

ECOSOC, OAS, general debate, 1 March 2017

CZECH REPUBLIC - Statement by Amb. Marie Chatardová, PR

(check against delivery)

Mr. President, Excellencies, dear colleagues,

The Czech Republic aligns itself with the statement of the EU and its member states, delivered by Malta. In addition, I would like to make a few comments in my national capacity.

First and foremost, the UN Development System must make sure it operates with Agenda 2030 at the core of its efforts, including by operationalizing the *leave no-one behind* principle, and by mainstreaming human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment across its work.

The QCPR resolution of December 2016 defines a number of mandates for the Secretary-General towards needed reforms of the development system. Just like the EU as a whole, my country also stands ready to work with SG Antonio Guterres, Deputy SG Amina Mohammed, as well as with leadership of funds and programmes of the UNDS, to help get reforms done in a bold manner and to achieve impact on the ground.

There are a number of credible actors out there in the development cooperation arena. Hence, the UN Development System should systematically choose its interventions based on its added value and comparative advantages. As was discussed during consultations on the QCPR last fall, one such area of UN's strengths is its work in fragile states and other environments vulnerable to conflict.

Sufficient and strategically used funding needs to be included in any mix of solutions. However, so does maximum efficiency of the UN development system. These two things, in other words the responsibilities of both member states *and* the system, need to go hand in hand. In addition, our delegation hopes that a larger pool of regular donors to the UNDS emerges in the near future – indeed, the UN should continue to encourage the broadening of its donor base. And the more the UN Development System can tap the potential of innovative financing mechanisms, the better.

Governance of the UN Development System is another area in urgent need of our attention. Clearly, UN agencies, funds and programmes should feel incentives to cooperate in ways that allow for synergies consistent with the integrated nature of the SDGs, rather than incentives to compete with one another. Some of the tools have existed, and need to be further strengthened or refined, and applied more systematically: such as Delivering as One, the Resident Coordinator system, etc. Here at the headquarters level, we should make clever

and innovative use of communication among the individual executive boards, including their joint meetings, and certainly also of ECOSOC itself. We are interested in discussing further such ideas as how to adjust the role of the Operational Activities Segment to more explicitly, and effectively, oversee the implementation of QCPR outcomes. The Humanitarian Affairs Segment must also continue to play an essential role.

Finally, let me support the views calling for closer integration of the UN's work in the fields of development, humanitarian assistance and peacebuilding. We talk a lot at the UN about overcoming silos. The artificial borders between our work in the peace, development and humanitarian fields must be overcome to the extent possible. Sustaining peace and sustainable development are mutually reinforcing agendas, and the UN Development System should, therefore, do better at addressing root causes of conflict.

In this context, I appreciate the initiative of PGA Thomson to have convened the useful High-Level "Dialogue on Building Sustainable Peace for All", on 24th January this year. And I commend the vision of Secretary-General Guterres in this regard. We should continue to work energetically in that direction.

Mr. President, I would like to assure you of the Czech delegation's unwavering support to our effort to make the UN Development System fit for the high expectations of the 2030 Agenda.

I thank you.