

**Statement by Ambassador Hahn Choong-hee
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the UN
DSG Briefing on the UNDS Reform
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Thank you Madame President,

I would like to thank the Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed for providing an update and giving us an opportunity to discuss UN Development System reform.

First of all, I would first like to make one general comment regarding the overall state of play.

As the other pillars of the reform, namely, peace and security and management, are shaping up, there should be a close coordination between all three pillars of the reform. In this regard, we appreciate the DSG's leadership role as a trouble-shooter to fill in possible gaps and missing links from much broader perspectives of the overall reform process.

Now, Madame President, I wish to touch upon some of the priority areas in the guiding questions circulated in early September.

First, when it comes to reinvigorating the Resident Coordinator system, our key expectation is a strengthened role of RCs regarding

inter-agency collaboration and Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus. In particular, one of the weakest links in the reform, in our view, is the link between peace-building and development, and we believe RCs can play an important role in this regard. To achieve a maximum effect of Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus, a robust and efficient coordination mechanism should be established and reinforced.

Second, we believe that rationalizing back-office functions is one of the most powerful reform measures for UN Country Team configuration. As pointed out in the Dalberg report, the siloed support functions across UNDS entities cause overall inefficiencies, often leaving even technical experts occupied with administrative burden. The biggest obstacle to implementing common back office functions is probably the absence of standardization in important areas such as procurement. Much work is needed for standardization and we support investing in these efforts.

Third, as for the system-wide accountability and oversight, we are supportive of the overall direction of the June report. However, we should caution against overloading the boat. For example, we think that there could be possible duplication between ECOSOC's role for operational activities and the role of the merged Board. At this stage, we are not fully convinced of the benefits of the merger of NY-based

Boards.

Fourth, regarding the role of regional commissions, we are of the view that reality check is needed. Strengthening the advisory and intermediary role of regional commissions could be useful. However, limited resources and staff, and the lack of country presence and implementation capacity of Regional Commissions will make it difficult for them to meet the high expectations.

Lastly, the main objective of introducing funding compact is to incentivize donors to contribute to the core or flexible funding, and this incentive mechanism can only be achieved if the UN demonstrates with empirical evidence how these flexible contribution lead to preventing zero sum competition and promoting inter-agency collaboration. There are lessons to be learned from the experience of Grand Bargain, which is a comparable arrangement to the Funding Compact in humanitarian setting since securing flexible funding was identified as the area with very slow progress according to the recent report by Global Public Policy Institute.

Thank you for your attention. /END/