



**STATEMENT BY MR MAHLATSE MMINELE, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE ECOSOC DIALOGUE ON THE LONGER-TERM POSITIONING OF THE UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM IN THE CONTEXT OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, 7 JULY 2016, ECOSOC CHAMBER**

Mr Vice President,

South Africa would like to congratulate you for your leadership in ably steering the second phase of the ECOSOC Dialogues. Indeed, this was a momentous period where Member States and other pertinent actors had the opportunity to exchange views and ideas on how to improve the United Nations Development System.

We appreciate the work of the Independent Team of Advisers (ITA) in reviewing the current system. This was a fruitful opportunity to examine the inter-linkages pertaining to the alignment of functions, funding practices, governance structures, capacity and impact of the United Nations

development system, partnership approaches and organizational arrangements.

The ECOSOC Resolution 2014/14 (Operative Paragraph 44), which mandated the dialogues in the first place, stated that the only input "reflecting" the dialogues on the longer-term positioning, for "consideration and action" of the General Assembly through the 2016 QCPR resolution, will be the Secretary-General's report on the QCPR. In our view, this is of critical importance, taking into consideration the inter-governmental nature of the process which will reflect Member States' discussions held in the context of the Dialogues.

Mr Vice President,

It cannot be overemphasized that interventions at country level should be based upon request of host countries so that these are in line with national plans and priorities. Donors need to channel their resources in the manner that supports and meet the needs of the intended recipients.

It is evident from previous Dialogue meetings that the lack of adequate funding remains a challenge to the achievement of sustainable development. We thus reiterate our continued call for the correction of the perennial imbalance between core and non-core resources.

We thus humbly propose that ECOSOC consider hosting a session on *international development cooperation* as a theme for an inter-governmental debate in order to help Member States to find solutions to global financing for development problems, which seems to worsen. This

should not be viewed as an attempt to re-open the Addis Ababa Action Agenda but a platform to assist in having frank and open discussions on how international development cooperation should support the United Nations Development System (UNDS) post- 2015. We recognize that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda supports, complements and helps to contextualize the 2030 Agenda's means of implementation targets.

Mr Vice President,

The Dialogues were indeed a good precursor of the upcoming Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR), although we are fully aware that issues that were dealt with during the entire series of meetings of the dialogues would not entirely be incorporated into the upcoming QCPR text. We are open to discussions regarding the ITA view that the QCPR should become a system-wide strategy for the entire UNDS. Our view is that the QCPR should focus mainly on development issues, most importantly on eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions.

Notwithstanding, we wish to emphasize that Member States should take the lead in the QCPR negotiations through inter-governmental deliberations, as they are the key drivers in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Mr Vice President and in conclusion,

South Africa would continue to engage constructively in inter-governmental forums that focus on the improvement of the UNDS and indeed, in the upcoming QCPR negotiations. There is no doubt that the system needs to be strengthened and be steered towards a more developmental path that is able to rise to the challenges of sustainable development and respond to differentiated country needs and contexts. Naturally this would also mean aligning the system with the 2030 Agenda. The work ahead of us is indeed immense but we believe is not insurmountable. Let us make sustainable development a reality to all, particularly to developing countries, to ensure that no one is left behind.

I thank you!