



Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Debate on operational activities
Operational Activities Segment

General debate

New York, 22 May 2019

Statement by Switzerland

First of all, allow me to thank the ECOSOC Bureau, and in particular the Vice-President of ECOSOC, the Permanent Representative of the Philippines, for leading this year's debates. We consider this meeting to be crucial to ensure the follow-up of the 2016 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review and the resolution on the reform of the United Nations development system of May 2018.

Switzerland has long advocated a United Nations development system that is as effective and efficient as possible. The ultimate goal of UN reform is to ensure the effectiveness of operational activities on the ground. We therefore call for the swift implementation of reforms at the country level.

Switzerland thanks the Secretary-General for his report on the implementation of the reforms. We would like to make the following comments on the report:

First, we are encouraged by the first indications of the deployment of independent resident coordinators with broad powers as the most senior United Nations representatives in the country teams. Switzerland is contributing 9.4 million dollars to fund the

new system's transitional phase and we encourage other member states to do likewise in order to ensure the widest possible support.

Second, Switzerland calls for political leadership within the specialised agencies, funds, programmes and other UN entities to ensure implementation of system-wide reform. We therefore welcome the cost-sharing contributions that have been made on time.

Third, Switzerland supports the development of a new generation of UN Development Assistance Frameworks in order to provide the UN with a strategic position that will further the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and strengthen inter-agency collaboration and accountability at national level. It is our understanding that the 3 million Swiss francs which Switzerland has contributed to the Joint Fund for the 2030 Agenda is in line with the commitments of the Funding Compact, which we fully support. In this connection, it is also important that the funds' and programmes' dialogues on structured finance be aligned with the Funding Compact. It is also essential for progress to be made to improve the efficiency of working methods and for the executive boards to take appropriate decisions to this end in June.

Fourth, Switzerland looks forward to the Secretary-General's ambitious proposals to reform the UN's regional architecture. We must find innovative ways to ensure that the positive impact of the reform at national level is matched at regional level. In this context, we would like to have more information about the planned changes at the governance level, and their implications for the UN country teams. As regards the review of multi-country offices, we agree that there is a need to strengthen and better coordinate support for countries where such offices have been established.

Fifth, we have taken note of the main points of the System Wide Strategic Document. Without this document, the reforms will not be completed. The document should illustrate the comparative and collaborative advantages of the UN development system in support of the 2030 Agenda but also allow for and emphasise the possibility of involving other actors where they are better positioned to support it. We thank the Secretary-General for having invited us to submit comments on the document and hope to take part in further work on it.

In conclusion, we welcome this dialogue and are convinced that the reforms that are now under way are essential to ensure the United Nations provides significant support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Thank you.

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