

## ECOSOC Operational Activities for Development Segment 17-19 May 2022

Session 1, Tuesday 17 May 10-12am

Intervention by Finland

Ms. Kaarina Airas, Minister-Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations

Madam Chair, Mr. Secretary-General, Distinguished Delegates,

It is my pleasure to address this meeting today. We wish to thank the Secretary-General for the presentation of the report. Finland aligns itself fully with the intervention of the European Union, which outlined our strong support to the United Nations and to multilateralism, and underlined the remaining main challenges in the implementation of the UN development system reform.

In addition to the EU remarks, we would like to raise the following three points:

We would like to express our strong support on the various measures to achieve **gender equality** across all UN entities. It is crucial to address the root causes of gender inequalities and to ensure the implementation of a cross-cutting gender-transformative approach throughout the UN system.

We are pleased to see that **at country level**, there is strong ownership among UN country team entities towards Human Rights, Gender Equality, Disability Inclusion and Leaving No One Behind. It is important to ensure that Socio-Economic Response Plans and Cooperation Frameworks contribute to a more equitable and environmentally sustainable recovery – including action on climate change. Furthermore, we look forward to seeing progress on better utilizing digital technologies and on addressing the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

We welcome the **efficiency gains** made with the implementation of the reform and encourage you to continue this important work. However, there is a need to further

explore **sustainable funding solutions** in order to bring the funding of the RC system to an adequate level. We value the pooled funding mechanisms such as the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Party Trust Fund, which have facilitated new partnerships and good results on gender equality.

To conclude, we once more commend you, Mr. Secretary-General, on the progress made so far in the implementation of the reform, despite the very challenging global operational environment.

Thank you Madam Chair.