

Operational Activities for Development Segment
Session 5: Dialogue with Executive Heads of the UN Development System
UK Intervention
18 May 2022

Madam Chair, Excellencies,

From the outset, I want to acknowledge the progress to date implementing reforms. However, there is still more to be done at the country level.

In the SG's report, 34% of Resident Coordinator's noted difficulties accessing the expertise of non-resident entities. What steps are you taking to ensure that your expertise is accessible in areas where not present? Is there anything additional support that can be provided from headquarters and Resident Coordinators?

As we set out in our opening remarks, we remain concerned that only 28% of UN country teams shared their country programme documents with the Resident Coordinator for review. It is critical that the programme documents are reviewed by the Resident Coordination. Moving forward, we urge all agencies to ensure that the Resident Coordinators review the country programme documents and seek attestation from the Resident Coordinator of the alignment with the Frameworks. This includes instances where it is not yet required by the Executive Board.

The UN country presence, including skills and expertise, must align with the development plans on the ground. Can you provide an example of the country configuration exercise that you have undertaken where you have found efficiencies through the exercise? What efficiencies have you realised through common back-office functions and what are your plans to accelerate this in the coming year?

Finally, we wanted to discuss performance management. We would like a full discussion around the performance appraisal metrics of Heads of Agency in country. We think it's critical to examine the role of the Head of Agency in supporting implementation of the reforms. For example, do the performance appraisals include an evaluation of how much joint programming the Head of Agency has supported?

We must continue discussing the progress made at the agency level on UNDS reform, including at the Executive Boards. The forthcoming reform checklist is an important initiative for ensuring consistency. We look forward to that more detailed discussion in a few weeks' time.

Thank you.