

**Remarks by H.E. Mrs. Lana Nusseibeh,**  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the United Arab  
Emirates to the United Nations  
**at the**  
**ECOSOC Operational Activities for Development Segment,**  
***Panel discussion: Improving the governance and coordination***  
**of UN development System**

*1 March 2017*

*11:30-1:00pm*

*ECOSOC Chamber*

## Remarks

### *[Introduction]*

- Distinguished representatives, colleagues,
- Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this panel on improving the governance of the UN Development System in my capacity as President of the UN Women Executive Board. Allow me also to thank the vice-presidents of the Executive Board of UN Women, the representatives of Liberia, Montenegro, Guyana and Switzerland for the excellent collaboration.
- In her first address as Deputy-Secretary General yesterday, **Ms. Amina Mohammed highlighted that a repositioning of the UN system will be necessary to deliver on the 2030 Agenda, with a need to focus less on process and more on results.** The Operational Activities Segment is a central venue for us all to ensure that the support provided by the UN Development System best addresses the interconnected challenges that Member States face.
- **Let me now speak to a few key aspects about what the adoption of the landmark QCPR resolution means for the UN development System – specifically for UN Women - its governance architecture and system-wide coherence.**

*[QCPR and UN Women's core mandate]*

- As President of the Executive Board of UN Women, I cannot look at the QCPR without **acknowledging the central role it gives to gender equality and women's empowerment.**
- The QCPR reaffirms **gender equality and women's empowerment as central themes to the operational activities of the UN development system as a whole** and underlines that investing in the development and empowerment of women and girls needs to be at the heart of the work of **all** UN development system entities.
- Delivering better for women and girls will have a **multiplier effect for achieving sustained and inclusive economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development.**
- **UN Women's core mandate is cross-cutting, and the entity is therefore well placed to contribute to the delivery of the QCPR resolution.** A key pillar of UN Women's mandate is to lead and coordinate the UN system's work on gender equality, and **UN Women's experience in this regard can provide important lessons learned to the wider system.**

*[Making governing bodies of UNDS entities more transparent/accountable/efficient]*

- Let me now turn to the role of Executive Boards in the governance architecture of the UN Development System.
- **The QCPR tasks us Member States to initiate discussions on the working methods of the governing bodies of UN Development System entities** - in order to improve the efficiency, transparency and quality of official sessions.
- The Executive Board of UN Women will follow-up on this request and will assess ways in which ways we can improve how we structure our work and cooperate with the larger UN membership.
  - For instance, we could **consider ways to increase the level of engagement in Executive Board sessions**, and to make them more **participatory**.

- The **role of the Bureau is another area to explore**. We will have to examine if we can strengthen the role of the Bureau to deliver a stronger liaison function with Member States.
- Another element to look at is how to **strengthen the secretariats of the governing bodies** so that they can best support members to fulfill their role on the Board. I have personally experienced the importance of the **institutional memory of the Secretariat** when assuming my presidency of the Board. The support and information provided by the Secretariat was essential in preparing me for the role.
- I would be keen to hear from colleagues about their experience and how they think Executive Boards could be made more responsive to the needs of the larger membership.

- I also look with interest to presidents of other Executive Boards on this panel to see what working methods they identify as useful and where they see room for improvement. **We can all learn from each other's best practices and experience.**

*[System-wide coherence between UNDS entities]*

- Successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda requires the UN system to deliver as one, and the QCPR resolution puts **system-wide coherence** at its core.
- In this regard, it is important to **highlight financial stability and predictable funding as a precondition for all development system entities to deliver** on their mandates and enhance coordination.

- The QCPR emphasizes the importance to **strengthen synergy across governing bodies** of the UN development system. To this end, the **QCPR calls to initiate discussions on improving the working methods of the joint meetings of the Executive Boards** so that they offer a platform for exchange on issues with cross-cutting impact.
- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the new Strategic Plans of the Funds and Programmes that are being finalized this year, pose an **opportunity to adjust the role of the Joint Meeting of the Boards to promote coherence and integration** across participating entities. This would better focus the Joint Meeting of the Boards on outcomes, and promote joint strategic thinking and harmonized approaches to implementation.
- With a view to strengthening coherence, my colleagues and I, have already initiated informal discussions as Presidents of Executive Boards. We hope to develop this into a regular exchange of views to facilitate information sharing as well as peer learning.

*[Conclusion]*

- Concluding, I would like to emphasize that our ultimate goal is to strengthen the system's capacity to **support Member States in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda**. This should be the vision guiding our work and our cooperation across the entities of the development system.
- **UN Women was born in an effort to strengthen system-wide coherence** and bring together resources and mandates for greater impact. It is now important that we make sure the UN development system as a whole is well positioned to implement the 2030 Agenda with the empowerment of women and gender equality at the front and center of this effort.

**END.**