

UK Statement – Operational Activities for Development Segment

ECOSOC

23 May 2023

Delivered by Lord Ahmad, UK Minister of State for MENA, South Asia, the UN

President, Secretary General,

Our pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals has been derailed by COVID, by inflation caused by Vladimir Putin's war of choice, and by the accelerating drumbeat of extreme weather, driven by climate change.

We need the UN Development System more than ever in order to get the SDGs back on track.

The progress with reforms set out in the Secretary-General's report is therefore encouraging. The UN's work is increasingly aligned with national development plans, but today's challenges are growing in both complexity and scale, so we must see these reforms through to their conclusion.

First, the UN needs to ensure the right tools are in place to ensure coherence and coordination between humanitarian, development and peace operations. Because we will not be able to deliver sustainable peace without sustainable livelihoods.

We welcome the progress made, but the Secretary-General is right to demand more, including by identifying ways to improve surge capacities.

Second, we need to harness the full breadth of the expertise across the UN system, and make it available to host Governments and Resident Coordinators, regardless of whether a particular agency has a presence in their country. A strengthened regional architecture is one way to do this, and we welcome the Secretary-General's focus on it.

Third, we need strong leadership throughout the UN system. We need to ensure adequate funding is available to eradicate poverty and support delivery of the SDGs.

This is why the UK has provided more than \$6m to the Resident Coordinator system last year, and have committed to doing so again this year.

Secretary-General, Excellencies. We have four-months to deliver ahead of the SDG Summit, and a year to deliver before the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review.

This is the moment to see through reforms, and fulfil our commitments to collectively accelerate action on the SDGs.

The UK stands ready to support you in any way we can.

Thank you.