



# ARMENIA

## **Remarks by H.E. Mr. Mher Margaryan, Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations**

ECOSOC Operational Activities Segment, “The new RC system after 16 months: successes and challenges in UN country teams”

21 May 2020

Mr. Chair,

At the outset I would like to thank the Vice-President of ECOSOC for organizing the Operational Activities Segment this year under such challenging circumstances. I also thank the Deputy-Secretary-General Ms. Amina Mohammed, for her presence and comprehensive remarks.

We welcome the report of the Secretary-General on Implementation of UNGA resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and note with satisfaction the significant progress in United Nations Development System reform, which is now better prepared to assist the Governments to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

While this year we enter the Decade of Action, the crisis caused by COVID-19 pandemic will inflict certain setback on the progress in achieving SDGs. As the Secretary-General stated on several occasions, the 2030 Agenda remains as relevant as ever in leading the effective post-COVID recovery and building back better, while ensuring that no one is left behind. We recognize in this regard that the reinvigorated UN development system, under the leadership of empowered Resident Coordinators, is now better shaped to support host country governments in responding to pandemic in an integrated and coordinated manner.

Being a landlocked and middle-income country, Armenia was hit hard by devastating impact of COVID-19 pandemic, which further exacerbated existing vulnerabilities. We welcome the focus of the Secretary-General on countries in special situations in the context of current UNDS reforms, and look forward to the 2020 QCPR to provide guidance on how best to strengthen the UN coordinated support to LLDCs and MICs.

I am glad to welcome to this discussion the UN Resident coordinator in Armenia Mr. Shombi Sharp and UNICEF Representative in Armenia Ms. Tanja Radocaj, and would like to thank them for their presentations highlighting their work, the challenges and sharing their views on the way forward. Nearly a year and half since the launch of the reform, the reinvigorated RC system delivers more efficiently on the ground in supporting the ambitious reform agenda of the Armenian Government.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to acknowledge with appreciation the active engagement of the UN Country Team in addressing immediate impact of COVID-19 on public health and its economic and social consequences.

We recognize the critical importance of follow-up and review of implementation of SDGs. In this regard, Voluntary National Reviews are the key tools to assess progress and challenges, as well as seek solutions and support. In reiteration of our strong commitment to the 2030 Agenda, Armenia will present its second VNR at the High-Level Political Forum this year.

Mr. Chair,

We are glad to note the efficient and result-oriented cooperation of the UN country team with the Government on the basis of relevant needs and priorities, also through the involvement of the Resident Coordinator in the newly established SDG Council of the Republic of Armenia.

We look forward to our continued collaboration with the UN Development System in the post-review phase to identify measures to be taken to accelerate SDG implementation in the Decade of Action.

I thank you.