



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
7 July 2023

Original: English

2023 session

25 July 2022–26 July 2023

Operational activities for development segment

Summary record of the 20th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 23 May 2023, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. Chimbindi (Vice-President). (Zimbabwe)

Contents

Agenda item 7: Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation (*continued*)

- (a) Follow-up to policy recommendations of the General Assembly and the Council (*continued*)

Interactive discussion: “Financing the Sustainable Development Goals: working with financial institutions and beyond”

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent as soon as possible to the Chief of the Documents Management Section (dms@un.org).

Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (<http://documents.un.org/>).

23-09822 (E)



Please recycle



In the absence of Ms. Stoeva (Bulgaria), Mr. Chimbindi (Zimbabwe), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 7: Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation (continued)

(a) Follow-up to policy recommendations of the General Assembly and the Council (continued)
([A/78/72-E/2023/59](#) and [A/78/72/Add.1-E/2023/59/Add.1](#); and [E/2023/62](#))

1. **The Deputy Secretary-General**, speaking in her capacity as Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group and introducing her report on the Development Coordination Office ([E/2023/62](#)), said that efforts to transform the United Nations development system were bearing fruit. Results were no longer measured in terms of reconfigured structures or mechanisms and frameworks to incentivize coordination and coherence, or in changes to tools or the hiring of staff, but rather in impact on the ground. The resident coordinator system had navigated cascading crises and rallied United Nations country teams to garner effective responses to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The new development coordination system in the Secretariat had been critical to those results.

2. Resident coordinators were now fostering more coherent, accountable and effective support for countries and were using their impartiality and new capacities to channel skillsets and expertise from throughout the United Nations system, often from small, highly specialized entities away from Headquarters. That expertise was critical to the success of the Sustainable Development Goals. As a result, support had been provided in areas such as trade, financing, food system transformation and disaster risk reduction.

3. Resident coordinators were now the Organization's main means of translating global commitments into effective action on the ground, linking intergovernmental outcomes with action by United Nations country teams. They were no longer simply coordinators, but instead used their convening power and their legitimacy as representatives of the Secretary-General to help Governments to mobilize partnerships, financing and other means of implementation for the Sustainable Development Goals. They ensured that United Nations support was fully aligned with national priorities and needs, and they were effectively first responders in emergencies, ensuring a focus on development from the

first day of a crisis and facilitating a smooth transition into long-term sustainable development and resilience.

4. The report contained innumerable examples of how resident coordinators and their offices had made a positive difference in countries. In response to independent evaluations, surveys of host Governments and donors, and independent assessments commissioned by agencies such as the United Nations Population Fund, overwhelmingly positive feedback had been received on the impact of the changes implemented. Those results reaffirmed the value and effectiveness of the Organization's investments in strengthening development coordination through the resident coordinator system, and were a testament to what the international community had achieved. Five key achievements were outlined in the report. Firstly, leadership had been strengthened, with resident coordinator profiles carefully matched with country needs to ensure that the right person was deployed in the right place. As a result, unprecedented levels of geographical diversity and gender parity had been achieved among resident coordinators. Consequently, 85 per cent of host Governments had noted that resident coordinator leadership had improved compared with before the reform, 90 per cent had acknowledged that resident coordinators had the necessary profiles and skillsets, and 87 per cent had agreed that resident coordinators now served as strengthened entry points to accessing support from the United Nations, a 35 per cent increase since the reforms had begun in 2019. The Development Coordination Office would continue to improve resident coordinators' profiles and capacities.

