



Introduction of the Secretary-General's Report on "Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields (E/2022/15)"

Chair: H.E. Ambassador Lachezara Stoeva, Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the UN

Statement by Ms. Rosa Malango, Director Regional Commissions New York Office (RCNYO)

21 July 2021

Madame Chair,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today in my capacity as the Director of the Regional Commissions New York Office, representing the five UN Regional Commissions, I have the honour of introducing the Secretary-General's report on regional cooperation contained in document E/2022/15 and its addendum. The report provides an update on regional perspectives on critical global issues as well as an overview of work done by the Regional Commissions during the reporting period.

The global economy is facing significant headwinds with many developing countries struggling with the crippling effects of an uneven recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, worsened by vaccine inequities, as well as the impact of climate change and lack of financial solidarity. These risks are eroding decades of development progress and delaying the urgent transition to greener, more inclusive economies around the world. In the face of mounting global challenges, regional cooperation and partnerships remain a cornerstone of the global response to mitigate risks and rescue the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Secretary-General's report is presented in two parts. The first part illustrates how regional action is effectively supporting the post-COVID-19 recovery, while



accelerating the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and presents an overview of region-by-region SDG progress. The second part of the report provides an overview of the steps taken by the Regional Commissions to advance the rollout of the repositioning of the United Nations development system in the respective regions, with a focus on the Commissions contributions to the Regional Collaborative Platforms, issue-based coalitions and the positioning of the knowledge management hubs as “one-stop shops”.

Madame Chair,

Allow me to highlight some examples of achievements registered by the Regional Commissions as evidenced in the report before you. In advancing the reform of the International Financial System and the financing for development agenda notable examples include: the launch of **ECA’s** Liquidity and Sustainability Facility; **ESCWA’s** interactive tool for exploring financing options and potential savings through maximizing SDG interlinkages; **ESCAP’s** roadmap for the development and issuance of SDG bonds; and **ECLAC’s** “*Development in Transition*” approach to promote new forms of international cooperation with middle-income countries.

In the area of people-centred and gender-responsive initiatives, the Commissions have supported member States across the five regions to strengthen social protection by investing in health and social protection systems, as well as strengthening technological and productive capacities in the health industry to ensure greater resilience and self-sufficiency. Examples include: **ECA’s** support to the Africa Medical Supplies Platform as an offshoot of the AfCFTA-anchored Pharmaceutical Initiative; **ESCWA’s** COVID-19 Stimulus Tracker; **ESCAP’s** action plan for regional cooperation on social protection; **UNECE** regional studies on empowering women through reducing unpaid care work; and **ECLAC’s** Plan for self-sufficiency in health matters in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In the area of data, statistics, and digitalization in support of the SDGs, the Commissions continued to support pathways to universal access to technology, accelerating digital transformation and designing strategies to improve research and development. Examples include: **ECA’s** launch of the Africa UN Data for Development



Platform, **ESCAP's** SDG Tracker to support progress assessment at the national level, **UNECE** work on environmental, social and governance traceability and transparency of value chains, and, finally, **ECLAC's** Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean to stimulate development of digital ecosystems.

In addition to the SG's report on regional cooperation, I encourage Member States to refer to the Summaries of the Work of the Regional Commissions submitted as part of the official documentation today and to visit the Regional Commissions' websites and social media pages.

Madame Chair,

As per established procedure, the addendum to the report contains information on resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commissions' sessions, in this case, by ECA, and ESCAP. This includes a resolution adopted by ESCAP Commission on a revised conference structure to advance sustainable development, submitted for endorsement by the Council today through a draft resolution. In my briefing to the Council during the session held on 6 July 2022, I presented an overview of the outcomes of the annual sessions that took place this spring, as contained in Addendum 1 of the report.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The action tracks contained in the Secretary-General's Common Agenda, the guidance from this august body and from member States through the thematic consultations convened by the Office of the President of the General Assembly, will all be leveraged to rescue the SDGs and inspire an inclusive, networked and reinvigorated multilateralism to advance regional priorities on sustainable development.

We have also taken due note of and will draw further guidance from the outcome of the just concluded High-Level Political Forum on transformative policies and actions that can reverse the negative impacts of the pandemic on the SDGs, help mitigate the effects of the unfolding food, energy, and finance crisis, and move countries on to a path to realize the vision of the 2030 Agenda.



Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As I conclude, allow me to take a moment to reassure you that we, at the Regional Commissions, are listening to your requests, including your calls for improved coordination, coherent and impactful delivery of our work and for us to further strengthen our collaboration with the regional UN development system to lend the much-needed support to country level UN action. As the current ECOSOC cycle winds down and a new cycle is about to begin, I wish to reaffirm, on behalf of the Regional Commissions, our commitment to continuous improvements on all fronts as we approach the midterm review of SDG progress in 2023.

I wish to end my statement with the words of Nelson Mandela, “It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead.”

Thank you for your attention.

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