

## **Interactive discussions**

### **Informal follow-up consultations to ECOSOC Dialogue workshops on the longer-term positioning of the UN development system in the context of the 2030 Agenda**

#### **Presentation of proposals by the United Nations System**

**Conference Room 5, 10 am – 1 pm**

**H.E. Ambassador Palma, Vice-President of ECOSOC**

Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,  
Dear colleagues,

I welcome you to our final informal follow-up consultation of the ECOSOC Dialogue. In these informal sessions we have examined in great detail some of the key ideas and proposals of the Independent Team of Advisers to the ECOSOC Bureau, as well as others raised by Member States during the workshops.

Today, we will have the opportunity to hear the proposals that are coming from the United Nations development system itself.

We will begin with presentations from the system, which I hope, will provide us with very concrete proposals with roadmaps and indicators. This will be followed by an interactive question and answer session to seek clarifications or details on these proposals. We will then follow with a second round of presentations by the system regarding the regional perspective and the specialized agencies, followed again by a question and answer session.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the informal nature of our discussions. I hope this will foster an open exchange of views on any area of the Dialogue, whether that be Functions & Impact, Capacity & Organizational Arrangements, or even Funding and Governance -- two areas which are rightly within the realm of Member States, but can nonetheless benefit from the experiences and perspectives of the United Nations development system.

At the outset, I want to express my gratitude to the UN development system for its willingness to engage with the ECOSOC Dialogue in an open and frank manner. It is also of note that the UNDG has presented a common vision and spoken with one voice.

While we look forward to hearing the proposals from the UN Development Group, I have opened the space to hear the proposals and options from individual UN entities as well. This will ensure that we get the widest range of opinions and options for us to consider.

Distinguished colleagues,

During the course of the dialogue, we have generally agreed that *'Business as usual is not an option.'*

At this stage of the dialogue, it is essential for us to hear from the system how it intends to go beyond broad principles and declarations of intent. Today, we delve into the specifics of actions proposed by the system itself.

What I would like to hear from those representative of the UN system presenting proposals today, is how they concretely recommend to address the issues that have been brought up during the dialogue, including by specifically highlighting for Member States how these proposals go beyond business as usual, and tackle the issues at hand.

We need to hear from the system what measures it proposes to address issues of fragmentation, duplication, cost-inefficiencies, transparency and accountability so that functions can drive funding, and funding moves away from strict earmarking and become more flexible. What are the system's proposals on how to maximize effectiveness and efficiencies and rethink tailor-made presence and programming? What kinds of measures do you have in mind in terms of organizational arrangements and harmonized business practices, joint back offices? What updated and new generation of mechanisms and instruments will help move the system from a sectorially-based MDG to an integrated SDG mindset that supports policy coherence?

At the end of the day, these are the measures that will most contribute to ensure no one is left behind.

Without further ado, I now open up the floor to the UNDG or, any of the Funds, Programmes, Specialized Agencies and other UN entities that are present, to share with us their proposals for how the development system as a whole can adapt to the challenges and ambitions of the 2030 Agenda

Thank you.