5. Secondly, the strengthened capacities of resident coordinator offices in terms of strategic planning, economic analysis, partnerships, data analytics and results reporting had provided critical support to United Nations country teams. Some 92 per cent of host Governments had agreed that the United Nations adequately provided evidence-based policy advice, compared with 88 per cent in 2021; 92 per cent had said that resident coordinators were helping to create effective partnerships in support of national efforts to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, compared with 85 per cent in 2020; and 88 per cent had confirmed that resident coordinators effectively led the delivery of strategic support for national plans and priorities. Regional support from the Development Coordination Office had enhanced the capacity of resident coordinators to fulfil their leadership and coordination roles; that had been the conclusion of the Office of Internal Oversight Services in its evaluation of the Development Coordination Office regional support ([E/AC.51/2023/2](#)).

6. Thirdly, the resident coordinator system had played a leading role in the emergence of a new generation of United Nations country teams and had increased the ability of host Governments to easily access United Nations expertise at all relevant entities, regardless of their location, thereby making the services offered by the United Nations more flexible, coherent, responsive and effective. Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, while a work in progress, were already helping to improve the Organization's responses to national priorities, as confirmed by 94 per cent of host Governments. In addition, 91 per cent of Member States had agreed that country teams had the right range of capacities to support national development efforts, an increase from 76 per cent in 2017. Those improvements had been a central promise of the reforms.

7. Fourthly, the resident coordinator system had been instrumental in enhancing the transparency and accountability of the United Nations development system's activities. All United Nations country teams now produced an annual results report, a considerable increase from 64 per cent in 2019. A new dashboard created in the Sustainable Development Goals data portal, UN-Info, had increased transparency and had saved approximately \$2.4 million in services previously rendered by external vendors. The revised multi-annual resident coordinator system results framework allowed coordination results to be tracked in relation to specific objectives, outcomes and outputs, and would be reviewed to ensure that it remained relevant and in line with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review cycle. Recent technological advances had allowed the Development Coordination Office to analyse results more quickly and in greater depth than before.

8. Fifthly, the resident coordinator system had improved efficiency across the United Nations system and had generated substantial savings. Almost 80 per cent of Governments had reported that the resident coordinator system had minimized duplication of effort and improved the efficient use of resources. Investments in specialized capacities related to business operations strategies, common back offices and common premises had generated around \$405 million in efficiencies, an increase of 47 per cent compared with 2021.

9. The establishment of common methods of measuring and tracking efficiencies, the achievement of agreement among the entities of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group and the deployment of innovative approaches at the country level had provided a strong foundation on which to build. Those results would not have been possible without the leadership of the Group and country teams around the world. The

Group had contributed its full share of the resident coordinator funding model, in many cases well in advance. Entities had adapted to the new working arrangements of the repositioned United Nations development system. She was grateful for their dedication.

10. Nevertheless, the resident coordinator system remained chronically underfunded, despite the efforts of Member States, United Nations entities and the Secretary-General to implement the hybrid funding model mandated by the General Assembly. The \$85 million funding gap had delayed investments in surge capacity, which were in demand from States at a time of uncertainty and shocks. The shortfall had also resulted in cuts in investment in training, leadership and support at the regional and global levels. It had also led to a significant reduction in the resident coordinator system coordination fund, which was essential for bringing together country teams and external partners to address countries' priorities, and would be vital to preparations for the Sustainable Development Goals Summit, to be held in September 2023. The pressure on the resident coordinator system was increasing by the day. If the funding gap were not bridged, existing posts would be cut, especially at the country level; the system's ability to meet the expectations of Member States would be weakened; the impact of the reforms would be diminished; and hard-won gains would be jeopardized, as would the Organization's ability to help countries to achieve the Goals. As a result, the Secretary-General called on Member States to reconsider his proposed "hybrid 2.0" funding model for the United Nations development system, which relied on complex, highly innovative funding components and must be stabilized urgently in order to reduce vulnerability to fluctuations in voluntary funding. On the basis of the views expressed by Member States at the current segment, an inclusive and transparent consultative process on the next steps would be launched. The Secretary-General would submit a report to the General Assembly on the matter by the end of 2023.

