



**THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE
UNITED NATIONS**

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**2017 ECOSOC Operational activities for
Development Segment
General discussion on agenda item 7
Statement by the Delegation of Azerbaijan
02 March 2017**

Mr. President,

We welcome the appointment of Ms. Amina Mohammad as Deputy Secretary-General and the statement she made in her first official event this Tuesday.

The Delegation of Azerbaijan thanks the Secretary-General for his report entitled "Implementation of the General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QSPR) of operation activities for development of the United Nations system: funding analysis".

As the Deputy Secretary-General underlined, "around the world, success in achieving the SDG's will ease global anxieties and build a firm foundation for stability and peace in all societies, everywhere".

For this to happen, governments must mainstream SDG's into their national plans and strategies. This is exactly what we are doing in Azerbaijan. Last October, the National Coordination Council on Sustainable Development has been set up to identify national priorities and to align state programs and strategies with the SDG's. Azerbaijan will submit its voluntary national report to the High-Level Political Forum this July.

Mr. President, the poverty eradication should be a primary task worldwide as it represents the greatest global challenge. Another urgent issue to be tackled is ending hunger. During the dialogue with executive heads of UN Funds, Programmes and Specialized Agencies, Mr. Amir Abdulla, Deputy Executive Director of the World Food Programme emphasized that 20 million people is on the brink of disaster now. This alarming figure once again reminds us of the

assessment offered of the Secretary-General's report on Progress towards the SDG's (E/2016/75) that "if the current trends continue, zero hunger target will be largely missed by 2030.

It is crucial that the UN Development System (UNDS) be better positioned to support countries in their endeavors to implement the Agenda 2030 in a coherent and integrated manner. Strong leadership is required to this end and therefore, we support the Secretary-General's envisaged reforms and his vision to focus on conflict prevention and resolution since there can be no sustainable development without peace.

The UNDS needs to fully align with development plans and strategies of member states to strengthen national ownership as well as to mainstream the SDG's in their strategic planning documents and work at all levels, as reflected in paras 2 and 8 of the QSPR resolution. The comparative advantages of each UN entity will also allow avoiding redundancies, a point underlined by Mr. Anthony Lake, UNICEF Executive Director during the above-mentioned dialogue.

The specific vulnerabilities of least developed countries and small island developing states must be under continuing attention of the UNDS.

Mr. President,

The Secretary-General's report stresses the need for an adequately resourced development system in terms of enhancing predictability, increasing non-earmarked core contributions and exploring innovative funding mechanisms. This is very important issue and therefore, deserves a thorough consideration.

I thank you.