

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
Operational Activities for Development Segment

**Round Table on Integrated Implementation of the 2030 Agenda:
the Role of the UN Development System
in Addressing the Needs and Diverse Challenges of MICs**

New York, March 2, 2017

As the only UN Ambassador on this panel, I would like to focus my remarks on the logistical practicalities of the MICs process in the UN Headquarters.

WHY DO IT?

- Leaving the UN Strategy on MICs in limbo or just paying lip service to the subject will **undermine the progress towards SDGs** in the larger part of the world.
- By not harnessing the development experience of MICs and making them **a factor** of not holding back but **of positive change**, the global development effort will miss out on the important **catalytic influence for dealing with problems of LDCs**.
- **Cohesive UN Strategy on MICs** is not only and maybe not so much about providing actual assistance through the UNDS framework but more about **setting a blueprint** to be used by the **outside development actors**, more about, like in case of SDGs, coming up with **a bold vision** not just for the UNDS but **for the entire global community** for addressing a murky and unappealing issue that has to be dealt with no matter how we may resent it.

WHO TO ENGAGE?

- First, the Member States have to self-organise. The current pioneering UN Headquarters effort of the **Like-Minded Group of Countries in support of MICs** is honourable but way **too modest to effect immediate change**. For the moment the MICs majority in the UN is most regrettably and nearsightedly keeping mum.

- Secondly, the **UN Secretariat** has to rise up to the expectations of Member States and **assume the coordination function of watching over the MICs agenda** in the UN. DESA is our **trusted think tank** and should provide much needed **analytical and logistical support and guidance** on our way to the UN Strategy on MICs.
- Committee for Development Policy also has a role to play and may get mandate from ECOSOC to draw up its proposals on the way forward.

WHAT TO DO?

- Elaborate a **comprehensive UN development system-wide long-term strategy** to facilitate sustainable development cooperation with MICs and provide them with coordinated support.
- Ensure **uniformity of approach** across the UNDS regarding **classification** of MICs, **graduation thresholds**, **multidimensional index**, **range of instruments** used to attend to specific needs of MICs.

HOW TO DO IT?

- When devising and improving the structure of the Multidimensional Index and choosing specific indicators, **clear focus on the most vulnerable groups is a must**.
- We look forward to **the intellectually challenging input from DESA** to help MICs tackle development challenges. As we are approaching the discussion on development cooperation with MICs at the next session of the General Assembly, we would like to have a **more creative report of the UN Secretary-General** on MICs, with bolder recommendations.
- To facilitate the preparation of the report we propose **organising a brainstorming meeting of experts** of the interested countries and the Secretariat **to discuss the**

scope and the structure of the forthcoming report.
We have to find the ways of working closer together.