

**General Assembly resolution on the repositioning of the United Nations development system,
in the context of the QCPR**

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 71/243 of 21 December 2016 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of United Nations operational activities for development and its general guidelines and principles for the United Nations development system, to better position the United Nations operational activities for development to support countries in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda,

Taking note with appreciation of the reports of the Secretary-General on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of United Nations operational activities for development¹ and welcoming his efforts on repositioning of the UN development system,

II. A new generation of UN Country Teams

1. *Welcomes* a revitalized, strategic, flexible, results- and action-oriented United Nations Development Assistance Framework as the most important instrument for planning and implementation of UN development activities in each country, in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, to be finalized in full consultation and agreement with national governments;
2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to lead the efforts of the entities of the UN development system to collaboratively implement a new generation of UN country teams, with needs-based tailored country presence, to be built on the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and finalized through an open and inclusive dialogue between the host Government and the UN development system, facilitated by the Resident Coordinator, to ensure the best configuration of support on the ground, as well as enhanced coordination transparency, efficiency and impact, in accordance with national development policies, plans, priorities, and country needs;
3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to work through the United Nations Sustainable Development Group to determine the presence and the composition of the United Nations country teams, based on country development priorities and long-term needs, the approved United Nations Development Assistance Framework, as well as appropriate criteria, and in accordance with the principles and of the United Nations Charter, and UN norms and standards;
4. *Request* the Secretary-General, in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 71/243, to conduct a review of the configuration, capacity, resource needs, role and development services of multi-country offices, in full consultation with involved countries to improve their contribution to country progress in achieving the 2030 Agenda, to be presented at the 2019 ECOSOC Operational Activities Segment;
5. *Calls on* the entities of the UN development system to strengthen the capacities and skill sets to support national governments in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and, where relevant, build the capacities and expertise across UN agencies, funds and programmes to

¹ A/72/124-E/2018/3, A/72/684-E/2018/7 and A/73/63-E/2018/8

promote progress on those Goals lagging behind, building on comparative advantages and reducing overlaps and duplication across entities;

6. *Welcomes* measures by the Secretary-General for advancing common business operations, where appropriate, including common back-offices and with the target of 50% common premises by 2021, to enable joint work and generate greater efficiencies, synergies and coherence, and *requests* their implementation in accordance with General Assembly resolution 71/243;
7. *Reiterates* that all savings achieved through efficiency gains should be directed to development activities;

III. Reinvigorating the role of the Resident Coordinator system

8. *Decides* to create a dedicated, independent, impartial, empowered, and sustainable development-focused coordination function of the UN development system by separating the functions of the Resident Coordinator from the UNDP Resident Representative, drawing on the expertise and assets of the entire UN development system entities, including non-resident agencies;
9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to strengthen the authority and leadership of Resident Coordinators over United Nations country teams and system-wide accountability on the ground for implementing the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and support countries in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as the highest ranking representative of the UN development system, through:
 - (a) enhanced authority for the Resident Coordinator to ensure alignment of both agency programmes and of inter-agency pooled funding for development with national development needs and priorities as well as with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, in consultation with the national government
 - (b) full mutual and collective performance appraisal to strengthen accountability and impartiality, with Resident Coordinators appraising the performance of UN country team heads and UN country team heads informing the performance assessment of Resident Coordinators
 - (c) the establishment of a clear matrixed reporting model, with UN country team members accountable and reporting to their respective entities on individual mandates and periodically reporting to the Resident Coordinator on their individual activities and their respective contributions to the collective results of the UN development system towards achievement of Agenda 2030 at country level, based on the United Nations Development Assistance Framework
 - (d) reporting by the Resident Coordinator to the Secretary-General and to the host government on the implementation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework
 - (e) a collectively owned internal dispute resolution mechanism;
10. *Welcomes* the strengthening of the Resident Coordinator independent recruitment process, including with due consideration to gender parity and geographical balance, and, recalling that highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity serve as the paramount consideration in the employment of staff, *emphasizes* the need to ensure appropriate merit, expertise and

development focus of Resident Coordinators' profiles, and to strengthen the training and interagency recruitment process to that end;