11. 2023 was no ordinary year. In advance of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit, the United Nations and its Member States must build on the progress that had already been made, and maintain their commitment and high ambitions. The Summit must conclude with a sense of hope and of determination to achieve results. The current segment was a milestone in the reform of the resident coordinator system and a critical stop on the way to the Summit.

12. **Ms. Hamdouni** (Observer for Morocco) said that the repositioned United Nations development system

had proven its effectiveness, added value and capacity to create change on the ground. She reiterated her country's support for the resident coordinator system, which had proven its capacity to strengthen the coherence, coordination, effectiveness and impact of United Nations support for country programmes, in spite of its limited resources. Morocco also welcomed the signature of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Morocco (2023 to 2027), which was aligned with the country's national development priorities, its New Development Model and its national programmes and strategies.

13. **Ms. Loe** (Observer for Norway) said that the repositioning of the United Nations development system was significant, although its litmus test would be whether it could deliver better results on the ground. Her country stressed the need for United Nations country teams that were cohesive, flexible, efficient and focused; that could respond to evolving national priorities in an integrated way; that could help individual United Nations entities combine their unique approaches; and that were led by strong and visionary resident coordinators.

14. Norway was concerned about the funding of the resident coordinator system, which was too dependent on voluntary contributions, and called for other options to be explored, including increasing the share of funding from assessed contributions. Norway had been a major contributor to the special purpose trust fund since its establishment and would increase its contribution for 2023. Her country welcomed the initiative to make the funding compact a more focused and effective driver of reforms.

15. **Ms. Eneström** (Sweden) said that important progress had been made in consolidating the resident coordinator system. It was important to strengthen the coherence and efficiency of United Nations development operations at the country level and to have a robust process for implementing the ambitious reforms of the resident coordinator system, including by establishing oversight and improving accountability.

16. Sweden called for the continued strengthening of United Nations leadership, through the selection and training not only of the resident coordinator but of the whole country team; for increased coordination in humanitarian and crisis settings in order to guarantee flexibility and speed in adapting the United Nations configuration to changing country contexts; and for further efficiency gains. It also stressed that placing too much emphasis on system design and process could hinder progress towards the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. Her country continued

to be a strong financial and political supporter of the reform agenda and the resident coordinator system; it was important that constituents should know that the reforms were making a difference on the ground. She wished to know what role Member States could play in advancing the Development Coordination Office's main priorities leading up to the next quadrennial comprehensive policy review.

17. **Ms. Al-thani** (Qatar) said that her country appreciated the efforts made by the United Nations and other stakeholders to address escalating crises and stressed the effective role played by the United Nations Sustainable development system in helping countries to benefit from funding to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. It was appropriate that the Secretary-General, in his report 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 ([A/78/72-E/2023/59](#)), recalled that, in accordance with the review, attention must be paid to the development needs of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. In that regard, Qatar noted that, in the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, the Assembly had called upon United Nations development system entities to support the implementation of the Programme, and to support the resident coordinators in the least developed countries and to help them to mainstream the Programme into development planning in a coordinated and cohesive manner.

18. Qatar would continue its multi-year support to various United Nations organizations and agencies. It would also continue its support for the resident coordinator system, because of its belief in the vital role played by the resident coordinators and country teams in helping States to attain the Sustainable Development Goals and in strengthening the United Nations development system, which was a pillar of United Nations reform. Qatar looked forward to the Sustainable Development Goals Summit, to be held in September 2023, as a pivotal event on the path towards the achievement of the Goals.

19. **Mr. Al-khalidi** (Observer for Iraq) said that the resident coordinator system was an essential component of United Nations efforts to support Member States in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The resident coordinator played an important role in leading United Nations country teams and coordinating their support to host countries with a view to achieving the Goals. In that regard, Iraq welcomed the progress made in recent years by resident coordinators in helping States

to prepare and implement national development plans and in improving the consistency and effectiveness of United Nations development support. Resident coordinators had also made strides in formulating United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks in a manner consistent with national development priorities. Nevertheless, in order to make the resident coordinator system more effective, challenges such as funding gaps must be resolved.

