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Operational activities for development: operational activities for development of the United Nations system

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 19 December 2023

[on the report of the Second Committee ([A/78/465/Add.1](#), para. 7)]

78/166. Operational activities for development of the United Nations system

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution [75/233](#) of 21 December 2020 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, including its general guidelines,

Reaffirming also its resolution [72/279](#) of 31 May 2018 on the repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system and its resolutions [73/248](#) of 20 December 2018, [74/238](#) of 19 December 2019, [76/220](#) of 17 December 2021 and [77/184](#) of 14 December 2022 on operational activities for development of the United Nations system, as well as its resolution [76/4](#) of 28 October 2021 on the review of the functioning of the reinvigorated resident coordinator system, including its funding arrangement,

Reaffirming further its resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming its resolution [69/313](#) of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which



is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Reaffirming also the Paris Agreement,¹ and encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change² that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Reaffirming further the importance of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities, through which the General Assembly establishes key system-wide strategic policy orientations and operational modalities for the development cooperation and country-level modalities of the United Nations development system,

Noting with great concern the severe negative impact on human health, safety and well-being caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, as well as the severe disruption to societies and economies and the devastating impact on lives and livelihoods, and that the poorest and most vulnerable are the hardest hit by the pandemic, reaffirming the ambition to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by designing and implementing sustainable and inclusive recovery strategies to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to help to reduce the risk of and build resilience to future shocks, crises and pandemics, including by strengthening health systems and achieving universal health coverage, and recognizing that equitable and timely access for all to safe, quality, effective and affordable COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics are an essential part of a global response based on unity, solidarity, renewed multilateral cooperation and the principle of leaving no one behind,

Recognizing the essential role of the United Nations as the body that can effectively bring together a global response to control and contain the spread of COVID-19 and address the critical interlinkages between health, trade, finance and economic and social development, and acknowledging that the disease continues to negatively impact endeavours aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030,

Noting with concern that climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic, geopolitical tensions and ongoing conflicts and their respective negative impacts are creating additional challenges relating to eradication of poverty, food security, energy security and cost of living, and that developing countries are disproportionately affected by these challenges,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution [75/233](#) on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, 2023;³

2. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the Secretary-General on the repositioning of the United Nations development system and the reinvigorated resident coordinator system, and acknowledges the progress achieved thus far in advancing all reform mandates contained in General Assembly resolutions [71/243](#) of 21 December 2016, [72/279](#), [75/233](#) and [76/4](#) and continues to call for their full implementation;

¹ Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

³ [A/78/72-E/2023/59](#) and [A/78/72/Add.1-E/2023/59/Add.1](#).

3. *Recalls and reiterates* the requests made in Economic and Social Council resolution [2023/31](#) of 26 July 2023 on progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution [75/233](#) on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, as well as those previously made in Council resolutions [2019/15](#) of 8 July 2019, [2020/23](#) of 22 July 2020 and [2022/25](#) of 22 July 2022 on progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution [71/243](#) on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and calls for their full implementation;

4. *Reaffirms* the commitment at the very heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁴ to leave no one behind, commit to taking more tangible steps to support people in vulnerable situations and the most vulnerable countries and to reach the furthest behind first, and calls upon the entities of the United Nations development system, within their respective mandates and resources, to assist States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

5. *Welcomes* the progress made in the establishment of United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, reaffirms that they are the most important instrument for the planning and implementation of United Nations development activities in each programme country in support of their implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in this regard calls on all entities of the United Nations development system to cooperate and collaborate with and work under the leadership and guidance of the resident coordinators, in accordance with resolution [75/233](#), to ensure a coordinated and integrated approach to the development and implementation of the Cooperation Frameworks, and further calls on the entities of the United Nations development system to align their development activities for their respective country programmes with the agreed priorities of the Cooperation Frameworks, to facilitate a stronger and more coordinated, efficient, effective and accountable United Nations development system at the country level towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

6. *Recalls* the discussions and outcome of the recently concluded high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly (Sustainable Development Goals Summit),⁵ which, inter alia, expressed concern that the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals is in peril and that urgent action is needed to accelerate progress;

7. *Notes* the critical role that the United Nations development system plays in facilitating countries' implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, and remains concerned about the funding challenges for the United Nations development system entities, the resident coordinator system, and development activities as a whole;

8. *Takes note* of the intergovernmental consultative process on the funding compact, launched by the Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group, and looks forward to its outcome, which will be presented to the Economic and Social Council for consideration at its 2024 operational activities for development segment;

9. *Also takes note* of the intergovernmental consultative process on the resident coordinator system funding model launched by the Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group, and looks forward to its outcome, which will inform the dedicated report of the Secretary-General;

⁴ Resolution [70/1](#).

⁵ Resolution [78/1](#).

10. *Notes* the forthcoming quadrennial comprehensive policy review in 2024, and in this regard calls upon the Secretary-General to provide, within existing resources, beginning in June 2024, status reporting, including through briefing notes, informal briefings, and case studies with emphasis on development results, on the implementation of all provisions and mandates contained in General Assembly resolution 75/233, including integrating and mainstreaming provisions and mandates, such as those outlined in the quadrennial comprehensive policy review monitoring framework and those on the acceleration of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, in advance of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review negotiations, and following open and inclusive informal consultation with Member States to be held by 1 February 2024, and underscores that these efforts should provide information on possible gaps and challenges to be considered by Member States, with a view to optimizing their engagement with and provide guidance to the United Nations development system;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to present a comprehensive, evidence-based and analytical report to the Economic and Social Council covering all provisions and progress made, lessons learned and challenges in the implementation of the mandates contained in General Assembly resolution 75/233, as part of his annual reporting to the Council at the operational activities for development segment during its 2024 session, and to inform the next cycle of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, to be launched in 2024;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “Operational activities for development”, the sub-item entitled “Operational activities for development of the United Nations system”.

*49th plenary meeting
19 December 2023*