

STATEMENT OF MOROCCO

Dialogue with the UNSDG Chair and Heads of entities: Working together to accelerate SDG progress during the Decade of Action and in light of the COVID-19 pandemic

27 May 2020/10:00am -1:00pm

- At the outset, I would like to congratulate the Vice-President for organizing the closing session of OAS in this format and with this rich panel. A word of thanks and appreciation for Madame DSG for her personal engagement and her valuable inputs during the OAS Segment. I also thank the panelists, heads of UN entities, for their insightful presentations.
- **I would to share some comments and one question:**
 - 1.** As we started the decade of action for the SDGs, the COVID-19 pandemic added a heavy burden and additional challenges to the existing difficulties that developing countries are already facing. **The Repositioned UN development system has already brought the paradigm shift needed, in terms of coherence, effectiveness and efficiency of action, for a better delivery on the ground. we are today in a phase of test for the System, as many of us have said, but we see it also an opportunity to ensure the adequate response needed.**
 - 2.** **We believe that the role of UN entities, Funds, Programs, and Specialized Agencies, is indeed fundamental in assisting program-countries in working towards national priorities, implementing the 2030 Agenda and providing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.**
 - 3.** **The Collective efforts for this response should focus on assistance in terms of: poverty eradication in all its dimensions, strengthening health infrastructures, access to water and sanitation, empowerment and protection of Women in rural and urban areas, facing climate change effects, protecting children and elderlies, saving jobs and assisting those who rely on informal sectors for their living.**
 - 4.** **With regard to the 2020 QCPR, I would conclude by quoting what the Secretary General has mentioned in his report: “ the next QCPR must raise the bar”. Thus, we except that it will be an opportunity to bring innovative approaches for technical support, in key areas, that help the program countries to accelerate SDG implementation and catalyze the role of partnerships. Also, a moment of reflection on enhancing the System’s adaptability to the context of risks and uncertainty as the situation we are living today and of which the effects may last for a long period of time.**
 - 5.** **Finally, I would draw my question towards the special assistance to be given to Africa in the context of COVID-19. How the UN country teams in Africa are adapting to the current situation in term of assistance? especially for countries that are suffering today from exacerbation of existing structural challenges due to the pandemic.**