11. *Emphasizes* that the adequate and predictable funding of the Resident Coordinator system is essential to deliver a coherent, effective, efficient and accountable response in accordance with national needs and priorities, and, in this regard, *endorses* the SG's proposal to provide USD255 million annually to ensure the necessary, predictable and sustainable funding of the Resident Coordinator system through
 - assessed contributions within the regular budget of the United Nations;

or

 - funding equally divided among (i) assessed contributions, (ii) a UN Sustainable Development Group cost-sharing agreement revised to increase contributions by agencies, funds and programmes to the level required including by benefiting from efficiency gains, and (iii) a coordination levy on earmarked contributions to UN operational activities for development to cover for the remaining one third of the RC system funding needs;

or

 - (i) a temporary grant of assessed contribution for the transition period consisting in a lump-sum arrangement allocated to the UN Development Operations Coordination Office for a twenty-four month transition period, and (ii) an expanded cost-sharing arrangement to cover for the full cost of the Resident Coordinator system following the transition period, based on a new cost-sharing formula to be agreed by the UN Sustainable Development Group by the end of 2018, reflecting anticipated savings from the repositioning process and including annual contribution by the UN Secretariat;
12. *Endorses* the transformation of the UN Development Operations Coordination Office to assume managerial and oversight functions of the Resident Coordinator system under the leadership of an Assistant Secretary-General, and under the collective ownership of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group members, as a stand-alone coordination office reporting to the Chair of the UN Sustainable Development Group, and *requests* the Chair to report on an annual basis to the ECOSOC Segment on Operational Activities for Development;

IV. Revamping the regional approach

13. *Reaffirms* the role of the United Nations development system at the regional level including the Regional Economic Commissions, the regional teams of the United Nations development system, the regional teams of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group, and the United Nations regional hubs, and *underlines* the need to continue to make them fit for purpose in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and to revamp the regional structures recognizing the specificities of each region and bearing in mind that no one size fits all;
14. *Emphasizes* the need to address gaps and overlaps at the regional level and *endorses* a phased approach to revamp the UN development system at the regional level, and in this regard *requests* the Secretary-General to:
 - (a) as part of the first phase, implement the proposed measures to optimize functions and enhance collaboration at the regional and sub-regional levels; and

(b) provide options, on a region by region basis, for longer-term reprofiling and restructuring of the regional assets of the United Nations at the 2019 ECOSOC Segment on Operational Activities for Development;

15. *Acknowledges* the need for direct interaction between countries and the UN development system at regional and sub-regional level;

V. Strategic direction, oversight and accountability for system-wide results

16. *Takes note* of the Secretary-General's proposal on the repositioning of the Operational Activities Segment of the Economic and Social Council and *looks forward* to the outcome of the ongoing review of General Assembly resolution 68/1;

17. *Takes note* of the Secretary-General's proposal to gradually merge the NY-based Executive Boards of funds and programmes, and *urges* Member States to continue making practical changes to further enhance the working methods of the Boards with the aim of improving the efficiency, transparency and quality of governance structures, including through deciding on ways to improve the functions of the Joint Meeting of the Boards;

18. *Stresses* the need to improve monitoring and reporting on system-wide results and, in this regard, *welcomes* the strengthening of independent system-wide evaluation measures and the establishment of a dedicated unit to that end, as proposed by the Secretary-General;

19. *Welcomes* the decision by the Secretary-General to brief the Economic and Social Council in his capacity as Chair of the Chief Executives Board, to ensure full transparency in the activities of the Board and improve its effective interaction with and its responsiveness to the Member States;

VI. Funding the United Nations development system

20. *Recognizes* that significantly improving the level, diversity, predictability, quality and flexibility of its funding base is a prerequisite for the successful repositioning of the United Nations development system as well as for strengthening its multilateral nature, with the aim of better supporting countries in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda in line with national needs and priorities in a coherent and integrated manner;

