

UK Statement: Operational Activities for Development Segment

ECOSOC

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Delivered by James Kariuki, UK Ambassador to the UN

Madame Deputy Secretary General,

Thank you, Madam Deputy Secretary-General for presenting the report on the Development Coordination Office and the Resident Coordinator system results framework. The UK welcomes the progress outlined in the report and the results framework, noting the extensive consultation process with Member States. The data tells a positive story. However, as set out in this morning's session with the Secretary-General – in the context of increasing poverty, growing inequalities, and surging crises – now is not the time for complacency; we know there is a lot more to do.

First, the UK welcomes the investments made by DCO to revamp the RC selection system and efforts taken to minimise RC vacancies. First, I want to acknowledge that programme countries noted improvements in the profile and support from RCs. 88% of programme countries confirmed that RCs effectively led the delivery of strategic support for national plans and priorities. However, only 62% of RC recruitments were completed within the 120-day time frame, which is far off the 2025 target of 95%. Given the criticality of UN leadership in country, what steps can the UN and Member States take to ensure that this target is met?

Second, I note that according to your report, DCO has steadily taken on more secretariat functions at HQ, including the hosting of the Joint SDG Secretariat. Given resource constraints, how will DCO strike the right balance between supporting in country operations and HQ initiatives?

Third, your reports notes that structural changes are needed to ensure that RC's can access UN system expertise and surge capacity in the event of crisis. We welcomed the creation of DCO surge capacity to support in crisis contexts as an important step in addressing this. How will you further prioritise the necessary structural reforms, including fully embedding the reforms at the regional level? And how can Member States support you in this?

The UK looks forward to working with the Deputy Secretary-General and DCO to safeguard the progress made so far and accelerate action, to drive action on the SDGs.

Thank you.