

**Speaking points of the Brazilian delegation to the
Operational Activities for Development Segment
of the Economic and Social Council**

1 March 2017

Speaking points for the interactive panel discussion on “Improving the governance and coordination of the United Nations development system”

- Thank you, Mr. Moderator. We would like to thank also the panelists for the very interesting presentations. We would like to support the remarks made by G77 and China, and to add the following remarks in national capacity.
- We believe that having a governance chapter in the QCPR is a great achievement in itself. In the previous Review, we didn't reach the basic agreement to have one. If the chapter is not as bold as some participants of the ECOSOC Dialogues would prefer, at least it brings a clear guideline, particularly on paragraph 44, on what to expect from the governance of the system – not as something in itself, but in support of results.
- It is also worth noting that one of the proposals presented by the ITA papers during the ECOSOC Dialogues, regarding a Deputy Secretary General dedicated to development, has been implemented by the Secretary-General himself.
- Regarding the meetings of the executive boards, as mentioned by the panel, while the secretariat has its long powerpoint presentations, we, Member States, have our long and previously prepared statements. I agree that both of us have a lot to change in this culture of how to prepare for meetings, but, as it happens with every cultural change, it will take time.
- Member states have discussed the composition of the executive boards, where developing countries are underrepresented, during the QCPR negotiations. G77 and China would like to have

equitable geographical representation in the boards. However, delegations did not reach agreement on this matter, and the current composition is the one that we have for now.

- Nonetheless, it is necessary to acknowledge that there is a structural problem regarding the participation of developing countries in the executive boards, something that jeopardizes the legitimacy of their work. This is a complex problem. Besides being underrepresented as Members, developing countries in general are represented in New York by smaller missions, often with only one delegate in charge of the whole of Second Committee. This delegate has as counterpart in capital smaller structures, focused on operationalizing the cooperation, and not necessarily having sufficient personnel to go through all the documents in preparation for the sessions. This is part of the development challenges that we need to overcome, in order to participate at the same level in the boards.
- Since developing countries are underrepresented in the boards, they rotate more as Members, spending more time than developed countries outside of the boards. During this period, there is a perception that only Members can participate of the deliberations, when actually Observers can be equally active, except for not having voting capacities. When this country comes back to the board, after plenty of time outside and having not participated actively of the previous sessions, its delegate is not following the discussion at the same pace.
- The calendar of the sessions is also not also favorable to the South, since January, when the first regular sessions take place, is the South's equivalent of August for the North.
- We also acknowledge the challenges of consistency within each Member State in different boards, mentioned by the panel. We have our homework to do on this.
- In addition to the many improvements of the working methods already made in the last years, the Secretariat can have a greater role in supporting proactively the participation of developing countries in the boards. It is necessary to better address the informational challenge. One example is the observer's mailing list

reaching interested delegations with draft documents and decisions. These interested delegations are only a part of the United Nations membership. If we could have a more systematic way to reach out to all missions (not only the Members) in January, with official communications asking for the designation of focal points for the observer's list, this would complement the efforts that each Vice-President should undertake to engage their own regional constituencies. The timely and broad dissemination of documents, including the draft ones, is critical for the consultations on the next Strategic Plans. If all Member states and regions participate equally of the consultations, we will have better plans.

- We believe that the joint meetings of the boards should be less thematic and focus more on the systematic follow-up of the QCPR.
- Regarding the Chief Executives Board (CEB), we understand it is an internal coordination mechanism, but we also notice that many of its guidelines impact programming and operational activities. This is why we feel the need for more access and transparency in the CEB, not to interfere in day-to-day operations, but to ensure stronger ownership by Member states of the results and outcomes of the discussions.
- Finally, we also appreciate the role of the regional commissions, in complementarity with the regional bureaus of the UNDG – in particular the role of ECLAC in convening our regional forum on sustainable development.
- Thank you.

