



# PHILIPPINES

**2019 Economic and Social Council  
Operational Activities for Development Segment**  
ECOSOC Chamber  
New York, 21 May to 23 May 2019

## Opening Remarks

Delivered by

**H.E. Ms. Kira Danganan-Azucena,  
ECOSOC Vice President for the  
Operational Activities for Development Segment (OAS)**

Thank you, Madame President.

*Excellencies,*

*Mr. Secretary-General,*

*Madam Deputy Secretary-General,*

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

The twin resolution on the QCPR and the repositioning of the UN development system give guidance on the measures that the UN development system should take, with the support of Member States, to become more efficient, effective and dynamic – to be better able to support countries for their achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

For the next three days, we must deliver a key responsibility of the Economic and Social Council – that of an effective review and accountability platform for the UN development system.

As the ECOSOC President already mentioned, the 2019 Operational Activities for Development Segment (OAS) is of particular importance. In addition to discussing progress on the implementation of the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR), it will be the first opportunity for Member States to weigh in on the work done thus far in repositioning the UN Development System to better support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

It is therefore my honor to welcome you all – those coming from the capitals and from the Missions here in New York - to OAS 2019.

I also warmly welcome the Secretary-General, the Deputy Secretary-General, UN development system senior managers and leaders from the field.

I thank you for investing your time to share your views, experiences and expectations as we review progress made over the past year, and collectively continue to guide the UN development system. We look forward to hearing from you and to having an active and open dialogue on all the important issues before us.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

In recognition of the importance of our dialogue in the next three days, we have before us a program that has been structured in such a way that there is a dedicated session for each of the mandates provided in resolutions 71/243 and 72/79, i.e. system-wide implementation of the QCPR resolution; implementation of the reinvigorated resident coordinator system; options, on a region by region basis for longer-term reprofiling and restructuring of the regional assets of the UN; the Development Coordination Office (DCO), and funding compact. We will also have our annual dialogue with the Executive

Heads of the UN Development System to hear about how they are responding to the measures under way and those planned on the repositioning. This session will allow Member States to provide their feedback and views on the draft System-wide Strategic Document. Our last session for the Segment will look into ways to strengthen the alignment of system-wide and individual entity governance.

As you may note, a space for interactive discussions has been provided for the sessions.

Further, we have deliberately and consciously designed the program to ensure a real conversation between the system and the Member-States, by securing, for most of the sessions, Permanent Representatives to serve as moderators and/or discussants. This is aimed to ensure that the perspectives and feedback of Member-States are actively included in the conversation, while the system communicates with Member States the status of implementation of reforms and actual developments on the ground, both the successes and the challenges. In this regard, I wish to specifically thank the Permanent Representatives of Guinea, Norway, Belarus, Kyrgyz Republic, El Salvador, and Saint Vincent and Grenadines for agreeing to share their expertise, time and insights, as moderators and/or discussants during this Segment.

With the same esteemed regard, our gratitude also goes to our distinguished speakers, presentors, other moderators and panelists.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Pursuant to the General Assembly Resolution 723/305, adopted on 23 July 2018, the Operational Activities for Development Segment of ECOSOC is a platform to ensure accountability for, and acceleration of, system-wide performance and results in relation to the 2030 Agenda and provide guidance to and overall coordination of the United Nations Development System.

This function of ECOSOC is critical in supporting the General Assembly in its work, and shaping the future of the UN development system in a manner that meets the expectation of Member States.

It is a fundamental Charter mandate that we should treasure and continue to refine and strengthen.

In this important mandate, I wish all of us a frank and fruitful exchange.

Thank you.

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