

**STATEMENT BY GHANA ON THE MAIN FINDINGS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S 2020 PROGRESS
REPORT ON THE QUADRENNIAL COMPREHENSIVE POLICY REVIEW
(QCPR) AND THE REPOSITIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM**

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

At the outset, Ghana aligns itself with the interventions made by the G77 and with the African Group statement. We also express gratitude to the Secretary General for the comprehensive Report on the progress made in the repositioning of the United Nations Development System.

- Ghana acknowledges that truly, the early signs of the reform look promising as some changes are occurring at the country level to ensure that the UN is better positioned to deliver on its mandate. We are pleased to share that our country is currently implementing the UN Sustainable Development Partnership (UNSDP) framework for 2017-2022. This partnership echoes the belief that UN work should support SDG implementation and demonstrates that the UN work in our country should be a partnership rather than as a source of assistance. It is the One Programme for the UN in Ghana that clearly outlines the joint, coordinated support of the 24 agencies of the UN in Ghana.
- We also believe that the UNDS strategy, 'Delivering as One', is critical to accelerate efforts to increase coherence and effectiveness of the UN system. However, we note that many countries, including Ghana, lag behind in this critical endeavor and we urge increased efforts in that regard. 'Delivering as One' must not only be in policy (on paper) but in implementation and operations. We realized that 'Delivering as One' which is a critical component of the reforms, was not adequately reflected in the report.
- As the situation brought about by the COVID -19 Pandemic continues to evolve, United Nations agencies must remain agile and responsive to the emerging needs of the populations they serve, in particular women, children and other groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination that were left behind even before the pandemic. It also puts the UN development system reforms to a test.

Excellencies,

- Ghana has seen an increased degree of trust - building between the UN Agencies as a result of the decoupling of the office of the Resident Coordinator, as compared to the situation that existed before. Again, we read in the report that many UN Country teams report of cost savings as a result of some shared programs and operations, by sharing common premises in the UN House, implementing a vehicle pool across UN entities in the country, and improving the technological infrastructure. We wish to see this actively implemented in our country too.
- In seeking to improve, I would emphasise that the UN must not forget its critical role as an International Arbiter: Many people regard the UN as an arbiter that has no national or commercial interest when major policy decisions are being taken. As the voice of the voiceless especially in this COVID 19 period, the UN system must enhance its efforts to tackle complex global problems that cut across the areas of expertise and defy the efforts of any country acting alone. No country standing alone can survive this cross-cutting effects of this pandemic.
- While we recognize the challenge of securing predictable, sustainable and flexible resources to many countries as they battle the pandemic, we note that the UN System has shown considerable collaboration to ensure that all countries come out of the experience in a manner that is not detrimental to the implementation of the SDGs. We note with appreciation, the work by the UN in Ghana in supporting the development of a UN Framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19.
- We look forward to fruitful discussions in the coming days, which will provide an update on the QCPR process as well as give guidance to the development system as a whole on the way forward. Ghana will continue to show its commitment and engagement in the process as we accelerate efforts in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development despite obvious challenges.
- I thank you for your attention.