



**Republic of Cuba
Permanent Mission to the United Nations**

Opening of the 2021 ECOSOC Operational Activities for Development Segment.
Interactive dialogue with the UN Secretary-General.
May 18, 2021

At the outset, I would like to thank His Excellency Munir Akram, President of ECOSOC and His Excellency Sergiy Kyslytsya, Vice-President of ECOSOC for their work in preparation of this Segment.

We appreciate the substantive and comprehensive statement delivered by His Excellency, António Guterres, Secretary General, the reports prepared for this sessions and his continuous commitment on the operational activities for development. I would like to thank as well the Deputy Secretary-General and her team for their continuous engagement on the repositioning of the UN Development System.

Cuba associates itself with the statement delivered by the Permanent Representatives of Guinea and Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the G-77 and China and AOSIS, respectively.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has exposed the urgent need for international cooperation, multilateralism and solidarity in the global response to the ongoing pandemic and its consequences, as well as to strengthen the effectiveness of the United Nations Development System to support developing countries in these collective endeavors.

We remain committed to supporting efforts to implement the mandates of the repositioning of the UN Development System. The repositioning needs to ensure that work on the ground by the System is fit for purpose to deliver on the 2030 Agenda, particularly in the context of the decade of action for sustainable development and in response to the new and emerging challenges posed to all developing countries by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The repositioning process must continue to strengthen the development pillar and the principles that guide the System's activities, its neutrality and its intergovernmental nature.

We stress that all matters pertaining to the repositioning of the UN Development System must fully respect national sovereignty, independence, national ownership and leadership, bearing in mind the diverse and specific national circumstances, capacities, development levels, needs and priorities of developing countries, including countries in special situations.

We look forward to a successful intergovernmental process to review the functioning of the reinvigorated United Nations Resident Coordinators system. This review must ensure that the Resident Coordinator's system maintains its development focus and that the eradication of poverty remains its overarching objective, acting the System in response to national needs and priorities, aligned with the United Nations Framework for Sustainable Development Cooperation or equivalent planning framework. We further stress the necessity to ensure adequate, predictable and sustainable funding for the RC system.

We commend the role played by the UN Regional Commissions, in particular the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and UN entities and agencies such as UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP, among others, in supporting our countries in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Moreover, we remain concerned over the continued imbalance between core and non-core resources. Core resources are the bedrock of the UN operational activities for development. The system must urgently address this imbalance, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities between developing and donor countries. Furthermore, non-core contributions must be more flexible and aligned with national priorities and plans of developing countries.

To conclude, let me reaffirm my delegation's commitment and constructive engagement in strengthening the UN Development System in order to support developing countries to achieve sustainable development and to overcome the impacts of the current COVID-19 pandemic.

I thank you