

ECOSOC Operational Activities Segment

Statement by the Republic of Korea

18 to 20 May 2021

Mr. Secretary-General,

First of all, I would like to thank you for your informative briefing this morning, as well as the insightful report presented to this meeting. I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to you and your team for your dedication and commitment to the implementation of the UN Development System reform.

The COVID-19 pandemic has posed complex and multi-dimensional challenges to all countries, and this has required an ever more comprehensive, coordinated, and coherent response from UNDS. Korea, as a staunch supporter of the UNDS reform since the beginning of its process, is pleased to note the positive assessment on the whole-of-system response to this unprecedented crisis.

Commending the achievements made so far, Korea would like to encourage the UNDS to continue to build on the momentum of the reform, further consolidating the progress and identifying an improved way to deliver better on the ground.

In this regard, we would like to share our following priorities and welcome your feedback.

First, enhanced collaboration across humanitarian, development, and peace actions are critical moving forward.

Korea acknowledges the UNDS efforts for stronger cross-pillar collaboration and commends the progress made, including several field-level guidances and joint initiatives. We hope that the Secretary-General further encourages joint efforts to overcome the identified bottlenecks as contained in the report, such as the lack of data sharing between UN entities. We also welcome the work of JSC (Joint Steering Committee to advance Humanitarian and Development Collaboration), as a platform to link HDP actors, and look forward to the regular sharing of information as per the 2020 QCPR. Korea will continue to advocate UNDS efforts in this area, in line with our national HDP nexus implementation strategy adopted in March.

Second, we emphasize the importance of continued efforts to enhance effectiveness of the new RC system.

Korea acknowledges the findings of the Secretary-General's report that the strengthened leadership and coordination of the RCs were essential in the more cohesive and system-wide responses of UN Country Teams (UNCTs) to the pandemic. Recognizing the value of the new RC system against the current landscape, Korea has contributed to the SPTF (Special Purpose Trust Fund) and the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund. We also note, however, that there are areas for the refinement in the new RC system. We hope the ongoing process for the RC system review will provide a clear pathway to become a more effective RC system, enabling more agile and coordinated activities by UNCTs.

Third, strengthened rights-based and gender-responsive approaches are necessary.

The role of the UNDS is crucial in accelerating progress on SDG 5. Given that the pandemic has disproportionately affected women and girls, UNDS is further encouraged to step up its efforts to promote gender equality, gender mainstreaming, and the empowerment of women at the country level, including by further integrating gender-responsive perspective in the Common Country Analyses (CCAs) and Cooperation Frameworks. Advancing gender equality is also one of the priority areas of the 2020 QCPR. We would like to be informed on a continued progress by the UNDS in this field.

Mr. Secretary-General,

Korea reiterates its strong commitment to the UNDS reform as well as our unwavering support to you in this ongoing endeavor.

Thank you very much. /END/