

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA BY HIS
EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR RUDOLPH MICHAEL TEN-POW,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF
GUYANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AT THE 2020 ECOSOC
OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT SEGMENT
(New York, 19 May 2020)**

Mr. Chair,

Madam President of ECOSOC

Secretary-General

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.
2. The Group thanks you for this opportunity to share our views at the start of this crucial Operational Activities for Development Segment. We appreciate the hard work and the resolve to continue the segment in this virtual manner, given the current situation with the COVID-19 Pandemic, without particularly sacrificing substantive discussions.
3. The Group would like also to thank you, 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 report provides a thorough update on the implementation of the 2016 QCPR and the reforms of the UN development system. We thank the Deputy Secretary-General and her team for their continuous engagement on the repositioning of the UN Development System, and particularly the role of the Development Coordination Officer in organizing several briefings for Member States during this process. We are 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.

4. For our part, the Group will engage and provide focused interventions on the content of the Secretary-General's report during the upcoming virtual sessions of the segment. However, this statement will outline the Group's perspectives on the entire process of the OAS and the progress on the repositioning of the UN Development System. We also envisage further and continuous dialogue beyond the OAS on the UN Development System, with the view to continuously striving to improve the system.

Mr. Chair,

5. Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions is our highest priority and the overarching objective of the UN Development System. The repositioning of the UN Development System should fully respect national sovereignty, independence, national ownership and leadership, bearing in mind the different development levels and realities on the ground in all developing countries. Development itself must be the focus of this process.
6. The current Operational Activities for the Development Segment is at an important juncture to bring closure to what has been a comprehensive and productive process of reform. It also gives us an opportunity to fully consult and resolve outstanding questions on specific aspects of the reform. We would like to reassure you that the Group of 77 and China remains committed to supporting efforts to move forward with the remaining mandates of the repositioning of the UN Development System, particularly at this time when our countries are struggling to fight the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

7. The Group underscores the importance of national ownership and leadership in all matters pertaining to the repositioning of the UN Development System. This includes effective and timely reporting from the Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams to host governments. It is also crucial that the new UN Development Cooperation Frameworks be developed in full consultation with host governments, and reflective of country needs and priorities. Furthermore, the development and roll-out of the Regional Collaborative Platforms and Issue Based Coalitions must be a State led process taking into account the unique priorities of each region.
8. We call for strengthening of the UN Regional Commissions and recognize their role, particularly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, in assisting countries in their efforts to face the current crisis and mitigate its impacts. It is important that the UN Development System be able to respond in an efficient manner to this global crisis without weakening and affecting the developmental gains as a result of the reformed system. To do so, the system must upscale coordination among its entities and avoid duplication and rely on the rich trove of data and analysis produced by each Regional Commission and by DESA, as well as on their policy analysis, support and advice capacity.
9. The Group would also like to stress the importance of preserving the cooperation of the UNDS with each of the Programme Countries, taking into account the particular needs of countries in special situations, including countries in conflict and post conflict situations and countries and peoples under foreign occupation, in accordance with paragraph 10 of the 2016 QCPR, which are not reflected in the SG report.

10. As a way forward, the Group is discussing the scope and content of a draft ECOSOC resolution and will continue our informal outreach to the Bureau of ECOSOC, as well as to our partners on the logistics for its negotiation and adoption by the Council. We are of the view that the ECOSOC resolution will serve as a base for the General Assembly resolution, thereby acknowledging and respecting the universal make-up and authority of the Assembly.
11. We intend to propose a short, concise and focused text treating specifically the remaining repositioning mandates of the UN Development System – the Regional Review and the Multi-Country Office Review – that will require the endorsement by Member States. All other issues contained in the Secretary General’s report will be addressed in the QCPR process in the General Assembly.
12. To conclude, the Group reaffirms its continued support and solidarity for a UN Development System that would help programme countries implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly at the start of the Decade of Action and Delivery for Sustainable Development and to mitigate the impacts of the current COVID-19 pandemic. We look forward to meaningful virtual exchanges during this Segment to better understand progress made, as well as the key challenges and gaps that still remain.

I thank you