20. Iraq hosted 23 United Nations development system agencies, programmes and funds, which implemented development activities in accordance with the five strategic priorities of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2020–2024). According to the most recent Iraq Annual Results Report, 2022 had been a year of transition for the country team, with a move away from emergency humanitarian support to long-term development support.

21. In that regard, his delegation looked forward to working with the country team, under the leadership of the resident coordinator, to achieve the desired development results. He asked what steps had been taken in line with General Assembly resolution 76/4 to provide the necessary training to resident coordinators, including those who also served as humanitarian coordinators or deputy special representatives of the Secretary-General, to ensure that they acquired the necessary skills to fulfil their mandates.

22. **Mr. Gaouaoui** (Observer for Algeria) said that the positive results achieved through the reform of the United Nations development system clearly showed that effective coordination could improve and integrate the policy advice provided through the system to national Governments for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda based on national development plans. In that connection, Algeria had signed a new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for the period 2023–2027 in collaboration with its United Nations country team.

23. Algeria stressed the need for predictable and sustainable funding for the resident coordinator system so that it could fulfil its function. Those involved must work together to resolve the current funding issue. Algeria welcomed the consultation announced by the Secretary-General and was ready to engage on the basis of his proposed “hybrid 2.0” funding model. Lastly, Algeria looked forward to the national and New York-based dialogues on the funding compact, which must be reformed to ensure that the resident coordinator system was provided with adequate and quality funding.

24. **Mr. Lagdameo** (Observer for the Philippines) said that his country welcomed the inclusive and transparent consultative process on the resident coordinator system results framework and the efforts to mobilize means of implementation for the Sustainable Development Goals. The Philippines was concerned about the funding of the resident coordinator system and supported any initiative led by the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, to ensure its sustainable, predictable and adequate funding.

25. The country was currently establishing a new Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework in collaboration with the United Nations. It also aimed to bolster its existing cooperation with United Nations agencies in order to ensure food security, modernize agriculture and agribusiness, accelerate climate action, intensify biodiversity conservation, and scale up the implementation of sustainable consumption and production approaches and circular economy solutions.

26. **Mr. Raguttahalli** (India) said that it was necessary to focus on assisting developing countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and on strengthening the United Nations development system and the resident coordinator system. The resident coordinator system had worked effectively in several Member States; nevertheless, the issue of its financing remained critical, particularly in the global South, and India stressed the need to look at the larger picture when allocating resources to it. The evaluation parameters for the resident coordinator system should be reviewed so that they took into account the system’s effectiveness in helping to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and implement the 2030 Agenda; it was contradictory that the system seemed to be working effectively while progress towards the Goals was off track. When looking at options to overcome the funding problem for the resident coordinator system, its link with the Goals and the current global economic situation, in which even United Nations funds and programmes were facing financial shortages, should be taken into consideration.

27. **Mr. Prabowo** (Indonesia) said that “Delivering as one” was a constant process. In the final phase of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the United Nations development system needed to continuously enhance its delivery and performance and, along with the resident coordinator system, increase its added value in a way that was tailored to countries’ sustainable development programmes.

28. Enhanced partnership, including from the resident coordinator and United Nations development systems, was needed to mobilize resources and investments for

the Sustainable Development Goals. Indonesia therefore called for improvements to be made to country teams' relations with international financial institutions with a view to enhancing coordinated action for joint programming and financing. Through its own networked relations with its United Nations country team, the Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund and the private sector, Indonesia had mobilized a total of \$730 million of funding for the Goals in the period 2021–2022.

29. **Mr. Tommo Monthe** (Cameroon) said that progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals needed to be accelerated. In order to do so, it was necessary to scale up financing for countries in need by at least \$500 billion per year, as proposed by the Secretary-General, through debt relief, the provision of concessional finance and the redistribution of special drawing rights; to make sufficient funding available for the resident coordinator system from the regular budget; to show greater political will; and to see greater generosity from the donor community.

