Economic and Social Council Operational Activities for Development Segment Remarks by H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva, President of the Economic and Social Council in the session "Strengthening accountability on system-wide performance and results"

Thursday, 25 May 2023, 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Thank you, Madam Moderator,

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and gentlemen,

Well-coordinated support from the UN system is needed more than ever as countries battle global crises, weak recovery efforts and the relentless impacts of climate change.

The ECOSOC Operational Activities Segment is established as the accountability platform for the system in its delivery of results to countries on the ground, in line with the UN development system's reform and the quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR) set out by the General Assembly.

The spirit of the UN repositioning and the strengthened role of ECOSOC is to close the loop from better accountability to better policy guidance. This approach empowers the system to deliver more effective support to countries in their pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

I encourage Member States to consider how to further strengthen ECOSOC accountability and oversight in 3 key areas.

Firstly, we should consider how to reinforce ECOSOC's proactive role in guiding the UN development system, which includes issuing substantive guidance through resolutions and decisions. By taking a proactive approach, ECOSOC can effectively steer the system towards better outcomes.

Secondly, it is crucial that ECOSOC should provide interlinked oversight and consistency in the messages conveyed across different governing bodies. By aligning our efforts and fostering consistency, we can maximize the impact of our collective actions.

Lastly, we must explore ways to better utilize the wealth of information and evidence provided to us, enabling informed decision-making.

We now receive a wealth of data annually, through comprehensive analytical reports. They are based on official data on UN development system funding and expenditures, as well as country level surveys and management systems and evaluations. We receive evidence-based reporting tools including the QCPR Monitoring Framework and the Resident Coordinator results framework.

We also receive system-wide results reports for each programme country, and for all regions. And at the governance level we have the UN development system reform checklist tool.

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

ECOSOC can be even more proactive in guiding the UN development system in the implementation of the QCPR, and through empowering greater coordination between governing bodies.

Looking ahead, the General Assembly will conduct a new quadrennial comprehensive policy review in 2024. By reinforcing ECOSOC's role now, we can lay the groundwork for guiding the system in the next review, better supporting countries in their final push to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

Thank you.