

ECOSOC Operational Activities Segment

Session 1

Interactive dialogue with the UN Secretary-General

Statement by Norway

Deputy Permanent Representative Odd-Inge Kvalheim

President of ECOSOC,

Secretary-General,

Thank you for your sharing your vision for the continuation of UN reform.

Norway remains a committed supporter of reform of the UN Development System.

We are pleased to note that the reforms are moving forward, although to a varying degree. We commend the Resident Coordinators and the country teams for their coherent and efficient response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

In some areas, however, progress is too slow, and we would like to take this opportunity to raise two areas where we believe more effort is needed.

First, as pointed out in your report, 77 per cent of the world's extreme poor live in fragile countries. To achieve the 2030 Agenda in these countries, it is imperative that the UN enhances the collaboration across the humanitarian, development and peace building engagement. We would have liked to see more systematic evidence of how the UN is working to achieve this. In particular, we would like to know which systemic steps are taken to ensure a whole of system approach at country level. We would appreciate to hear how the Secretary-General assesses the progress made in this regard and how to move forward.

Second, Norway attaches great importance to the UN's normative role at country level. Human rights, gender equality, addressing inequality and vulnerability must remain at the center of the UN's work.

We are concerned with the limited progress in mainstreaming gender equality in all aspects of the UN's work at country level. How is the Secretary-General planning to address this challenge?

Thank you.