30. **Ms. Buenrostro Massieu** (Mexico) said that her country was concerned by the funding gap for the resident coordinator system and by the gradual reductions in its core funding; a predictable and sustainable funding model was required. To that end, coordination should be promoted among the different bodies, agencies and committees of the United Nations system, so as to generate synergies and avoid wasting resources. Resident coordinators should be provided with the tools necessary to identify opportunities for development cooperation, promote technology transfer, and share best practices and experiences with countries as needed.

31. Action from Governments alone was not sufficient to face current challenges. Mexico would therefore welcome further information regarding the resources that could be made available to resident coordinators in order to ensure that multiple actors, including civil society, women and children, local governments, and the private sector, participated in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

32. **Mr. Shin Dongwoo** (Republic of Korea) said that the progress made in the leadership of the resident coordinator system and of the United Nations country teams, and in their responses to country needs and priorities, was encouraging. Nevertheless, the United Nations development system should harness that momentum for reform in a more innovative way and strengthen solidarity and support among Member States.

33. In the face of current complex crises, the humanitarian-development-peace nexus was more

relevant than ever. The Republic of Korea therefore supported the strengthening of the nexus to promote the active engagement of all United Nations system organizations. It was important to continue exploring innovative ways to narrow the funding gap and accelerate the implementation of the funding compact. The United Nations development system should also make continued efforts to reduce costs, diversify partnerships and enhance efficiency. His country called for the coordination capacity of United Nations country teams to be strengthened in order to reduce competitive practices among United Nations entities and to ensure closer communication and collaboration in host countries. It also called for tailored country-level support within the United Nations development system so that it could reach the maximum number of people in need.

34. **Ms. Elsaeed** (Observer for Egypt) said that her delegation welcomed the positive results being achieved by the strengthened resident coordinator system, following the repositioning of the United Nations development system. In the light of the current cascading global challenges, it was crucial to maintain the momentum of international collective action and development cooperation. Since global crises were increasing in quantity, magnitude and impact, funding for development was being reduced, leading to severe consequences in developing countries. It was therefore critical to sustain the reform efforts and guarantee the required resources.

35. Egypt was concerned by the current shortfall in the funding of the resident coordinator system, which had reached record levels in 2022. The time had come to initiate consultations on the funding model and reconsider the proposal of the Secretary-General, in his report on the review of the functioning of the resident coordinator system: rising to the challenge and keeping the promise of the 2030 Agenda ([A/75/905](#)), that the funding model be based on the regular budget. The funding gap should not be allowed to disrupt the activities of the resident coordinator system in programme countries. The successful cooperation between her Government and the resident coordinator in Egypt was a vivid example of the resident coordinator's important role. One area of fruitful collaboration had been the support provided by the United Nations system to the Egyptian presidency of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Her delegation appreciated the consultations held with Member States on the resident coordinator system results framework, and would continue to support the reform of the United Nations development system.

36. **Mr. Nicolino** (Argentina) said that the main work of the United Nations system in the area of development should be associated with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. While the United Nations development system had contributed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in particular through the work of the resident coordinator system, efforts needed to be redoubled, given the current circumstances, to improve living conditions for all. Adequate, predictable and stable funding must be provided, given that capacity-building within States was an indispensable element for steady and sustainable long-term development. His delegation appreciated the efforts being made to improve financing options for developing countries, through initiatives such as the Sustainable Development Goal stimulus and the reform of the international financial architecture.

37. United Nations agencies should increase their collaboration in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, while encouraging developed countries to cooperate with developing countries, particularly by transferring technology and infrastructure to facilitate sustainable development. While all developing countries should receive the necessary support from the development system, particular attention should be paid to middle-income countries, which were home to the largest number of poor people. The work of the United Nations should continue to be based on human rights, gender equality and sustainable development in its economic, social and environmental dimensions. It should also be aligned with national guidelines, programmes and policies aimed at achieving the Goals.

