

**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR SAMSON
ITEGBOJE, AMBASSADOR/CHARGE D’AFFAIRES A.I., PERMANENT
MISSION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED
NATIONS, AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE 2020 ECOSOC
OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT SEGMENT, 19 MAY
2020**

Mr. Chairman,

We align our statement with the statements delivered by the PR of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, on behalf of the G77 and the Permanent Representative of Cabo Verde on behalf of the African Group.

2. We thank the Secretary General (SG) for his report on the implementation of General Assembly Resolutions 71/243 and 72/279. We appreciate the views expressed by the SG and would like to reassure him of our support in ensuring that his key proposals are mainstreamed when the QCPR is reviewed.
3. Let me also avail myself of this opportunity to appreciate the Deputy Secretary-General and her team, UNDESA and the Development Cooperation Office (DCO) for their continuing engagement in this process.

Mr. Chairman,

4. Nigeria attaches great importance to this ongoing comprehensive and productive reform process. The report of the Secretary General and his briefing at this Operational Activities Segment (OAS) has shown that the United Nations Development System (UNDS) has made appreciable progress in so short a time.
5. We welcome the first independent report by the Development Coordination Office (DCO), particularly its evaluation of progress made in reinvigorating the Resident Coordinator System and in reconfiguring the structure of the UN Country Teams (UNCTs). We appreciate the strong and independent leadership that the

reinvigorated Resident Coordinator system (RCs) is providing for the UNDS at the country level and commend the emphasis of the Secretary General on operational efficiency and result-oriented services by the UNCTs.

6. We agree with the SG that the current structure of the new generation of UN Country Teams (UNCTs) has the potential to better support the achievement of the development needs and priorities in countries where they operate. We note those challenges to the ongoing reforms highlighted in the SG's report and wishes to emphasize that, for the UNCTs to adequately respond to the needs of countries in vulnerable situations, particularly their desire to recover stronger from the Covid19 pandemic and accelerate the implementation of the SDGs, greater international support from all sources, including member states, international financial institutions, the private sector, the scientific community, the civil society, among others, would be needed. Only such cross-sectoral and membership support for the ongoing architectural re-building and reform processes would make the UN truly fit for purpose.

Mr. Chairman,

7. We are glad that the SG's report highlighted commonalities across all regions as well as regional specificities in the implementation of the reform. We observed gender and geographical gaps in the composition of currently serving RCs and wish to stress the need to significantly narrow the gaps when filling the remaining vacancies.

8. We note the proposals for the creation of Regional Collaborative Platforms (RCPs), annual reporting on UN system-wide results at the regional level of the 2030 Agenda, and the establishment of Knowledge Management Hubs, SDGs Gateways, and Regional Business Operation Strategy. We support these proposals but wish to emphasize the importance of ensuring that the establishment of the

RCPs does not encroach in the mandate of the Regional Economic Commissions (RECs).

9. We further note that commodity price volatility, lack of adequate domestic financial resources, pre-existing inequalities (along various dimensions), high debt levels, fragile health systems, and climate change crisis, could aggravate the situations of countries in vulnerable situations. Thus, it is important that these proposed reforms address the fundamentals of these disparities and continue to support countries in reaching their development priorities and the SDGs.

Mr. Chairman,

10. We agree with the SG on the importance of strategic partnership, tailored to address the peculiar needs of different regions and countries. Hence, we would like to know if there were portfolios of partnerships that were identified as effective instruments in this first cycle of the QCPR as well as inbuilt mechanisms, within the UNDS, for addressing concerns arising from partnerships. It would also be appreciated if the SG could shed light on how the system intends to address situations where an institution is given tasks that it lacks the capacity to execute.

11. We note all round progress in the analysis of the Funding Compact commitments and welcome the reassurance of transparency and accountability in the funding of operational activities for development. This has strengthened our confidence in the UNDS, under the Executive Office of the Secretary General (ESG) and the hands-on capacity of Resident Coordinators (RCs) at the national level.

I thank you!