising

earmarked funding for their own programmes and projects rather than for joint activities persist, and it is important that a change of mindset is encouraged from the highest level of the UN.

More and better reporting on collective results also needs to be encouraged.

How much weight collective priorities have gained in relation to agency-specific priorities, and how entities ensure that new policies take root at all levels still needs attention.

On Transparency and accountability

We agree with what is highlighted in the report: That transparency and accountability are critical drivers of an effective development system.

Large and fragmented systems like the UNDS are difficult to change. The reform, launched with the intention to make “bold changes”, is exceedingly complex and ambitious. Against that background, the changes that are emerging from your report are significant and should be acknowledged.

Let me conclude by saying that Norway continues to be a strong supporter of the strengthened Resident Coordinator system.

Thank you!