

**Closing remarks**  
**by H.E. Mr. Cristián Barros, Vice President of ECOSOC**  
**2017 Operational Activities for Development Segment**  
**2 March 2017, New York**

Mr. Wu Hongbo, Under Secretary-General of UNDESA  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have now come to the end of this year's Operational Activities for Development Segment.

I must say at the outset that this has been a successful segment by every measure.

I am very grateful to all of you and particularly the national policy-makers from capitals of Member States and the country-level representatives of UN entities, for your active participation over these three days. The dynamic exchange that has taken place over the past three days has helped to ensure that ECOSOC deliberations and policy guidance are grounded in country-level realities.

An important objective of this year's segment was to launch the implementation of the new QCPR resolution of the General Assembly and to lay the foundation for the follow-up work to be undertaken by the Secretary-General in the course of this year. The strong engagement that Member States and the UN development system have demonstrated throughout these three days clearly indicates that this objective has been achieved.

I would like to highlight seven key messages emanating from your deliberations.

***First***, the 2030 Agenda is truly a global agenda. The SDGs are universal, inter-linked and indivisible. The agenda will require Member

States to forge a common vision for the work of the UN development system, underpinned by the principles of multilateralism. The new agenda and the new QCPR resolution also call for building strong commitment of entities and the system as a whole to the principles of integration, coordination, accountability and transparency in the delivery of support. As many of you have stressed during the past three days, the successful implementation of the new QCPR resolution is the first step in adapting the UN development system to the requirements of the new agenda.

**Second**, the 2030 Agenda will require the UN development system to become more than the sum of its individual parts. The aim should be to transform the UN development system into a global leader in the provision of integrated normative, policy and capacity-building support for 2030 Agenda implementation. This will require strengthening of central capacity in the UN development system to foster alignment of the strategic plans of entities with the overall contribution of the system to 2030 Agenda implementation.

**Third**, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda will require rethinking of the funding architecture of the UN development system, with greater emphasis on unearmarked, pooled, thematic and system-wide resources. Adequate, predictable, long-term financing is central to successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In this context the core-resources are critical. Improved accountability and transparency in reporting on results to entity and system-wide governing boards is also critical for improved quality of funding flows to the UN development system as well as to continue explore innovative finance resources, fulfill the commitments of Official Development Assistance. The new QCPR resolution has requested the Secretary-General, as part of the preparation of a system-wide strategic document, that it would be helpful in ensuring that funding follows functions.

**Fourth**, there is need to enhance the capacity of governing bodies to engage in substantive policy discussions on major issues, including key documents such as the strategic plans, budgets and resources frameworks of entities. The primary objective of strengthening governance is to build greater ownership of Member States of key policy decisions adopted by governing bodies. The comprehensive report of

the Secretary-General mandated in the new QCPR resolution is expected to present concrete options for improving the accountability, coordination and oversight role of governing bodies. This will provide an opportunity for Member States to rethink and reinforce the role of ECOSOC and the informal Joint Meeting of the Boards.

***Fifth***, the overarching objective of simplification and harmonization of common services should be to enable the UN development system to improve the delivery of programme results at the country level. There is consensus that progress in this area needs to be significantly stepped up at both entity and system-wide levels.

***Sixth***, the drivers of chronic vulnerability in conflict and post-conflict countries require the UN system to have the necessary capacity at different levels to deliver humanitarian assistance and developing institutions, resilience and capacities simultaneously in a complementary and synergetic manner particularly in countries in conflict and post-conflict countries. Such an integrated approach is made difficult by the specialized, functional and decentralized structure of the UN system. A strong appeal was made to “tear down the administrative walls” that exist between the entities of the three pillars of the United Nations. This would require bold action, but is critical for delivering integrated support in such country contexts.

***Seventh***, the past decade has witnessed growing diversification in capacity and development needs of programme countries. Member States agree that the growing differentiation in the capacity and needs of programme countries will require the UN development system to adopt flexible, cost-effective organizational and staffing models that are suited for different country contexts, such as LDC, LLDC and SIDS. Many middle-income countries also continue to face complex, multidimensional poverty and development challenges. Middle-income countries will need more integrated policy and technical support from the UN development system in the new era.

Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

In closing, saying that we have a unique opportunity to improve the work in United Nations. We are changing the paradigm from the response to the prevention, from peace to the sustainable peace. It is not easy way but it's an imperative to explore this new dimensions.

Let me extend my special thanks to the Government representatives and UN officials who agreed to serve as speakers and panelists in this year's Operational Activities for Development Segment. Thank you very much.

I also wish to thank Member States and other representatives for their active engagement in the segment. I believe that the discussions that have taken place over these three days will contribute to the effective implementation of the new QCPR resolution of the General Assembly as well as to the various reports to be prepared by the Secretary-General.

I also wish to thank wholeheartedly for the services of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Department of General Assembly and Conference Management who have fully engaged and assisted us in the preparation as well as in the running of the segment. There is much work that goes on behind the scenes and I believe it should be recognized.

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is now my honour to suspend this year's Operational Activities for Development Segment of the Economic and Social Council. We will need to reconvene ECOSOC after the reports of the Secretary-General mandated in the new QCPR resolution have been made available to Member States.

I wish those that are travelling a safe journey back home.

Thank you.