38. **Mr. Meschchanov** (Observer for the Russian Federation) said that his delegation welcomed the report 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 ([A/78/72-E/2023/59](#)). Unfortunately, in 2021 only 8 per cent of total expenditure on the operational activities of the United Nations had gone towards eradicating poverty, despite the fact that, under the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, the eradication of poverty in all its forms should continue to be the highest priority for the development system. It was vital to increase assistance to developing countries in that area. The data provided in the report indicated that there was demand from programme countries for more support in the areas of industrialization and access to affordable and reliable energy. The development system could and should meet that demand.

39. His delegation supported the calls made by developing countries, during the current meeting, for the development system to alleviate the humanitarian consequences of the illegal sanctions regimes of Western countries. With regard to the updated information on the work of the resident coordinator system, his delegation considered the proposal to reconsider the issue of partially funding the system from assessed contributions to be premature. The Development Coordination Office should step up its work with developed countries, which should begin to pay or increase their voluntary contributions for resident coordinators. Such contributions could be seen as an investment in global public goods, of whose importance the Council had heard frequently in recent times.

40. **Ms. Eat** (Observer for Cambodia) said that the United Nations development system, in particular the resident coordinators, had contributed to progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The support provided to her country under the current United Nations Development Assistance Framework had expanded social and economic opportunities for the population, enhanced sustainable living and urbanization, and strengthened participation and inclusion for a more prosperous society. While synergies and alignment between national development policies and strategies and those of external partners had transformed Cambodia for the better, the path towards achieving the Goals by 2030 was a difficult one. Her country was currently preparing for the next development stage, and was finalizing its national five-year strategic development plan and the first phase of its development strategy. The new plan and strategy would enhance resilience, sustainability and inclusion, in particular through the digital transformation of the Government, the economy and the country's human capital. Her delegation would welcome further support and cooperation from the United Nations development system and other development partners, and called for greater international cooperation, and for timely, well-coordinated assistance in terms of finance, technology and the sharing of best practices.

41. **Mr. Yamanaka** (Japan) said that, according to the reports of the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General, the vast majority of host country Governments appreciated the resident coordinator system and saw United Nations entities as close collaborators for humanitarian, development and peacebuilding activities. The efficiency gains within the United Nations development system had almost doubled in the period from 2021 to 2022. His delegation thanked the Secretariat for the explanations and case studies provided earlier in 2023, which had clearly shown the

added value of the resident coordinator system in convening and coordinating stakeholders, including host Governments, the private sector and non-governmental organizations. With respect to the hybrid funding model proposed by the Secretary-General, Member States should be consulted and provided with more detailed budget information. Japan would continue to engage constructively in dialogue aimed at establishing a sustainable funding model for the resident coordinator system.

42. **Ms. Tickner** (Colombia) said that the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda required urgent, decisive and transformative action, as well as flexibility on the part of the United Nations system in meeting the current needs of developing countries. Member States, for their part, must speedily and ambitiously address the multiple crises facing humanity, including the environmental crisis, growing poverty and inequality, the reversal of progress in relation to the rights of women and girls, and food and nutrition insecurity. Those crises were disproportionately affecting people in vulnerable situations. Colombia had been a pioneer in implementing the resident coordinator system, which had helped to provide more integrated, coherent and impactful country-team responses in support of national policies and priorities. Despite the excellent results achieved by the system, the shortfall in its funding was of increasing concern, at a time when that funding needed to be sustainable, predictable and adequate. Her delegation wished to know what plan was in place to address the situation immediately and ensure the proper functioning of the resident coordinator system. It stood ready to continue working towards a flexible, coherent and effective system that would catalyse the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

