
Statement of Switzerland

Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS - Agenda Item 7

Second Regular Session 2015

***STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
STRUCTURED FUNDING DIALOGUE***

31 August 2015

Mr. President

I thank the Executive Director, Dr Babatunde Osotimehin, for his statement and his continued commitment in leading this unique organization. Switzerland would like to comment on three topics: the 2030 Agenda, the structured funding dialogue, and the quadrennial evaluation plan.

1) 2030 Agenda

At the end of September, heads of state and governments will formally adopt the 2030 Agenda, a universal framework for sustainable development. The Agenda constitutes a major opportunity in global development policy. It will deepen multi-stakeholders alliances to address global challenges within a system-wide approach.

Switzerland is committed to implement the SDGs both at the national and international level. We will continue to work closely with multilateral partners. UNFPA has a very important and focused mandate: to contribute to the achievement of universal access to sexual and reproductive health, the realization of reproductive rights and the reduction in maternal mortality. It is in our view a clear comparative advantage of UNFPA to have a recognized profile in this global issue. There is still so much to be done in this field that UNFPA's efforts should further be channeled in this

direction, that is in the focus areas and outcomes as set forth in the Strategic Plan. The focus of the Strategic Plan fits very well into the 2030 Agenda, which contains various targets on sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights including on harmful practices against girls. With its focused mandate, UNFPA can contribute to the implementation of exactly these targets of the 2030 Agenda.

Switzerland however also expects UNFPA, together with the other members of the UN Development System, to reflect on how it can best contribute to the implementation of the 2030 in a coherent, effective and efficient way. 2016 is a key moment, as we will discuss the mid-term reviews of the strategic plans, and even more, as we will negotiate the quadrennial comprehensive policy review resolution, the QCPR. We are convinced that the QCPR 2016 should offer all members of the UN Development System the strategic guidance on how they can collectively plan, implement and report on core systemic functions. This is important, as the UN Development System collectively, and its individual members specifically, are now particularly challenged to prove their relevance in regards to the expectations member states have when it comes to the UN support for assisting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

2) Structured Funding Dialogue

Our second point is about the structured funding dialogue. To be “fit for purpose” is not a guaranteed and stable status; it needs to be constantly adjusted over time.

In this context, we welcome UNFPA resource mobilization strategy. It is worth stressing that UNFPA has currently a balanced core to non-core ratio. We strongly encourage UNFPA to maintain a critical level of core resources. One key factor of success mentioned is the clearly defined strategic focus of UNFPA. In addition, enabling conditions for donor support, such as showing the link between resources and results is important. We are pleased to support UNFPA efforts on this.

Given the pressing importance to address funding challenges, we encourage UNFPA to provide more detailed information on the funding gaps for each expected outcome and target on an annual basis and to provide the specific reasons for it. Such information would nurture the structured funding dialogue as expected in the board decision 2014/24.

We would recommend the following elements:

- An overview of resources, including financial gaps and opportunities, presented against the Integrated Results and Resources Framework targets;
- An update on efforts undertaken to shift towards more regular and softly-earmarked resources (thematic, regional windows and other modalities) and related impact;
- A private sector collaboration update, not only focusing on financing strategic plan objectives, but towards the spirit of true multi-stakeholder partnerships for sustainable development gains.

We think it is extremely important to consider this dialogue in the light of the implementation of the SDGs, the ECOSOC dialogue and the negotiations of the QCPR 2016. In this regard, we encourage UNFPA to closely cooperate with the other UN entities in order to use synergies and further shape coherence.

With reference to the mid-term review of the Strategic Plan, we expect regular informal dialogues with Management to discuss funding gaps and opportunities based on the strategic outcomes well in advance of the mid-term review next summer.

3) Quadrennial budgeted evaluation plan 2016-2019

We welcome the proposal of a quadrennial budgeted evaluation 2016-2019 and thank the Director of the Evaluation office for her commitment and excellent work. We support the approach chosen to be more involved in cluster evaluation and system-wide evaluations. This would help pool resources and impact on a larger basis. We also support a comprehensive guidance from the Evaluation office to inform planning, management, resourcing and use of programme level evaluations.

With regard to impact evaluation, we take good note that UNFPA aims to focus on interventions relating to adolescent and youth under outcome 2 of the Strategic Plan. Adolescents and youth, and in particular adolescent girls, are key target groups of UNFPA. It goes without saying that we expect UNFPA to look at it from the sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights perspective as well as from a gender equality perspective.

In terms of financial resources for evaluation, UNFPA needs to achieve the target of 3 per cent of programme expenditure. Programmes funded on non-core resources

are expected to allocate appropriate funding for evaluation. We welcome and support the key principles presented for the resourcing of evaluation.

Let me conclude by stressing Switzerland's strong support for the mandate of UNFPA and its Strategic Plan. We acknowledge the good work and engagement of UNFPA staff at headquarters, regional and national level to bring real change in the lives of women and adolescent girls. Sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights are the essential and determining dimension of their life and their fulfillment is and will be key to achieve the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda.

Thank you for your attention.