



PACIFIC SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES United Nations Member States

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Nauru to the United Nations
801 Second Avenue, Third Floor
New York, N.Y. 10017

Phone: +1 (212) 937 - 0074
Fax: +1 (212) 937 - 0079
E-mail: psids.ny@gmail.com

Statement of H.E. Marlene Moses Ambassador/Permanent Representative of Nauru to the United Nations Chair, Pacific Small Island Developing States At the General Debate of the 2017 ECOSOC Operational Activities for Development Segment

Wednesday, 1st March 2017, New York

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. President,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the 12 Pacific Small Island Developing States. We align ourselves with the statement delivered by the Distinguished Permanent Representative of Ecuador on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, as well as the statement delivered by Maldives on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States.

Mr. President,

2. We welcome this year's Operational Activities for Development segment of the Economic and Social Council. We offer our thanks to the many distinguished speakers for their in-depth presentations on this year's topic.
3. The system-wide guidance given by the 2016 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review will be critical in re-orienting work of the United Nations Development System to implement the 2030 Agenda. We are particularly attuned to the need for this guidance be fully reflected at the country level, in order ensure that we are able to meet the promises of our sustainable development agenda.

Mr. President,

4. The Pacific operating environment is unique in that 10 of our countries rely on one multi-country office. This situation is simply not optimal. Countries under the purview of this office must get the full suite of support provided by the United Nations Development System, or the mechanism is not operating effectively.
5. It is for this reason that the QCPR resolution calls on us to review and tailor appropriately the role and operational activities of the multi-country offices to ensure that they are fully supporting the policies and projects of the countries under their purview. If they are not doing this, we must then limit the number of countries

under the coverage of each multi-country office so that they are able to operate more effectively.

6. Likewise, the QCPR speaks to the need for a UNDS staff with the skill set needed to respond to the demands posed by an agenda of unprecedented ambition. This is a crucial point. Staffing of country offices should include seasoned international civil servants to help build capacity of local staff and national institutions, while strengthening coherence with multi-country offices.

Mr. President,

7. One of the most important outcomes of the QCPR is the strengthened mandate for all activities of the UN Development system to operate as coherently as possible, under the leadership of an empowered Resident Coordinator.
8. This coherence requires strengthened use of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, which must be prepared and implemented with the full and active participation of national governments.
9. It also requires strengthened joint programming at the country level. We have long decried the negative impacts of the silo mentality in the delivery of development assistance, and we must ensure that the tools provided by this resolution to overcome that mentality are implemented to the fullest.

Mr. President,

10. Operational activities for development in the Pacific face another set of specific challenges in the unique vulnerability of our region to natural disasters and climate change. Development efforts must continue to emphasize the importance of climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and national resilience building. For such efforts to be successful, long-term planning, with stable and predictable funding, are a must.
11. The QCPR resolution stresses the importance of core resources for funding activities of the United Nations Development System, and we echo concern in the increased reliance on non-core resources to finance development activities. Given the demands of the 2030 Agenda, the provision of all resources to support implementation must be scaled up, as well as aligned with the priorities as captured by development assistance frameworks.
12. Only a coherent, system-wide response can ensure that we meet the sustainable development challenges and drivers of humanitarian emergencies in our region. I thank you.