



***ECOSOC Operational Activities for Development Segment
Dialogue with Heads of UN Funds and Programmes
28 February 2017***

Mr. President,

Distinguished Members of the Economic and Social Council,

Colleagues and friends,

Let me start by acknowledging and thanking Helen Clark for her leadership and partnership during her tenure as UNDP Administrator. On behalf of all of us in UNFPA, I wish her much success, health and happiness in the years ahead.

Mr. President,

Agenda 2030 presents us with a unique opportunity, and responsibility, to work together for a world of equality and inclusion, better health, education and sustainability. We are driven to work together to leave no one behind.

In partnership with other UN agencies, UNFPA is firmly committed to supporting Member States in achieving their sustainable development goals, in line with the 2016 QCPR and the vision of Secretary-General António Guterres.

The QCPR resolution, adopted last year by the Member States, guides the development of a new generation of Strategic Plans from 2018 through 2021. These plans are being aligned, both in terms of process as well as structure, to enhance system-wide coherence.

As the first of three consecutive plans with a time horizon of 2030, new UNFPA Strategic Plan, extensively consulted with external stakeholders, paves the way for our contribution in achieving the global goals.

Mr. President,

Multidimensionality of poverty requires repositioning of the UN system to provide differentiated support countries to achieve the SDGs.

UNFPA is a pioneer within the UN development system in introducing a differentiated approach to programming in its business model in our current Strategic Plan. The model accounts for a set of characteristics, including income inequality. UNFPA Strategic Plan calls for reaching those farthest behind, especially marginalized women and adolescent girls.

Moving forward, the business model will be fine-tuned to become even more demand-driven and better tailored to support countries to achieve the SDGs. Differentiation entails “the right interventions in the right places, targeting the right people, at the right time to achieve the best results.”

Young people, peace and security

Mr. President,

I've said it before and I will say it again: If we want effective action across the development, humanitarian and peace nexus, and if we want hope for the future, we must embrace the full and genuine participation and priorities of **young people**.

The logic of empowering and investing in young people has been embedded in most of the recent global agendas, resolutions and agreements-- from the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change to the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Young people themselves shaped these global policies, and they must be embraced as full partners in moving these policies forward.

The 2030 Agenda specifically names young people as “critical agents of change,” and integrates the economic, environmental and social dimensions of development with young people represented as a priority across all 17 goals.

Following the adoption of UN Security Council resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security and the World Humanitarian Summit, UNFPA convened the Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action together with the International Federation of the Red Cross.

We have also been driving, together with the Peacebuilding Support Office, a Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security to shape the youth, peace and security agenda. And both initiatives capitalize on the essential contribution of young people to building resilient, sustainable, peaceful societies.

Financing for development

Mr. President,

The trillions of dollars required for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals can only be harnessed by a full commitment to leverage both international and domestic, public and private financing from a wide range of sources. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda provides a broad blueprint that requires significant shifts from current practice, both in thinking of development financing and strategic partnering.

For the UN system the challenge translates to adapting our corporate practices and capacities to attract level of funding from a broad base of donors commensurate with resource requirements of our respective Strategic Plans, beyond traditional ODA flows and including tapping into appropriate innovative and blended financing modalities. Perhaps more importantly, beyond resource mobilization for the operational activities, the UN system needs to retool and assert itself as a partner supporting its Member States to leverage resources to finance the 2030 Agenda.

All pathways to sustainable development, including the achievement of ICPD agenda goals and Universal Access to Reproductive Health, require effective and catalytical use of traditional grant funding to leverage additional resources towards a coherent and integrated financing framework. The UN system will have to demonstrate its value added both in leveraging effective action, but also appropriate and adequate financing.

This entails clear and thorough understanding of financing flows, challenges and opportunities. It requires partnering with governments, bi- and multilateral development entities, including development banks and financing institutions, the private sector and other relevant actors to harness respective skillsets and mandates for financing sustainable development. It also necessitates shifts in organizational culture and business model to facilitate investments and informed risk taking to engage in emerging streams of development financing. Similarly, pooling resources and innovation between UN system entities, as well as other partners, are critical for continued relevance and competitiveness.

Data

Mr. President,

The central focus of the 2030 Agenda is to leave no one behind. This places a great responsibility to identify and locate the vulnerable in every context. Further enhancement of national data systems would assist in this endeavor.

Improved understanding of subnational variations and inequalities in health, educational attainment, wealth, and access to resources will be essential to achieving sustainable development.

A true data revolution will draw on existing and new sources of data to fully integrate statistics into decision-making, promote open access to, and use of, data to drive investments in people and ensure data privacy.

Going forward, due attention must be paid to the potential of big data for the public good. Harnessing this potential will require new partnerships and new commitments.

Strategic Partnerships

Mr. President,

Turning to the issues of critical enablers and accelerators, 2016 was an important year for UNFPA from the point of view of **strategic partners' engagement**.

There is now a Strategic Partnerships Strategy, which clearly outlines ways for new non-traditional partners, - such as the corporations, foundations, academia, multi stakeholder forums and, high-net-worth-individuals to support the SDGs. The strategic framework looks at the global, regional and country level and guides UNFPA's work to tap into the potential offered by partnerships, in sync and coordination with other UN agencies.

New initiatives include Safe Birth Even Here - a campaign, of high impact, to raise visibility and channel resources to programmes on maternal health in emergency contexts. The campaign has built a solid platform of corporate partners, foundations and individuals and is constantly growing, attracting more support for UNFPA's and UN agencies' work in humanitarian settings.

Other examples include cooperation with academic institutions (such as Fordham University) to advance the sustainable development agenda, specifically in promoting corporate social responsibility; cause-related marketing initiatives (such as the one with TOMS)

These are just a few examples. As we look at how we can deliver on our mandate more effectively and efficiently, we will continue to look at how we can build, together with the rest of the UN development system, multi-stakeholder networks that increase availability and use of integrated sexual and reproductive health services, especially for women, youth and adolescents, that create value-added and tangible solutions in support of the SDGs.

Mr. President,

With respect to **South-South and Triangular Cooperation**, UNFPA will play the role of a convener of expertise, broker and a catalyst of know-how exchange to strengthen national capacities and support national institutions' commitment and ability to implement the ICPD agenda and the SDGs.

In line with our new strategy, UNFPA will foster south-south and triangular strategic advice to member states, to advance the ICPD agenda and the SDGs at the policy, programmatic, technical and logistical levels.

As an organization with a broad country presence as well as extensive experience in multilateral affairs, UNFPA is well-positioned to identify solution providers and drive south-south and triangular cooperation to support countries to achieve their goals. Recent examples of our work include fostering sub-regional hubs such as the Census Centres for Excellence in 3 African countries (Cape Verde, Senegal, South Africa) and establishing Academic online training platforms within Santa Catarina University, Brazil to provide 200 scholarships on gender-based violence for civil servants from different countries.

Mr. President,

Let me conclude by saying that the SDGs pave a brave road towards a world of equity and inclusion, health, including sexual and reproductive health, education, and greater equality.

UNFPA remains committed to working with other UN agencies and all partners supporting the poorest and most vulnerable, empowering women and girls, facilitating the development of young people, and helping countries realize a demographic dividend.

That is how we will end poverty and ensure that no one is left behind.