43. **Ms. Bako Traore** (Observer for Burkina Faso), speaking on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries, said that the Group attached great importance to the support of the United Nations development system and called for the continued prioritization of the allocation of resources to least developed countries, which were vulnerable and needed sustainable support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Assistance was also needed for countries graduating from least developed country status. The Group welcomed the report of the Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group on the Development Coordination Office (E/2023/62) and the revised multi-annual resident coordinator system results framework. The Group appreciated the consultative process on the revised framework, which facilitated systematic reporting and performance assessments. The resident coordinator system played a crucial role in addressing

the needs of the least developed countries through cooperation frameworks and reconfigured country teams. That approach was in line with the Group's call for an adapted United Nations system response.

44. The Development Coordination Office provided valuable support in collaboration with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. The attention given to countries in specific situations was welcome. The Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries was essential for accelerating progress, and needed to be fully reflected in country analyses and cooperation frameworks, with related reporting to the Council at the next operational activities for development segment. The Group welcomed the contribution of the resident coordinator system to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, particularly in the least developed countries. Adequate and predictable funding for the system was vital, and more resources should be mobilized, in a timely manner, to ensure the system's effective functioning. The Group was concerned about the decrease in contributions to the Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund, which must be replenished to support the least developed countries and other vulnerable States. The Group would continue to engage constructively for the enhancement of transparency and accountability, and for increased investment in the United Nations development system.

45. **Ms. Navarro Barro** (Observer for Cuba), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the high quality of the reports submitted to the operational activities for development segment in 2023 should be maintained, to pave the way towards the formulation of new guidance for the United Nations development system in 2024, in order to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The resident coordinator system had been called upon, in recent years, to help countries to address such challenges as the COVID-19 pandemic, heightened unrest, and more severe and frequent natural disasters. The system had enabled countries to respond better to those challenges, and must therefore remain focused on sustainable development, which was facing a dire lack of support and funding.

46. The Development Coordination Office's case studies on the work of the resident coordinator system in several countries had provided an insight into those countries' responses in varied contexts. The Group appreciated the Office's consultations with Member States on the resident coordinator system results framework and noted the vast improvements reported during the segment. The results framework presented

the system with a unique opportunity to demonstrate its coordination function and illustrate its importance in the delivery of services to programme countries. However, the Group was concerned about the low percentage of country-level joint programmes that addressed poverty eradication and leaving no one behind in 2022. The Group looked forward to receiving regular and more detailed assessments of the management costs of the resident coordinator system, taking into account specific situations at the field level. The United Nations must not fail the hundreds of millions of people living in poverty. Member States needed to ensure that the system was properly funded, so as to respond to the needs and priorities of programme countries. That would require more core funding for operational activities for development.

47. **Ms. Bartley** (Observer for Samoa), speaking on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, said that the Alliance was concerned about the global situation and the lack of urgency in addressing development issues, which were the core drivers of current instabilities and crises. The Alliance appreciated the report of the Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group on the Development Coordination Office ([E/2023/62](#)) and the revised multi-annual resident coordinator system results framework, but noted that the assessments of the coordination aspect of the system were based primarily on perception. The framework should be further improved, since it would be essential to assessing the overall performance of the system and could affect funding.

48. The changes made to the multi-country offices were in general satisfactory, and had greatly improved the operations of the United Nations system in small island developing States. The establishment of the North Pacific multi-country office and the appointment of coordination officers in all non-multi-country office host countries and territories were of particular relevance. The rapid and effective response of the system to natural disasters in Vanuatu and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines had been showcased in the case studies organized by the Development Coordination Office. The contribution of the resident coordinators for small island developing States to the development of the multidimensional vulnerability index for those States was greatly appreciated, as were their ongoing efforts to close the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and their preparations for the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, to be held in 2024.

