

Remarks by H.E. Mr. ISHIKANE Kimihiro
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ECOSOC Operational Activities Segment
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At the outset, I wish to reiterate Japan's strong support for the reform effort led by the Secretary-General to enhance the efficiency, effectiveness and coherence of the UN Development System.

COVID-19 has put the UN development and humanitarian systems to the test. The response should be people-centered, comprehensive, context-specific and prevention-oriented, and should reflect the voices of people on the ground. This is what the human security concept instructs us to do.

We are encouraged by the DCO's survey, according to which 92% of Governments responded that the RCs have ensured a coherent UN response to the pandemic. RCs and UN Country Teams seems to have been instrumental in the COVID-19 response in many programme countries.

Having said that, let me make a few points in relation to the efficiency agenda.

First, Japan is encouraged to know that the UN Country Teams have saved 100 million USD in 2020, making steady progress towards the projected efficiency gains. However, only one-third of UN entities currently have policies or mechanisms for measuring efficiency gains. We count on the SG's leadership to have the remaining two thirds introduce such mechanisms.

Secondly, Japan commends those RCs who are trying to review the configuration of the Country Teams. Realizing UN Country Teams and RC Offices that are tailored to match the needs of each country is extremely important. I would like to hear your views on how to strike the right balance between the top-down and bottom-up requirements at the country level.

Finally, I wish touch upon the "funding gap" of the RC system mentioned in the Secretary-General's report. Japan supports maintaining the current model of three funding sources. To close the gap, we must work to broaden the donor base and reduce the cost, estimated 281 million USD.

To conclude, I would like to express Japan's strong expectation for SG's leadership in realizing closer nexus between UN development and humanitarian systems. Both systems should function in full coordination, including with regard to funding and statistics, in the event of human security crisis such as the one we are experiencing under the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you.