



**Permanent Mission  
of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan  
to the United Nations – New York**

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Saikal

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan  
to the United Nations

**at the General Debate of the Economic and Social Council  
Operational Activities for Development Segment**

*(Check against delivery)*

2 March 2017

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to thank you for convening this important segment of the Economic and Social Council. My delegation wishes to align itself with the statement delivered by Ecuador on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and Bangladesh on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries. I would now like to add some remarks in my national capacity.

This Segment is an opportunity to stimulate and enrich discussions towards implementation of the recently adopted QCPR resolution. This also highlights the fundamental importance of this document to implement the 2030 Agenda, including SDGs at the country level, as well as to align operational activities for development to national plans and policies and contributes to governments' capacity and institution building efforts.

Mr. President,

As a member of the Group of Least Developed Countries, my delegation would like to stress the importance of enabling the United Nations development system to provide coordinated, coherent and integrated support to the most vulnerable. Among other provisions, the QCPR requests the UN development system to address the special needs and challenges facing the most vulnerable countries: it is fundamental to keep this as a priority while advancing the implementation of this resolution.

As a country affected by conflict, it is of paramount importance for Afghanistan that the UN development system strengthen its development-peace nexus through enhanced efforts at the national level. The QCPR acknowledges that the development work of the entities of the UNDS can contribute to sustaining peace; development – even though is not the only condition for peace – is indeed a great contribution to it.

Learning from our national experience implementing the MDGs, we have developed a national roadmap for the implementation of 2030 Agenda, The Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework (ANPDF) serves as a basic national policy document, with a particular focus on economic growth, poverty eradication, job creation and self-reliance.

Afghanistan remains fully committed to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals through, among others, an effective implementation of the QCPR at the country level. While preparing for Voluntary National Review at the 2017 High Level Political Forum, translating the SDGs from global to national level, reviewing existing policies, mapping and availability of indicators and data, as well as ensuring an accountable and transparent review process is considered to be a challenging task for my Government.

To be successful in these endeavors, however, I cannot overemphasize the importance of an effective UN development system operating at the country level, assisting us in furthering our development gains, and aligning its development-related work with peace and institution building efforts.

Mr. President,

I am confident that the Segment will play a significant role in indentifying concrete steps towards key system-wide coherence and efficiency UNDS needs for delivering on the 2030 Agenda and SDGs implementation.

Thank you, Mr. President.