

ECOSOC Operational Activities for Development Segment

May 23 Opening of the ECOSOC operational activities for development segment and high-level interactive dialogue with the United Nations Secretary-General

Statement by Sweden, delivered by H.E. Anna Karin Eneström, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations

Mr. President, Mr. Secretary-General, Excellencies,

We wish to congratulate the Secretary General on his report which recognizes the challenges faced across the world. Multiple crises are offsetting, and in some cases reversing, important progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Important progress has been made in consolidating the Resident Coordinator System. It is important to strengthen coherence and increase efficiency of UN development operations at country level for greater impact and **joint** development results.

We fully recognize the importance of a robust process for the implementation of a very ambitious reform agenda. Not least to ensure oversight and strengthen accountability.

There are still some issues that need be further developed and I will mention three:

First, continuing to strengthen UN leadership, not only in the selection and training of the Resident Coordinators, but the full UN Country Team.

Second, increased coordination in humanitarian and crisis settings – flexibility and speed in adapting UN configuration to changing country contexts.

Third, efficiency gains need to be further expanded, some have already been delivered, but there is potential for more.

There is a risk that too much emphasis is placed on system design and process. We believe that we thereby run the risk of losing sight of what we want to achieve, namely: Increased efficiency and

effectiveness for the achievement of Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Sweden has been and continues to be a very strong financial as well as political supporter of the reform agenda and the RC-system.

We also have a strong interest in the RC systems mandate as a driver of UN norms and values including human rights, democracy, gender equality and environment/climate change. We must be able to communicate to our constituents that the reforms are making a difference on the ground.

Lastly, we would like to ask the Secretary General what he sees as the main priorities for the coming year, leading up to the next QCPR, and what role he believes that Member States should play in driving these priorities.