

**AFRICAN GROUP STATEMENT**  
**ECOSOC OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES SEGMENT- DIALOGUE WITH UN SECRETARY GENERAL**  
**19 MAY 2020, 10am-1pm / Virtually**

**Mr. Chair,**

1. At the outset, allow me to align my statement with the one conveyed by the Co-operative Republic of Guyana on behalf of the Group 77 and China.
2. We thank you Mr. Chair for convening virtually the Operational Activities Segment. We thank the President of ECOSOC and the bureau for their continuous efforts in steering the continuity of the work of the Council during these challenging times of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Operational Activities Segment this year is particularly important as it will stimulate an in-depth discussion on the 4 years of the implementation of resolution 71/243 and its follow-up landmark resolution 72/279 on the UNDS repositioning.
3. The African Group would like to commend the Secretary-General for his Report entitled: "Implementation of General Assembly resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (QCPR)" which provides a thorough update on the implementation of the 2016 QCPR and on the Repositioning of the UN development system. We also thank the Deputy Secretary-General for her continuous personal engagement throughout this process and for the report on the progress made by the Development Coordination Office.
4. Our Group appreciates the regular briefings, at the expert level, organized by the Development of Cooperation Office, particularly the updates it gave on the UN country teams and RCs, in the context of COvid-19. We commend this practice and hope it will continue in the future.
5. As rightly mentioned in the Report of the Secretary General, the current health crisis is the first big test for the repositioning of the UN development System. The African Group is convinced that our support to the Reform and our collective commitment to enhance the quality and effectiveness of the UNDS is, today, more important and crucial than ever.

**Mr. Chair,**

6. The African Group can't emphasize more on the centrality of the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions in achieving the 2030 Agenda. We welcome the operationalization of the new RC system and the configuration of the new country teams which are now at the frontline of the UN response in assisting program countries to mitigate the diverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.
7. In this regard, and in the context of the decade of action, we would like to highlight that the RCs and UNCTs have today a key role in putting poverty eradication and post Covid19 sustainable recovery at the very heart of their collective offer while ensuring coherence and complementarity of actions.

8. While welcoming SG's significant efforts towards strengthening the quality and coordinated nature of UN's support to African countries, the African group further calls for a tailored assistance on the field, given the specific needs of the continent and challenges to its achievement of the SDGs.
9. On a different note, we stress the necessity to ensure adequate, predictable and sustainable funding for the RC system and look forward to the process of redesigning the RCs Pool selection process. We call on the SG to ensure that this selection process remain gender balanced and inclusive, with nominations from the global south.
10. The Funding Compact was a corner step toward ensuring a sustainable and predictable funding that will facilitate the realization of the full potential of the UNDS. We note that the Covid-19 pandemic is likely to place further pressure on the UNDS, on financial contributors and on host countries struggling to cope with their own economic challenges. In this regard, we welcome the early positive signs shown by the compact, and stress the need to engage with reinvigorated determination and ambition towards addressing the imbalance between the core and the non-core resources and thus, continue the gradual implementation of the Funding Compact.

**Mr. Chair, to conclude,**

The African Group believes that our efforts toward the repositioning of the UNDS needs to facilitate the achievement of sustainable development at the country level and help African sustainable recovery from the pandemic and its multidimensional effects. In this regard, the African Group calls for intensified coordination and cooperation among Member States and the UN system in order to fulfil our common ambition of achieving the 2030 Agenda and insuring sustainable recovery and resilience for our peoples, economies and planet. Emphasizing the necessity of national ownership and leadership in all matters pertaining to the repositioning of the UN Development System, particularly, the development and configuration of the Regional Collaborative Platforms and Issue Based Coalitions must be led nationally, considering the unique priorities of each region.

The African Group looks forward to the upcoming virtual sessions of the Segment.

Thank you for your attention.