

Informal Civil Society briefing on 10 February 2016 on the second phase of the ECOSOC Dialogue on longer-term positioning of the UN development system in the context of the 2030 Agenda

ECOSOC resolution 2014/14

44. *Recognizes* its role in providing guidance to the United Nations development system for the implementation of operational activities for development on a system-wide basis, welcomes the dialogues held at the operational activities segment of its substantive session of 2014 regarding the role of the United Nations development system in the changing development landscape and the need to align the United Nations system to address emerging challenges, in this regard decides to convene a transparent and inclusive dialogue involving Member States and all relevant stakeholders on the longer-term positioning of the United Nations development system, taking into account the post-2015 development agenda, including the interlinkages between the alignment of functions, funding practices, governance structures, capacity and impact of the United Nations development system, partnership approaches and organizational arrangements, decides that the Bureau of the Council will provide updates on progress in this regard during the operational activities segment in 2015 and 2016, and requests the Secretary-General to reflect these discussions in his report on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review to the General Assembly for consideration and action by Member States during the 2016 review.

Talking points of the Vice-President of ECOSOC, H.E. Ambassador Héctor Alejandro Palma Cerna

Dear representatives of civil society,
Fellow delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

- I would like to welcome all of you to this informal briefing on the second phase of the ECOSOC Dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the UN development system in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- The first phase of this dialogue process, which concluded in June of last year, focused on building a solid understanding among Member States and other stakeholders of the current state of play in the UN development system as a whole.
- At the outset of this informal briefing, I would like to highlight some of the main messages of the first phase of the ECOSOC Dialogue process:
- **First**, there is recognition that the UN development system needs to define more clearly its role and emerging functions with regard to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including in different country contexts.

- **Second**, the functions of the UN development system should drive the selection of funding practices. In this regard, the first phase of the ECOSOC Dialogue emphasized that the post-2015 era will require significant strengthening of the multilateral character of the UN development system, as well as greater use of integrated funding mechanisms and strengthened capacity for partnerships and mobilization of innovative sources of financing.
- **Third**, the integration requirements of the 2030 Agenda will require improved system-wide governance in the UN development system. It will also be important to ensure equitable representation in governing bodies as well as their effective functioning.
- **Fourth**, the country and regional presence of UN entities will need to become more coherent, effective and efficient.
- **Fifth**, the UN development system will need a work force in the post-2015 era that is well-trained, mobile, and driven to work for one UN. The delivery of programmes and projects at the country level will also have to use national capacities, systems and institutions to a much greater extent than in the past.
- **Sixth**, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will require significant strengthening of partnerships in the work of the UN development system. Such partnerships, however, will need to be fully aligned with the values and principles of the Organization and subject to proper review at the intergovernmental level.

Dear friends,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

- Let me now briefly discuss the plans for the second phase of the ECOSOC Dialogue process.
- At the outset, I would like to mention that a one-page **roadmap** for the second phase of the ECOSOC Dialogue, which outlines the upcoming workshops, retreats and formal sessions, has been made available in this conference room.
- The second phase was launched on 17 December 2015 with a substantive Briefing Session. The objective of the second phase will be to develop more concrete proposals and options for strengthening the UN development system in response to the requirements of the 2030 Agenda. These options and proposals will be further examined during the Dialogue and subsequent QCPR consultations of the General Assembly.
- With a view to facilitating the preparation of such concrete proposals and options for strengthening the UN development system, the ECOSOC Bureau is in the process of establishing an independent team of high-level advisers to the Bureau.
- The team is going to be composed of members from all regions with complementary expertise and from both developing and developed countries. The team also includes non-governmental representatives through the participation of leaders of several think tank organizations.

- The first meeting of the team of advisers to the ECOSOC Bureau will take place in New York on 24-25 February, which will be followed by an ECOSOC Dialogue retreat on 26-27 February. The team of advisers will consult extensively with all key stakeholders. They will also conduct consultations at the regional and country level.
- The establishment of the independent team of advisers signifies the importance attached by the Bureau to the success of the ECOSOC Dialogue process and is an important innovation in the work of the Council.
- The co-chairs of the team of advisers will be appointed shortly and I will request them to consult with civil society organizations in the preparation of the various proposals and options for strengthening the UN development system. The second phase of the ECOSOC Dialogue process is expected to conclude at the end of June.

Dear friends,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

- I would now like to open the floor for a general discussions.
- I would be particularly interested in hearing from you what are the kind of reforms required in the UN development system if the Organization is to be able to respond to the requirements of the 2030 Agenda, and, also, how civil society can contribute to the second phase of the ECOSOC Dialogue process?

Thank you