

Comments by Egypt in ECOSOC OADS (February - March 2017)

Comments and questions delivered by Egypt during the morning session of Day 1 (Tuesday, 28 February): “Building a Stronger UN Development System for Delivering on the 2030 Agenda.”

Appreciation for the opening statement of Ms. Amina Mohamed, and refer in particular to two of the points she raised: i) the need for a bolder approach to funding; and ii) the idea of the UN as a knowledge hub. Further raised the following two comments:

- 1) On the need for a bolder approach to funding: we note the SG’s funding analysis Report presented to this segment of ECOSOC, and note with concern that the proportion of the development-related component in the funding of operational activities is decreasing, almost at a historical low. While recent events relating to humanitarian crises can explain this, yet this is clearly something that cannot be kept as “business as usual” if we are to implement the 2030 Agenda. We need an understanding as to how this can be rectified, and how to measure its impact on the ground. In this regard, the role of data and indicators is very important. Also, to what extent is spending on the development-related component leveraging other sources of funding. What has been the experience of some countries.
- 2) On reasserting the UN as a knowledge hub: what has been the role of the UN in its ability to provide solutions relying on this diverse wealth of knowledge, which is currently not being best exploited. There is a repository of knowledge among the UNDG entities, including the Specialized Agencies, yet a lot of this knowledge is not captured since it is not integrated, or even available in a manner that is easy to retrieve and capture. We need to look into this issue in the coming years – how to tap into the UN knowledge base. How to make it useful for governments and other stakeholders.

Comments and questions delivered by Egypt during the morning session of Day 2 (Wednesday, 1 March): “Rethinking the Funding and Financing Strategies of the UN Development System to Deliver on the 2030 Agenda.”

- 1) On the SG’s funding analysis Report, we note that 2015 figures showed a continuing decline in the proportion of the development-related component in total operational activities funding, which seems to be at a historical low. This is a cause for concern.
 - 2) One of the issues raised by the moderator was the idea presented in paragraph 10 of the SG’s funding analysis Report on the need to move to an integrated financing strategy. We find it an interesting idea, but we do note and caution that it is an idea that was not developed during the QCPR resolution negotiations, and so while we deal with it, we need to be very careful. Now, the way it is reflected in paragraph 10 of the Report seems a positive way forward. However, we note that the same terminology of “an integrated financing strategy” is also present in paragraph 20 of the Report, and it seems to imply a different usage, where it refers to the financing complementarity between development, humanitarian and peacebuilding financing needs in a given country. This raises questions that have not been settled by Member States, and we need to bear it in mind as we move forward.
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