

**STATEMENT BY TURKEY  
AT THE ECOSOC OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR  
DEVELOPMENT SEGMENT  
(DIALOGUE WITH SECRETARY GENERAL)  
New York, 19 May 2020**

Mr. Vice-President,

Let me thank Madam President, Ambassador Juul of Norway and you Mr. Vice-President, for convening this session.

We would like to commend UN Secretary General's and Deputy Secretary General's relentless efforts to reinvigorate the UN development system (UNDS) to deliver on the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

As we are all aware, the medium and long-term goals of our common roadmap to fight against poverty and inequality could only be achieved by a transformational shift in our understanding of sustainable development and a more efficient, transparent and accountable UNDS on the ground.

Turkey has been firmly supporting the reform process, and we applaud the progress achieved since the adoption of the landmark resolutions 71/243 and 72/279. National ownership of and consent to the process have been considerably important in the advancement of the UNDS reform agenda.

Turkey joins many others that the COVID-19 pandemic constitutes a litmus test for the UNDS reform, and for the reinvigorated Resident Coordinator system in particular. We welcome the efforts of the UNDS, under the leadership of the Resident Coordinators, to coordinate, streamline and deliver an integrated UN response to health, humanitarian and socio-economic impact of COVID-19.

The pandemic will inevitably worsen the situation in humanitarian settings. In this sense, the need for a reinforced development-humanitarian nexus is more pressing than ever. Towards this end, we need coordinated action and more collaboration on the ground and strengthened political will at the global level.

As one of the world's largest humanitarian and development assistance providers, Turkey will continue to maintain its efforts to mitigate the impact of COVID-19, including through providing equal health services to migrants and asylum-seekers in the country.

The recovery from the current crisis will only be ensured by our strong re-commitment to the 2030 Agenda, and a fit-for-purpose UNDS tailored to meet the specific needs of countries.

Mr. Vice-President

Turkey takes note of Secretary General's recent report on the implementation of the 2016 QCPR. We support the approach outlined in the report, namely to tailor and further strengthen the UNDS support to countries in special situations, such as the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

Clearly, we need to take into consideration that the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on these countries will be disproportionate. Therefore, it is only through an integrated and committed course of action that we can mitigate the negative impact of the current crisis on LDCs.

I would also like to take this opportunity to reiterate Turkey's position on the regional review process. We believe that the regional-level coordination could potentially bring about important improvements in our system-wide efforts to deliver on the ground.

It is of utmost importance to frame the relationship between the country-level and the regional level platforms to ensure that these platforms are not given the authority to overrule the host country's views and needs.

We believe that our collective efforts will make the UN more efficient, more relevant and more responsive to emerging challenges. I would like to conclude by reiterating my country's firm commitment to enabling the UNDS to better support member states in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Thank you.