



ECOSOC Operational Activities Segment May 18-20, 2021

Session 2: Report of the Chair of UNSDG on the Development Coordination Office and the new resident coordinator system: what have we achieved, what are the next steps and how can we strengthen UN system-wide results in support of the 2030 Agenda?

New York, 18 May 2021

Statement of Switzerland

Mr. Vice-President, Madam Deputy Secretary-General, distinguished delegates

I am delivering this statement on behalf of the following Member States: Canada, the EU and its Member States, Iceland, Norway, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and my own Country, Switzerland.

We thank the Secretary General for his report on the implementation of the resolution on the QCPR review, presenting progress made in consolidating the UNDS reform and implementing QCPR mandates and again welcome his initiative to establish an independent system-wide evaluation office.

In our view the SG in his report rightly highlights the lessons learned and evaluability exercise of the relevance of the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund as a first initiative of the system-wide evaluation office, which is also the first to assess the UNDS response from a system-wide approach.

We believe that this study provides highly valuable and useful findings on the Fund's implementation and performance and shows how the RC system as a key element of the UNDS reform has enabled coherent and collective action of the UNCTs. In addition, it identified room for improvement and approaches in order to further enhance the UNDS reform progress. In this sense we are looking forward to reviewing findings and

recommendations of this study as part of the review of the Resident Coordinator System.

We share the Secretary General's conclusion that this first exercise has reaffirmed the need and the value of an independent system-wide evaluation office that is fully equipped to assess the system's collective support to the Sustainable Development Goals.

In that regard and referring to the considerations of the SG in this and last year's QCPR report, we would like to underline the importance of key principles, which we deem crucial for the success of this office.

Firstly, the office should be functionally independent from the management to ensure credibility and quality of its work. An element we consider critical to achieve and safeguard this independence is that the Office reports directly to the SG, being accountable to and with the prerogative to share reports directly with the ECOSOC. Secondly, the Office shall complement, not replace, the evaluative work of UN entities and focus on RC system performance and other system-wide joint activities and topics that cannot be adequately addressed through other existing UN evaluation and accountability mechanisms.

We thank the SG for the general information provided so far on the implementation of the Office. In order to have a more complete picture and to be able to provide supportive member state guidance, we would however be keen to receive more concrete information on the office's main building blocks, such as the structure, funding modalities, reporting lines, as well the division of labor with other entities in the system with an evaluation or oversight mandate.

We assure you of our continued support to the independent system-wide evaluation office and we are very much looking forward to continuing our dialogue on this important matter.

Thank you.