21. *Welcomes* the Secretary-General's call for a Funding Compact, as a critical tool to maximize the investments of Member States in the United Nations development system and the system's transparency and accountability for system-wide actions and results, and *takes note* of the Secretary-General's proposals to bring core resources to at least a 30% level in the next five years, double both inter-agency pooled funds to a total of USD3.4 billion and entity-specific thematic funds to a total of USD800 million by 2023;

22. *Welcomes* the Secretary-General's proposals to establish a dedicated coordination fund and, in this regard, *invites* Member States to provide voluntary contributions in the amount of USD35 million to the Resident Coordinator system in support of system-wide activities on the ground;

23. *Invites* Member States to contribute on a voluntary basis to the capitalization of the United Nations Joint Fund for the 2030 Agenda at USD290 million per annum;
24. *Welcomes* the Secretary-General's commitment to reposition the United Nations development system in accordance with Member States' calls in General Assembly resolution 71/243 and the present resolution, recognizes that this commitment to reform is an essential component of a Funding Compact, and therefore *requests* the UN development system, as the starting point for its commitment to the Funding Compact, to:
- (a) *provide* annual reporting on system-wide support to the Sustainable Development Goals and present aggregated information on system-wide results by 2021;
 - (b) *comply with* the standards of International Aid Transparency Initiative or similar initiatives to enhance transparency and access to financial information in all UN development system entities;
 - (c) *undergo* independent system-wide evaluations of results achieved, at global, regional and country level;
 - (d) *comply with* existing full cost recovery policies and *further harmonize* cost recovery by individual UN development system entities through differentiated approaches;
 - (e) *allocate*, as appropriate, at least 15% of non-core resources for development to joint activities;
 - (f) *enhance* visibility of Member States' contributions to core resources and pooled funds, and related results;
 - (g) *achieve* efficiency gains as envisioned by the Secretary-General in his report²;
25. *Welcomes* the Secretary-General's proposal to launch a Funding Dialogue in 2018 with the view of agreeing to a Funding Compact in the form of a commitment between the UN development system and Member States, and *requests* the Secretary-General to report on the outcome of the Funding Dialogue at the ECOSOC Segment on Operational Activities for Development in 2019, for Member States' consideration, noting that the Funding Compact relates to voluntary funding of the UN Development system as well as other contributions;

VII. Following-up on the UNDS repositioning efforts at the global, regional and country level

26. *Requests* the heads of the entities of the UN development system, under the leadership of the Secretary-General, to improve the system-wide strategic document in light of the present resolution and in line with General Assembly resolution 71/243, to ensure that it is more specific, concrete and targeted in addressing gaps and overlaps, and *further requests* the Secretary-General to submit the next system-wide strategic document to the 2019 ECOSOC Segment of Operational Activities for Development for Member States' consideration;
27. *Reaffirms* the role of the Department of Social and Economic Affairs and *looks forward to* the Secretary-General's update to the Member States on the alignment of the Department with the 2030 Agenda, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 70/299, before the beginning of the 73rd session of the General Assembly;

² A/72/684-E/2018/7

28. *Welcomes* the Secretary-General's proposals to strengthen a UN system-wide approach to partnerships, and *urges* the UN development system to strengthen its cooperation with International Financial Institutions, as well as the private sector, civil society, philanthropic entities and academia, while upholding the principles, objectives and priorities of the United Nations;
29. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure an effective and efficient transition to a repositioned UN development system, particularly to a reinvigorated Resident Coordinator system, including by giving due consideration to the role of a responsive UNDP as the backbone to the UN development system in supporting countries in their efforts to realize the 2030 Agenda;
30. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Economic and Social Council on progress in the implementation of the mandates contained in the present resolution, and the mandates contained in the QCPR resolution 71/243 as part of his annual reporting to the 2019 ECOSOC Segment on Operational Activities for Development, and to the 74th session of the General Assembly for its further consideration and to inform the next cycle of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review to be launched in 2020.

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