

**Closing Statement by Her Excellency Miia Rainne,  
Chargée d’Affaires of Finland to the United Nations,  
ECOSOC Vice-President responsible for the Operational Activities for  
Development Segment  
Thursday, 19 May 2022**

Excellencies,  
Madame Deputy Secretary-General,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have now arrived at the conclusion of the 2022 ECOSOC Operational Activities for Development Segment.

I believe we have learned a lot from this exchange about where we are and where we should be going.

As Achim said yesterday, it is as if the repositioning exercise concluded in 2018 was omniscient to prepare the system, at the eve of the COVID-19 pandemic, to deliver a much more integrated, whole-of-system response.

I hope you will agree with me that the Segment has lived up to our expectations, that it be a platform for accountability on the performance of the UN development system in supporting countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The dialogue with the Secretary-General enabled us to discuss key trends as per the findings of his annual report on the QCPR. The Deputy Secretary-General provided us with an overview of the transformation taking place at country level, and where more efforts are needed. From capitals across the globe, Government representatives, Resident Coordinators and UNCT members shared how change is taking root on the ground. The exchange with the Executive Heads on ensuring a whole of system approach was a candid one about both progress and remaining challenges.

As you know, the outcome of the segment will be captured in a Chair’s Summary in the coming days.

In the meantime, allow me to share a few highlights on where our discussions indicate we are on the same page about progress and where more attention is needed – by both the UN development system and Member States.

*First*, there is general agreement that the UN development system reform is yielding substantive results. The COVID-19 pandemic has been a true litmus test for the repositioned system, where the new RC system and new generation of UN Country Teams enabled a swift and concerted response. At the same time, there is still need for improving transparency and accountability. The draft RC system results framework must be revised to serve as a rigorous tool with objective performance indicators. Member States are looking to consultations on this framework, as well as a briefing on the system-wide evaluation function.

*Second*, the UN development system is working in a more integrated and collaborative manner, which is enabling more comprehensive and systematic approaches on the ground in key areas highlighted in the 2020 QCPR, such as social protection policies. Further strengthening integrated, whole of system approaches will be crucial to address the impact of the triple crisis [financial, climate, food]. This will require both, consistent and coherent messaging from corporate level of each entity to its staff, as well as consistent messaging and policies by governing bodies.

*Third*, we heard of examples to harness the value of the system's regional assets including on data availability, financing for development and climate action. This is taking place through cost-neutral regional collaboration platforms, issues-based coalitions, and peer-support groups in support of countries' achievement of the SDGs. Member States have shown their continued interest in being informed of progress on the regional architecture and ensuring it complements rather than substitutes existing regional initiatives.

*Fourth*, as old and new compounding crises are exerting an immense toll across the globe, especially on the most vulnerable, the urgent is crowding out the important. We have backtracked on SDG progress and we are at the verge of a development crisis. More than ever, we need a UN development system that delivers to the maximum of its potential. This includes in particular improving collaboration across humanitarian, development and peacebuilding actions. The value of development in addressing the root causes and drivers of crises and providing a solution to them, cannot be overemphasized. Member States and funding partners have an essential role to play in helping scale up and pooling of humanitarian and development funding.

*Finally*, there was a clear message permeating through all of this week's sessions which was that all of our development ambitions and efforts to save the SDGs are dependent on adequate, flexible and predictable funding for the UN development system. This is also at the heart of the Funding Compact, and includes a fully funded resident coordinator system.

While many Member States are struggling with fiscal constraints during these challenging times, addressing urgent humanitarian needs cannot come at the expense of funding for development. Less funding towards development activities today means more funding will be required to address humanitarian crises tomorrow.

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

In closing, let me extend my special thanks to the Government representatives and UN officials who served as panellists, moderators and discussants, as well as to all the delegates for your active engagement over the past three days. Your contributions and frankness will ensure that ECOSOC's policy guidance continues to be solidly grounded.

I also wish to thank wholeheartedly the Secretariat for the support in the preparation of the Segment, in particular DESA for its invaluable support to the programme and its contents, and DGACM and BCSS for all of their assistance to ensure its smooth operation.

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is now my honour to conclude our work under the Operational Activities for Development Segment of the Economic and Social Council.

I wish those that are travelling a safe journey back home, and good health to all of you and to your families.

This meeting is now adjourned.

Thank you.