

CLOSING REMARKS

BY

**H.E. MR. COLLEN V. KELAPILE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC)**

AT THE

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT SEGMENT

**19 MAY 2022
16:30 – 17:00 HOURS EST**

**PRE-RECORDED VIDEO MESSAGE
UNITED NATIONS OFFICE
GABORONE**

Please check against delivery.

- **Madame Vice-President and Chair,**
- **Madame Deputy Secretary-General,**
- **Under-Secretary-General for UN-DESA,**
- **Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. I am pleased to join you again at the closing of this **2022 ECOSOC Operational Activities for Development Segment.**
2. Let me start by congratulating the Vice-President and Chair for this Segment, Her Excellency Ms. Miia Rainne, for her excellent steering of the Segment.
3. This year's Operational Activities Segment takes place against the background of continued challenges.
4. The fragile recovery from the pandemic, and its devastating impacts on the SDGs is being compounded by the ripple effects of the war in Ukraine.

5. The climate crisis, biodiversity loss and pollution continue to threaten our planet and longer-term survival.
6. But, during these three days, it was clear that Governments and the UN system are committed to addressing those daunting challenges head-on, and accelerate action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals.
7. It was also clear that we all demand a strong support from the UN development system on this path.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. The Secretary-General expressed his determination to forge ahead with the historical reforms of the UN Development System launched in 2018 and broadened by the 2020 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of operational activities – the QCPR.
9. You recognized how much progress has been made so far. It is reflected in the increased authority and

enhanced coordination role of the Resident Coordinators at country level.

10. It is also reflected in the system-wide approach to developing the Common Country Assessment and the Common Programming Frameworks.
11. It is very pleasing that programme countries welcomed these and other aspects of the reforms to strengthen the support of the UN Development System for better implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
12. The COVID-19 pandemic showed how far we have come. Of course, there is still some way to go.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

13. During these three days, you stressed the need to further increase cooperation, mutual accountability and reporting between UN system entities and the Resident Coordinators.

14. This requires action -- not only at country level -- but also at Headquarters and in the Executive Boards. ECOSOC will pursue this aspect through its work.
15. You pointed to the need to have more closely intertwined activities for peace building, development and humanitarian relief. This is an essential dimension of the reform of ECOSOC, decided by the General Assembly last June in Resolution 75/290 A.
16. I am pleased to note that the ECOSOC Transition Meeting from Relief to Development -- to be held back-to-back with the Humanitarian Affairs Segment in June -- will aim at doing just that.
17. You also welcomed the improved support to countries in special situations and Middle Income Countries, in full respect of national ownership and leadership. But you also called for further improvements.
18. The need for special support to these countries is also expected to be a strong message of the Declaration by ECOSOC and the HLPF in July this year.

19. You reaffirmed the importance of supporting poverty eradication and bolstering macro and micro policies as well as partnerships to realize the SDGs.
20. The change in the way we do business within the UN system and among Governments, improved reporting and evaluation, aligning UN Country Teams' composition with country needs, strengthening cooperation with International Financial Institutions was reaffirmed.
21. We heard the determination of the Secretary-General, Executive Heads and UN development system's representatives at regional and country levels to deepen the reforms.
22. But it is also up to us -- the Member States -- to undertake some transformative actions in our interactions with UN system entities and in our funding patterns.
23. There are indeed great concerns -- not only about the quality of funding -- but also about the future

resources of the UN Development System given the impact of the deep cuts on ODA and other resources.

24. We need to do our part to ensure that the UN Development System is impactful, united, transparent and efficient.
25. We must mobilize its expertise across the board to support integrated policies to achieve the SDGs as part of the recovery from COVID-19, which is this year's theme for ECOSOC.
26. I believe that the Operational Activities Segment delivered its role as an accountability platform for the United Nations Development System. It will inform the General Assembly debate on operational activities for development at its 77th session.
27. Beyond this, you also made the link with the HLPF and the SDG Summit in September 2023.
28. I take this opportunity to thank the Permanent Representative of Thailand, our distinguished Vice

President, for his request to bring the concern for rescuing the SDGs at the heart of the SDG Summit.

29. I will continue encouraging this during the remainder of my tenure as President and beyond.
30. We must use the SDG Summit and the Summit of the Future to shape a forward-looking and ambitious vision to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs and build a better world.
31. We look towards the Secretary-General, DSG and UN system Executive Heads to support us in this process.
32. I congratulate you for your active engagement and participation which immensely contributed to making this Segment a success.
33. **I thank you all for your kind attention.**