



Statement

by

**H.E. Dr. Nawaf Salam
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to the United Nations**

**at the
Economic and Social Council**

**on the
Operational activities for development segment**

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Check Against Delivery

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Mr. President,

This year's "Operational Activities for Development" segment comes at the backdrop of the adoption of the new QCPR resolution which will provide for the next four years the guiding framework for the UN Development System, as it seeks to assist programme countries in integrating Agenda 2030 into their national development plans, and in the implementation and follow up phases.

Our delegation would like to stress on the following few points in line with the provisions of the QCPR resolution:

First: There is a need to maintain the universal, voluntary, and grant nature of the operational activities for development, their neutrality, flexibility, and alignment with the priorities and needs of programme countries.

Second: The eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions continues to be the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, and should remain the highest priority and underlying objective of the UN Development System. The System's entities, funds, programmes, and specialized agencies should undertake every effort to integrate poverty eradication into their strategic plans.

Third: We note with concern the growing imbalance between core and non-core funding for operational activities for development as stated in Secretary General's last "Funding Analysis" report, which warned that such an imbalance has consequences for the multilateral nature of the System. While recognizing the difficulty that the UNDS is facing in mobilizing a larger share for core resources, more efforts should be exerted to convince donors, including non-state actors, of the necessity to participate in pool funding mechanisms, and to make their non-core contributions less ear-marked and more flexible and predictable.

Fourth: We welcome the recognition in the new QCPR resolution of the need for an enhanced coordination between the development, humanitarian and peacebuilding efforts of the United Nations entities at the national level in countries facing humanitarian emergencies and in countries in conflict and post-conflict situations.

Lebanon is one of those countries where peacebuilding, development and humanitarian, not to mention peacekeeping, activities have been running simultaneously in the past few decades. The United Nations has been an important partner in these efforts, whether through UNIFIL or UNRWA or UNDP and other entities of the UN Development System. Since 2011, and as a result of the mass influx of more than 1.2 million refugees due to the ongoing crisis in Syria, the humanitarian dimension of United Nation's activities in the country has dominated the discourse.

In this regard, the Lebanese Government has consistently emphasized on the need to enhance coordination and coherence between the development and humanitarian activities of the United Nations entities and operations at the country level, and in accordance with national plans, needs and priorities, in order to meet the needs of both the refugees and their host communities.

It was in this context that the Lebanese Government and the UN System signed last October a pioneering United Nations Strategic Framework (UNSF) for the period 2017-2020 to replace the previous UN Development Assistance Framework. The new framework recognizes that in view of the multi-dimensional challenges facing Lebanon and the multiple mandates under which the UN is operating in the country, the UN needs to follow a “Whole of Lebanon” approach that leverages and integrates the UN’s diverse expertise, capacities and resources to support the Government of Lebanon at meeting its priorities and manage security, political, governance and socio-economic challenges to stability. The approach also aims at supporting Lebanon on the path to longer term sustainable development in accordance with the vision, principles and goals of Agenda 2030.

In closing Mr. President,

I would like to take the opportunity to reiterate the need for the UN Development System to reinvent itself in a more integrated and reinvigorated fashion. Let us all capitalize on the momentum created by the consensus achieved in the QCPR resolution, and turn this opportunity into reality.

I thank you for your attention.