



**Remarks by HE Ambassador Carlos Duarte,  
Deputy Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations,  
at the ECOSOC Dialogue on longer-term positioning of the  
UN Development System in the context of the  
2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

**Concluding Session  
7 July 2016**

Thank you, Mr. Vice-President.

Let me begin by commending your personal effort, Ambassador Palma, to make the most of this second phase of the Dialogues, always engaging Member States and other stakeholders in what we believe has been a very constructive debate.

Let me also take this opportunity to thank Mr. Thomas Gass (DESA) and Mr. Amir Abdullah (UNDG) for the statements delivered this morning.

One essential input for the debates and discussions held under the auspices of the ECOSOC Presidency has been the papers produced by the Independent Team of Advisors, co-chaired by Dr. Klaus Töpfer and Ambassador Juan Somavía.

The main message contained in the papers is that the UNDS needs to change. This is widely recognized.

In order to enhance synergies and impact, and overcome fragmentation, the UNDS' functions should be embedded with at least three transformative shifts brought about by the 2030 Agenda: universality, integrality and integration. I will make some remarks on each one of these.

The first one, universality, requires the UNDS to enhance analytical capabilities regarding the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, including developed countries. This does not mean that the UNDS must do everything everywhere. The main focus should be on supporting developing countries, while prioritizing those identified by the 2030 Agenda in paragraph 56.

A real mindset change is needed, one that overcomes the dichotomy between donors and recipients.

The UNDS must also be informed by a multidimensional approach to poverty, in order that progress is better measured and needs are properly taken care of. Graduation should not be a means of preventing countries from receiving development cooperation.

The second shift stems from the integrality of the 2030 Agenda and requires the UNDS to develop expertise in some goals and targets that do not have, yet, a docking station in the UN. It is also important to balance strategies for acceleration of the achievement of certain targets at the national level while protecting the indivisibility of each SDG and of the Agenda as a whole.

For this, the demand-driven approach and national ownership are crucial. Thematic priorities must be defined by developing countries themselves.

The third shift relates to the integrated nature of the Agenda. This means breaking down the siloes between the three dimensions of sustainable development – social, economic and environmental – and also between the 17 SDGs. As mentioned by ITA, the multisectoral approach contained in the design of the SDGs must also be in the design of the UNDS.

Coordination and coherence must be enhanced, particularly on the ground, between operational activities for development and other UN activities, such as humanitarian assistance. This should be done, for the benefit of those in need, by preserving the spirit of the Agenda and respecting the different features and responsibilities of each activity.

Let us be clear: development is a goal in itself. The UNDS' perspective on peace is, and must be, a developmental one.

Mr. Vice-President,

With regard to funding, we agree with the experts' diagnosis that increased earmarking of resources undermines flexibility and inter-linkages. Core resources remain critical to the UNDS. In the SDGs context, they become even more important.

We are also open to discussing proposals on soft earmarking, in the understanding that this would be an instrument to divert funding from hard earmarking, not from core. The goal must always be to reduce the level of funding-induced fragmentation. A consolidated overview of the entities' budget can also contribute to a more strategic approach and guidance, by Member States, to the UNDS.

The review of the current governance architecture should, in our view, be oriented by the following considerations: first, making the UNDS a coherent system, by reducing fragmentation, bridging gaps and avoiding overlaps; second, building on what is working properly; third, enhancing accountability for the activities performed by the Chief Executives Board and by the UN Development Group; and, fourth, ensuring equitable participation of developing countries.

Mr. Vice-President,

From now on, it will be up to the General Assembly to perform a Quadrennial Comprehensive Review of the operational activities for development that prepares the United Nations Development System for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The seven papers prepared by the Independent Team of Advisors present an important contribution for our discussions.

Member States have also made interesting proposals throughout the Dialogues – and you yourself, in the opening statement, have summarized many of those. These ideas are triggering a thorough debate in capitals and will provide fundamental inputs for the QCPR process.

The current context is, indeed, challenging – and we should not lose the momentum built last year. As Ambassador Juan Somavía said, we cannot drop the ball.

Thank you.