



Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the United Nations

**Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)  
Presidency Pro-Tempore in New York**

**2018 OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES SEGMENT**

To be delivered by: H.E. Rubén Escalante, Permanent Representative of El Salvador  
to the United Nations

ECOSOC, FEBRUARY-MARCH 2018

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**SILENCE PROCEDURE – TIME FOR INTERVENTION: FIVE MINUTES**

Mr. President,

1. I have the honor to speak on behalf of the 33 Member States of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States.
2. We would like to commend the President of the Economic and Social Council, for convening this 2018 Operational Activities for Development Segment; which we find timely and useful as it will serve as a space to elaborate on the process of the repositioning of the United Nations development system, with an ambitious scope, emanating from the mandate of Resolution 71/243 on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review adopted in 2016 and maintaining the principles outlined therein.
3. We look forward to discuss the proposals of the Secretary General on the two reports on the repositioning of the United Nations development system and the alignment of its work with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development related to the operational activities. We expect that the outcome of our forthcoming deliberations at this Segment will serve as one of the inputs to the General Assembly and pave the way to constructive negotiations.

4. We believe that the Secretary General's reports are a good basis for discussion in order to align the UNDS to the 2030 Agenda and ensure its implementation.
5. We stress that the ongoing process to reform the UNDS should improve and enhance the coordination and integration at the global, regional and national levels, in the frame of a comprehensive outcome. In this regard, we recognize the steps taken by the Secretary General to undertake a coherent repositioning process, which addresses the proposals at all three levels, including the regional component which should be a key element for the upcoming intergovernmental negotiations.
6. We further stress that the repositioning of the UNDS under the current process should be undertaken through a flexible approach that can respond to the needs and the specificities of each country and region. As such, we emphasize the need to avoid a "one-size-fits-all" approach for repositioning the UNDS at national and regional levels, taking into account further system wide reform processes.
7. In particular, we emphasize that the regional dimension of the United Nations Development System and its repositioning process should consider the specific characteristics of each Regional Economic Commission and how their work respond to the specific needs and realities of each region.
8. In this context, we reiterate our strong support to the work carried out by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean through its 70 years of existence and the need, in our region, to build upon its strengths in the ongoing repositioning process. Therefore, we will work to ensure that ECLAC has its functions enhanced, its mandate protected, and its crucial role in the

implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development fully recognized in the new structure that will emerge from the repositioning process.

Mr. President,

9. We believe that the United Nations System must assume the comprehensive and multidimensional nature of the 2030 Agenda. Therefore, the mandates of the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations have to address the interlinkages of the SDGs, including all of the UNDS entities that are present in the field maximizing the impact of achieving one goal while achieving others, according to the QCPR mandates.
  
10. In this regard, we welcome the discussion on the proposals to align the physical presence of the United Nations development system with national need and priorities, taking into account the multidimensional demands of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other internationally agreed goals, as reflected in the agreed United Nations Development Assistance Framework, or equivalent planning frameworks. In this regard, we support the intention to adopt flexible, cost-effective and collaborative models for the UNDS field presence, based on each country's consideration of its needs and priorities.
  
11. We also highlight the need for the UN country teams, under the coordination of the Resident Coordinator, to present annual reports to the programme country Governments on the results achieved by the UN country team as a whole, structured around the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, or equivalent planning framework, and linked to national development results.
  
12. We support the strengthening of the Resident Coordinator system. We further reiterate the central role of the resident coordinators, working with the United

Nations country team, under the leadership of Governments, in ensuring coordination of United Nations operational activities for development at the country level. The repositioning of the UNDS should enable the RC and her or his office supported through a reinvigorated system at all levels to better respond to the diverse priorities and needs of each developing country.

**13.** We also highlight the importance of strengthening a UNDS that is more efficient, transparent, accountable and responsive to Member States through the reporting of a revitalized UNDG including DOCO, as well as the CEB. It will be better positioned to, enhance coordination, coherence, effectiveness and efficiency of the operational activities for development within and among all levels of the United Nations development system. We support, in particular, the strengthening of the functions and capacities of the ECOSOC in order to enable system-wide strategic planning, implementation, reporting and evaluation across the UNDS to better support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**14.** In order to avoid duplication, we consider that some of the elements on strategic direction, oversight, and accountability proposed in the Secretary-General's report should be discussed in the process on the review of the ECOSOC. For instance, whether we should have two operational segments, as well as the proposal to have the humanitarian segment back to back to the operational one. At the same time, we believe that there is a need to make the Council more deliberative with the participation of all Member States.

Mr. President,

**15.** We also call upon the entities of the United Nations development system, within their respective mandates, to mainstream the Sustainable Development Goals in

their strategic planning documents and their work at all levels. We reiterate that the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, and should therefore continue to be the highest priority for, and underlying objective of the operational activities of the United Nations development system.

Mr. President,

**16.**CELAC members also stress the importance of the United Nations development system to continue to allocate resources to realize the development objectives of developing countries, and to support the endeavor to reach the furthest behind first, while taking into account the universal, indivisible and inclusive nature of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as to ensure a coherent approach to address the interconnections and cross-cutting elements across the Sustainable Development Goals and targets. We make a call to the different organizations within the UN development system to allocate the appropriate resources in this regard, including through the corresponding Regional Bureaus and welcome the support in this regard from the Regional Commissions.

**17.**CELAC Members also stress the crucial role of funding and particularly of core resources as the bedrock of the United Nations operational activities for development. In this regard we welcome the idea of a Funding Compact, which represents a concrete steps to address the decline of core contributions and the growing imbalance between core and non-core resources. The proposals to strengthen the inter-agency pooled funds and the agency-specific thematic funds are positive options to strict ear marking that we would like to further explore. Yet, we emphasize that, in addition to traditional resources channelled through Official Development Assistance, partnerships are crucial to implement the 2030

Agenda. We consider that further initiatives in this area will allow the UNDS reform to address the diverse needs of different developing countries as complement and not a substitute of the critical role of North-South cooperation.

**18.**For this reason, CELAC member countries agree that establishing the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) as the bedrock of the activities of the Organization in countries is a sound step in the repositioning of the UNDS process towards a better, and more efficient response of the System to national needs and priorities.

Mr. President,

**19.**Allow me to conclude by reiterating the commitment of CELAC Member States with the effective and efficient functioning of the UN development system and its Operational Activities. We believe that all efforts through the current process of reforming the system, have but one end, achieve a United Nations that is more strategic, accountable, transparent, collaborative, efficient, effective, and results-oriented, looking to better support member states to adequately implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Rest assured that you can count on our active participation and constructive engagement.

Thank you.