



**Statement by His Excellency Ambassador Taye Atskeselassie Amde,
Permanente Representative of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to
the United Nations, at the Opening and Interactive Dialogue with the UN
Secretary General during the ECOSOC 2020 Operational Activities for
Development Segment, 19 May 2020**

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

I Align myself with the statements delivered by the Group of 77 and China, Africa Group, LDCs Group and LLDCs Groups. And I would like to emphasize the following points in my national capacity.

Allow me to thank you, Mr. Chair, and through you the President of ECOSOC and the Bureau, for convening this virtual interactive meeting during this difficult time for humanity; which makes an adequately resourced, relevant, coherent, efficient and effective United Nations development system a matter of necessity.

I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for the 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).”* The provides a thorough update on the implementation of the 2016 QCPR, the reforms of the UN development system and outlines the preparations for the next QCPR cycle. It would be a remise of me to fail acknowledge and thank the Deputy Secretary-General and her team for their continuous engagement on the repositioning of the UN Development System, and indeed on the full range of development issues. My delegation is equally grateful for

the sterling work of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the High Representative for Least Developed, Landlocked and Island Developing States.

Mr. Chair,

Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions is our highest priority and the overarching objective of the UN Development System. The COVID-19 pandemic, however, has triggered economic and financial shocks, exposing and exacerbating existing vulnerabilities, and inequalities that could reverse the hard-won development gains and hamper progress towards achieving the goal to eradicate poverty and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, especially in African Countries, LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS .

These multidimensional challenges, therefore, call for a well-coordinated UN development system which would be in a position to help countries, like mine, to effectively and efficiently tackle their challenges and recover best to achieve the 2030 Agenda. At this point, allow me to acknowledge the important role the Resident Coordinator is playing in coordinating the UN response in assisting my Government to mitigate the diverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Taking into consideration the diverse level of economic development and the realities of each countries, the implementation of the repositioning of the UN Development System should continue to fully respect States' sovereignty, independence, national ownership and leadership.

On the same note, as the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework being the principal planning and implementation instrument of the UN Development System in each country, and representing a compact between UN development entities and host governments, each stage of the Cooperation Framework should be led by governments at all levels, based on their national development policies and

priorities. In this regard, it is crucial that the guidelines for the development of the new UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks be developed in full consultation with host governments, taking into account country needs and priorities.

The 2020 ECOSOC Operational Activities for Development Segment, therefore, should be used as an opportunity to complete the remaining mandates of the repositioning of the UN Development System particularly, the development and configuration of the Regional Collaborative Platforms and Issue Based Coalitions must be state led and should take into account the unique priorities of each region.

In conclusion, In the midst of the decade of action, and at this time of an unprecedented crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, I would like to reaffirm our continued support to your efforts to deliver an effective and fit-for-purpose UN Development System that would help programme countries implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. I would like also to assure you our active engagement during the upcoming virtual sessions of the segment on the remaining mandates.

I thank you!