

Closing remarks
by H.E. Mr. Marc Pecsteen de Buytsverwe, Vice President of ECOSOC
2018 Operational Activities for Development Segment
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Madame la Vice-Secrétaire général,
Excellences,
Distingués délégués,
Mesdames et Messieurs,

Nous sommes à présent arrivés à la fin du segment des activités opérationnelles pour le développement de cette année.

Tout d'abord, je voudrais exprimer ma profonde gratitude à la Vice-Secrétaire générale, Mme Amina J. Mohammed, pour son engagement exceptionnel tout au long de ce segment, ainsi que pour son leadership au sein du système de développement des Nations Unies. Elle a fait en sorte que les nouvelles propositions du Secrétaire général soient activement discutées avec les États membres.

We have come a long way in discussing the new proposals of the Secretary-General during this segment. As a result, a momentum is building on the need for Member States to take concrete action that would enable the UN development system to effectively deliver on the 2030 Agenda. I also want to thank all the panelists for their many insightful contributions.

The world urgently needs to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and a revitalized UN development system can play an important catalytic role in making that possible.

As panelists and many of you have stressed during the past three days, the revitalization of the UN development system will require significant upgrading of key capacities at different levels, underpinned by significant changes. These include a new generation of Country Teams, an impartial RC system and high-quality funding.

I am confident that Member States over the coming weeks will agree on an ambitious package of measures that will enable the UN development system to reach its potential in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. I am also confident that a strong foundation has been laid for the success of this effort during this year's segment.

Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all of you – the representatives of Member States and the UN development system - for so actively participating in this year's segment.

This has been a successful segment by any measure.

The highly constructive deliberations we have witnessed over the past three days also bode well for the success of the upcoming intergovernmental consultations of the General Assembly on the repositioning of the UN development system. As mentioned by the Vice-President of the Assembly during the opening of this segment, the Permanent Representatives of Algeria and Denmark have been appointed co-facilitators of these important intergovernmental consultations.

I am particularly grateful to the national policy-makers from capitals of Member States and to the country, regional and global level representatives of UN entities, for your active participation during the past three days. Your input has helped ensure that our discussions were guided by the most relevant knowledge and expertise. I have been impressed by your wealth of knowledge and ideas and heartened by your constructive participation. Thank you very much.

Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your discussions have been rich and substantive and, in my view, revealed some considerable common ground.

I would like to highlight some first key messages emanating from your deliberations.

We learned that there is general support to the Secretary General's reform proposals.

First, The centrality of a deepened UNDAF as a single results based plan for all UN entities work, drafted in consultation with government and tailored to national priorities. The new UNDAF process should also involve strengthened collaboration between country team and non-resident agencies, including the regional structures.

The new role of UNDP and its SDG platform in reformed UN country teams needs to be further clarified. The SDG coverage, gaps and overlaps identified in the first SG report of last June need to be adequately addressed, taking into account that the UN should not do everything everywhere.

Second, The full-time nature of the job of RC, the importance and need of a reform of the RC system to focus on results, allowing RCs to move in an independent, cohesive and agile way. There is also a need to further clarify the RC's role as a central focal point for discussion and interaction with the host government, in full respect of existing reporting and accountability lines between individual UN entities and their respective governing bodies.

Third, The need for a system-wide approach to partnerships, to articulate basic criteria for "partner readiness" such as conformity with UN values and ability to meaningfully contribute to

SDG attainment. There is also a need to reach a clear understanding of the role of the RC as a one stop shop on behalf of the UNDS for partnerships at the country level.

Fourth, An approach centered around the 2030 Agenda is the best guarantee for a successful system-wide approach. The system-wide strategic document and the common chapter in strategic plans are the embodiment of a joint approach around the UNDAFs and national priorities. Existing lines of accountability should not be a constraint to coherence at country level.

Fifth, Next to the need for increased core funding, there is a huge potential for the sake of predictability, efficiency, effectiveness, cohesiveness and results focus in the increased use of pooled funds, while we need to increase collective knowledge on how to design them well, in order to use them wisely and in an accountable manner. Member States look forward to the proposed Funding Dialogue, which is felt to provide an important opportunity for all relevant stakeholders to engage in substantive discussions on how to revitalize the funding architecture of the UN development system.

Sixth, Accountability to countries must be strengthened, and the QCPR-mandated review of the working methods of the Executive Boards must continue.

There is a need to further reflect on the options proposed by the Secretary-General in terms of the setting up of a new system-wide evaluation unit as well as on the gradual merger of boards, taking into account important aspects such as fiduciary accountability of the separate UN agencies. Finally, the idea of dividing the ECOSOC operational activities segment in two annual sessions may need to be discussed outside of the QCPR follow-up context, in the framework of the ECOSOC review under the 68/1 resolution.

The other key messages will be in the summary.

Distingués délégués,
Mesdames et Messieurs,

Pour conclure, je tiens également à remercier de tout cœur les services du Département des affaires économiques et sociales et le Département de l'Assemblée générale et de la gestion des conférences qui nous ont pleinement soutenus et aidés dans la préparation et le fonctionnement du segment. Il y a beaucoup de travail dans les coulisses et j'estime que cela devrait être reconnu.

La présidente de l'ECOSOC distribuera dans les meilleurs délais à tous les États membres le résumé de notre discussion par le vice-président.

J'ai maintenant l'honneur de clôturer le segment des activités opérationnelles pour le développement du Conseil économique et social de cette année. Je souhaite un bon retour à ceux qui voyagent.

Je vous remercie