

Statement delivered by Mr. Serhad Varlı, Deputy Permanent Representative of Turkey

Session 8 “*Unleashing the UN development system’s regional assets: the path forward*”

(Thursday, 20 May 2021, 11:00-13:00)

At the outset, let me thank **Madame DSG Mohammed** for her comprehensive presentation. I also thank the panelists for their insightful remarks.

A reinvigorated regional architecture is a crucial component of our overall efforts to increase cooperation and coordination, not only at the regional level, **but also between** national and regional levels.

Turkey commends the efforts of the UN development system since the adoption of the ECOSOC and General Assembly resolutions, 2020/23 and 74/297, **respectively**, where Member States requested the Secretary-General to continue to conduct, **in the course of the implementation process**, transparent and inclusive consultations with all countries concerned **at all levels**.

We are of the view that the **RCPs (Regional Collaboration Platforms)** should reinforce development system’s support to programme countries in line with the **UN Sustainable Development Collaboration Frameworks (UNSDCFs)**, and we are glad to see that we are moving in the right direction.

In the upcoming process, we believe that we need to focus our efforts on issues **where further consideration is needed**, both from Member States **and the United Nations development system**.

In this regard, let me ask two brief questions to the distinguished panel:

First: How do you think we should address cross-regional issues? At what point **and on which basis** RCPs in different regions should cooperate? Some of the challenges we are facing, **like air pollution**, obviously require cross-regional collaboration.

Second: How are we going to integrate the work of the RCPs and **IBCs (Issue Based Coalitions)** into the national level, more importantly, in the preparations of the UNSDCF? Here, we are of the view that we need to ensure that **RCPs do not overrule the UNSDCFs.**

We believe that the **consolidated regional architecture** could improve our system-wide efforts, on issues where we are ready to work together.

Let me once again reaffirm Turkey's readiness to actively **engage in** and **contribute** to the upcoming discussions.

Thank you.