

ECOSOC Operational Activities Segment/Interactive debate with the SG

Statement on behalf of the EU and EUMS'

18 May

Mister Secretary-General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

Mister Secretary-General,

I would first like to thank you for providing the overview of the state of play of the UN development system reform, based on your report on the implementation of the 2020 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review.

The report is an excellent testament to the importance of the reform designed in 2018, and its contribution to the increase in efficiency, efficacy, relevance, coordination and coherence of the UN development system. These characteristics are of particular significance in the unprecedented times we find ourselves in, with many countries still struggling with the COVID-19 pandemic, others preparing for the recovery phase. All countries facing significant challenges in continuing progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, due to the pandemic.

Yet, it is the pandemic which has laid bare the need to intensify efforts towards the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular as regards building back better and greener, strengthening health and social protection systems, ensuring access to education and digital technologies, respect for human rights, realization of gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment... Leaving no one – no person – behind should continue to be the guiding principle on our collective path to 2030.

The UNDS has a special role to play here, and we are pleased to see significant progress achieved by the system at the country, regional and global levels. We look forward to the further acceleration of this progress, including through the upcoming Strategic Plans of UN funds and programmes, in particular in the fields of stronger cooperation and coordination, as called for in the 2020 QCPR.

Nonetheless, we do notice space for improvement as regards, inter alia, joint work, harmonization of programming, coordination within the UN Country Teams, efficiencies, accountability, strengthening the authority of Resident Coordinators, and work on the nexus between humanitarian, development and peace-building efforts, not to mention the provision of sustainable, flexible and predictable funding both for the RC system and for the UNDS as a whole, as called for in the Funding Compact. We all need to step up work on implementing the Funding Compact.

On the other hand, we welcome the system's enhanced focus on human rights, gender equality, climate change and environment as key strategies and actions that need to be mainstreamed throughout the system's governance actions and interwoven in all its activities. We are pleased to see the success of the UN and EU's joint Spotlight Initiative. We also welcome enhanced focus on the mainstreaming of disability inclusion into the United Nations system.

The EU and its Member States are looking forward to the upcoming review of the Resident Coordinator system, which lies at the heart of the reform. We would like to use this opportunity to assure you, Mister Secretary-General, that we will be analyzing carefully your upcoming recommendations, and

engaging with partners in order to further improve and strengthen the functioning of the system, including its financing, where needed.

Let me conclude by thanking you, Mister Secretary-General, for your continuous dedication to making the UN better fit for its complex tasks, including the full and timely achievement of the ambitious objectives of the 2030 Agenda.

Thank you.