

**ECOSOC operational activities segment
H.E. Ms. Miia Rainne, Chargée d’Affaires of Finland to the United Nations,
and ECOSOC Vice-President responsible for
the Operational Activities for Development Segment**

Suggested Opening Remarks

Tuesday, 17 May 2022, 10:00am – 12:00pm

It is my honour and pleasure to chair the 2022 Operational Activities for Development segment of ECOSOC.

Our main objective is to review progress made by the UN development system on the 2030 Agenda and the implementation of the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR), and ascertain how well the system is meeting the demand to build back better from COVID-19 and get on track to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Over the next three days, we will consider the Secretary-General’s report on the implementation of the QCPR and the annual report of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group Chair on the Development Coordination Office.

We will review both, how well individual entities are aligning their policies and practices to the QCPR mandates, and how well the UN development system has been coming together to deliver a whole-of-system approach in support of countries’ pledge to leave no one behind.

We will also take stock of how the system is tailoring its support to countries in special situations, including transitions from conflicts and crises.

We will also assess the system’s progress on using strategic foresight, data and digital transformation to accelerate the shift towards inclusive and resilient economies.

Last but not least, we will look at the results of the regional repositioning and the implementation of the Funding Compact.

Excellencies,
Distinguished colleagues,

Many developing countries and economies are still facing immense challenges to recover from a pandemic that has pushed millions to extreme poverty and hunger.

And as we speak, our food systems and financial systems are fronting more crises.

We are facing “code red” on climate change.

Inequalities, food prices, and human rights violations are at record high. Increasing violence against women and girls and setbacks on gender equality goals are rolling back decades of progress.

The impacts will be devastating for all, and in particular for the most vulnerable - all for reasons of which they bear little responsibility.

The Secretary-General’s report indicates that the UN development system came together as never before to support countries’ response to the pandemic.

That Resident Coordinators played the key role expected of them in leading the consultations, planning and delivery of 121 Socio-economic Response plans;

That the new generation of UN country teams has stepped up and rallied around the new Cooperation Frameworks;

And that at regional level, the collaborative platforms are providing a robust foundation for improved support to countries.

We will hear more on this directly from the Secretary-General in a few minutes.

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

We are faced by multiple crises that cannot be solved by individual countries alone.

We need global solutions to global problems.

The pandemic has been an unprecedented wake-up call, one that laid bare the deep inequalities between and within countries.

It has also left no shadow of a doubt on the critical importance of multilateralism and global public goods -- as captured in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change.

We need bold steps to steer the world onto a more sustainable path, and a recovery that leads to greener, more inclusive economies, and stronger, more resilient societies.

The UN development system has an even bigger role to play.

And for this, we must move beyond incremental changes towards truly transformational actions, backed with adequate funding, to address the urgencies of our time.

We look forward to our dialogue over these three days with programme and contributing governments, senior managers of UN entities, resident coordinators, UN country teams, youth and civil society.