

EGYPT



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The Permanent Mission of Egypt
to the United Nations
New York

بعثة مصر الدائمة
لدى الأمم المتحدة
نيويورك

**Statement by the Arab Republic of Egypt
Before the General Debate of the Operational Activities for Development Segment
of the Economic and Social Council
New York, 2 March, 2017**

Mr. President,

First of all, I would like to congratulate you on the excellent conduct of the meeting, and to appreciate as well the effort undertaken by the Secretariat in preparing for this segment of the work of the Economic and Social Council. I would also like to thank all speakers at the various sessions for tackling fundamental issues relating to the work of the United Nations development system, and a special mention to Ms. Amina Mohamed Deputy Secretary-General and thank her for her excellent statement at the beginning of the meeting. Egypt also supports the statement and interventions made by the delegation of Ecuador on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. President,

The UN development system, and through its operational activities for development, represents an important tool in the international community's efforts, and particularly that of developing countries, towards the implementation of Agenda 2030, including those related to sustainable development goals. This is especially the case for efforts to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions including extreme poverty, as the greatest challenge facing the world, and as an indispensable condition for achieving sustainable development. It was from this perspective that we were particularly keen in the outcome of the QCPR resolution last December to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of the UN development system in supporting the implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda, and in this regard, let me stress the following points:

First, the QCPR resolution reflects the consensus on the need for operational activities to be consistent with the priorities of countries in the implementation of their national development plans, thus ensuring national ownership of those activities, and that the essence of operational activities remain national capacity-building, according to those national priorities. From this perspective, we look forward to the report of the Secretary-General concerning the functions of the system in the next June, and options to overcome them by the end of this year, as well as to deliverables on the means to improve the governance of the system, and improve the Resident Coordinator system. This also relates to the importance of the preparations of the Strategic Plans of the Funds and Programs expected to be adopted during the current year and the need to do so in a transparent approach;

Second, we thank the Secretary-General for preparing his report on funding analysis (A/72/61 - E/2017/4), and express our concern over what is shown therein concerning the continuing decline in the proportion of core resources, and we are particularly concerned about declining ratio of the development-related component of the total volume of operational activities in an unprecedented manner. Furthermore, and while we appreciate raising the idea of shifting from funding towards an "integrated financing strategy," however, we need to clearly define what is meant by this idea before we consider it, bearing in mind it was not part of the QCPR resolution;

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Third, we look forward to the ideas and discussions to be launched when we receive the Secretary-General's reports and other deliverables as mandated by the QCPR resolution on the UN development system, and reaffirm the centrality of the task of capacity-building, while also paying particular attention to the importance of the idea of knowledge management within the system and how to enable countries to best exploit this wealth of knowledge according to the priorities and needs, a task which we look forward to developing in the next few years;

Fourth, development is considered the basis of stability, and sustaining peace, and from this perspective the QCPR resolution calls upon the entities of the UN development system, in full compliance with their respective mandates to strengthen coordination with humanitarian assistance efforts at the national level in countries facing humanitarian emergencies; and it also recognizes that development work of the UN development system in countries in conflict and post-conflict situations can contribute to peace-building and sustaining peace, in accordance with national plans, needs and priorities and respecting national ownership, with an emphasis on the need not to adversely affect the resources necessary for development. As such, it is necessary to clarify that the QCPR resolution does not provide a mandate to the UN development system to engage in political or peace and security issues;

Fifth: we emphasize that the UN development system and in accordance with the QCPR resolution is called upon to provide particular support to the most vulnerable countries, including African countries, LDCs, and those in conflict and post-conflict situations and countries and peoples under foreign occupation.

Mr. president,

Finally, I would like to emphasize that we look forward to completing our work towards the establishment of a UN development system that is effective and efficient enough to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda. We are confident in the efforts of the Secretary-General, and in the role of the Deputy Secretary-General with her extensive experience and her clear vision in this regard, and we look forward to working and consulting with her towards that purpose.

Thank you.

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