

**UNITED NATIONS**



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**Special Briefing by  
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**Operational Activities for Development Segment  
ECOSOC Chamber, 23 February  
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Excellencies,  
Dear colleagues,  
Distinguished Delegates,

Firstly, allow me to thank the Deputy Secretary-General, Jan Eliasson, for his excellent keynote address. He has expertly drawn attention to the most pertinent issues in the operational activities for development within the UN system. He has truly set the stage for the Segment.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to deliver a special briefing on the key policy messages from ECOSOC dialogue on longer-term positioning of UN development system in the post-2015 era.

The ECOSOC dialogue had its first formal meeting on the 15 December, with the second session on 30 January. Today's panel is continuation of this Dialogue, and will build on the key messages articulated by Member States so far.

Many of the key messages in relation to the UN development systems' role in the post-2015 agenda are reverberating in other parallel meetings such as the negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda.

I have shared our roadmap for the next year and a half with you a few weeks ago. We must forge ahead with an intense agenda over the next months, so it can be translated to action on the ground.

Distinguished Delegates,

A clear and loud call has come from Member States. The time is now for change.

Change is realising that the agenda must be owned by all stakeholders.

Change is building a system that that is more effective, efficient and coherent, at headquarters as well as at country level.

At this defining moment for the United Nations, we will adopt a universal agenda and a new global partnership for sustainable development. One that is based on trust, respect and mutual accountability.

The ECOSOC Dialogue is capturing this spirit of renewal, and together, we are mapping the elements needed to align the UN development system's response to the post-2015 development agenda and the new development cooperation environment:

These messages are captured in the summaries that I shared with all of you. Allow me to highlight some of those emerging messages .

First,, business-as-usual is not an option. The UN development system has gone through major changes three times since its inception and now, a fourth generation of reforms. We must adjust the system to the new realities, and enable the support needed to deliver the new unified and universal development agenda.

Second, national ownership remains critical. The UN development system must align with and provide support to national priorities. Such plans must be embodied into national sustainable development strategies and agreed through national coordination mechanisms. Evidence and data should be the basis to support the design of effective policies and decision-making.

Third, the UN development system has to rethink its functions considering the changing needs of developing countries. While service delivery remains a key function in LDCs, SIDS and countries affected by conflict, the UN development system should focus on institution-building and capacity development.

Fourth, the 2012 QPCR remains unfinished business in terms of addressing fragmentation, competition and high transactional costs. Coherence and coordination need to be stepped-up, both, within the system, and between the system and other development actors. The UN development system needs to move from convergence to integration of operations .

Fifth, funding should be adapted to differentiated needs and contexts. Given limited funding, the UN development system needs to focus its interventions on where it has most value, and avoid the risk of dispersion.

Sixth, the quality of governance should improve to bring greater coherence and effectiveness in the work of the UNDS, and better respond to current realities. This requires rethinking the composition, role and working methods of current governance structures.

Finally, in a post-2015 world, the UN development system's role in assisting governments to build partnerships that are inclusive, and that help leverage resources and expertise will be essential. Partnerships are key to ensure inclusiveness and democratization of the national dialogue.

The ECOSOC bureau will circulate a consolidated summary after the segment. We would like to reflect today's discussions as well.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our ECOSOC Dialogue on the longer term positioning of the UN development system is an 18 month process, which we hope will lead to a visionary and ambitious QCPR resolution of the General Assembly at the end of 2016.

I ask our panelists and member states to be bold in their assessment and innovative in their approach. This is a once in a generation opportunity that we cannot let pass by.