



Statement by His Excellency Ambassador Taye Atskeselassie Amde, Permanente Representative of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the United Nations, on the UNDS Regional Assets Repositioning, during the ECOSOC 2020 Operational Activities for Development Segment, 22 May 2020

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

I would like to thank you, Deputy Secretary-General, for the successive consultations and today's virtual interaction. I align myself with the statement delivered by the Cooperative Republic of Guyana on the behalf of Group of 77 and China. And I would like to emphasize the following points in my national capacity.

We underscore that the central purpose of the regional reform is making regional UN Development Systems architecture more fit for purpose and contribute to the acceleration of the 2030 Agenda in the Decade of Action and Delivery, as well as play central role in response to COVID19 pandemic and similar emergencies.

The reform should also enhance the roles of the RECs and regional UNSDG entities; and should be done in full consultation and agreement with national Governments.

Hence, it goes without saying that the identification of the Issue Based Coalitions should be demand and Member States driven; should be done in full consultation and agreement with national Governments; and ambiguous concepts such as “transboundary issues”, “transboundary programmes”, “strengthening natural resources governance” should be cautiously used.

Mr. Chair,

We welcome the reaffirmation that the Regional Collaborative Platforms will serve as internal inter-agency collaboration, and the platforms are neither intergovernmental forums, nor are designed to create new regional initiatives. On the same note, we want to be clear that the RCPs must not change mandates of the RECs or regional UNSDG entities; must not replace the intergovernmental forum in the region; and must not become an oversight mechanism for the UNCTs and the RCs.

In the report it is stated that the RCP will be chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General, in the Capacity of UNSDG Chair, with the USG of the respective regional commissions and the UNDP regional directors – at the ASG level – as vice chairs. Also given UNDP Administrator is Deputy chair of the UNSDG and UNDP’s membership in the regional UNSDG. In order to address the over representation of some institutions, we recommend to explore assigning the USG of the respective regional commissions as vice chair of the RCP.

It is also stated that the RCPs will meet under several configurations, including once a year under the DSG, back to back with the Regional

Fora on Sustainable development. We appreciate if we are given elaboration on what the other configurations envisaged look like? and on a similar note, the strong expertise and operational capacities of the regional commissions to provide the necessary logistic support for RCP meetings is recognized in the report. In the context of designating the Regional Economic Commissions, UNDP, and Regional DCOs, as secretariat, should reflect this comparative advantage of the RECs; and due consideration should be given to the envisaged scope of secretariat role of the DCO regional offices so that they will not exceed their current mandates.

On the **regional Management and Accountability Framework (MAF)** it will be useful if additional information is provided on its nature, modalities, components, as well as timeline for consideration by Member States. In addition, we would like to know how it is being planned to capture the relationships within and across the RCPs and at the same time preserve its regional scope?

On **Issue Based Coalitions (IBCs)** The identification of the IBCs should be demand and Member States driven and should be done in full consultation and agreement with national Governments. The overall spirit of the report gives the wrong impression that the Issue-based coalitions (IBCs) are identified by the RECs and regional UNSDG, on the region-by-region basis; and the envisaged criteria for the identification are existing expertise of the regional UNDS entities. On the same note, on paragraph 188 of the report, it states that “...initiatives for collaboration between the African Union and the regional collaborative platforms are already being discussed...” and adequate consultation should be undertaken so that the

implementation would proceed after final decision by Members of the region.

On **the establishment of the Knowledge Management Hubs**, while it is asserted that the interoperability of the hubs across the different regions is being assessed, we advise adequate attention to be given to the specificity and reality of the specific region; and avoid standardization and generalization.

On the **Regional reports on system-wide activities**, noting reports being shared with Member States in each region ahead of the respective regional SDG Fora, we want to note that the reports should not only be shared but also be reviewed and owned by the Member States of the respective regions. And subsequently, they can be presented to inform reporting to ECOSOC at the global level, providing Member States with the opportunity to better guide the efforts of the UNDS at all levels, including in the regions.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate our commitment to work closely and constructively with you and the Secretary-General to deliver on the repositioning and the next QCPR process; and build an effective and demand driven UN Development System, complementing the efforts of countries in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

I thank you!