49. **Mr. Vorshilov** (Observer for Mongolia), speaking on behalf of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries, said that, in the report on the Development

Coordination Office ([E/2023/62](#)), better use had been made of evidence-based data than in previous years, and transparency and data accessibility had also improved. The reform of the United Nations development system was working, and the resident coordinator system had proven to be a key factor in helping national Governments to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. However, more needed to be done. Sustainable development remained the best solution to current crises, and the international community should build on the progress achieved in recent years. Adequate, predictable and sustainable funding would enable the United Nations development system to continue to work effectively and facilitate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The world was at the midway point between the adoption of the Goals and their planned achievement, and a strong and reinvigorated repositioning of the United Nations development system was more essential than ever before.

50. The Group therefore looked forward to the upcoming Sustainable Development Goals Summit and High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, which would offer unique opportunities for mobilizing the means required for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Group recalled the importance attached by the General Assembly, in its resolution [76/4](#), to preserving and utilizing the strengthened capacities of the reinvigorated resident coordinator system, with a view to ensuring coherent and effective responses by the development system. The Group stood ready to engage with other delegations to ensure that the gap in the funding of the resident coordinator system was closed once and for all. It looked forward to the support of the entire United Nations development system in the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, to be held in Rwanda in 2024.

51. **Ms. González López** (Observer for El Salvador) said that the reports under consideration had provided meaningful and evidence-based analyses of the repositioning of the United Nations development system, particularly with regard to the revitalized resident coordinator system. The latter had made a valuable contribution, by promoting coherent and collaborative responses, with the support of the country teams, to effectively address emerging and changing development challenges and opportunities. Her delegation appreciated the coordination undertaken to mobilize the country team in El Salvador using a system-wide approach that had resulted in the consolidation of the new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, the implementation of a socioeconomic response plan and a

humanitarian response plan, and the submission of regular consolidated results reports.

52. El Salvador acknowledged the transparent and interactive consultations conducted, under the leadership of the Deputy Secretary-General and with the support of the Development Coordination Office, on the resident coordinator system results framework, whose implementation was a good basis for assessing the functioning and performance of the system. The system must be adequately, predictably and sustainably funded so that its coherent, strategic and ambitious response was sustained. Her delegation stood ready to address that challenge with the required urgency, and would, during the Council's deliberations, promote a sustainable and predictable system-wide approach.

53. **Mr. Galstyan** (Observer for Armenia) said that his delegation appreciated the efforts of the United Nations development system to assist Governments in their recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and their response to the multiple and interlinked challenges facing the world, with a view to accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in accordance with national priorities. The development system should be reformed to strengthen its capacities and ability to adapt to evolving global challenges. The reform should promote a more coherent, system-wide approach to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, through the enhanced role of the resident coordinators. Resident coordinators needed to be selected and appointed in a timely fashion, in order to ensure the efficient functioning of their system. Despite the measures taken to improve the recruitment process and the talent pipeline, setbacks related to selection affected the continuity of the leadership of country teams.

54. In the neighbourhood of Armenia, attempts had been made to instrumentalize the resident coordinator system to legitimize the consequences of the use of force and other flagrant violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. The provision of international development assistance to all conflict-affected people continued to pose a challenge, especially when those people were deprived of direct cooperation and communication with the United Nations and its agencies. Accordingly, there was a need for closer coordination and synergy across development, peacebuilding and humanitarian actions in conflict settings. Armenia remained committed to inclusive and human rights-based programmatic cooperation with the United Nations development system, and looked forward to efficient cooperation with the Development Coordination Office to promote coherent responses to the complex challenges of the resident coordinator

system and advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

55. **Mr. Chang** (United States of America) said that the United States commended the efforts of the Development Coordination Office to improve the multi-annual resident coordinator system results framework and the significant progress made in the operations of the system. His delegation appreciated the briefing on the results and impact of the resident coordinator system, and the work of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group System-wide Evaluation Office. It would welcome more consideration of human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment, as a normative objective of the results framework. Discussion of the accountability relationship between the System-wide Evaluation Office and the Council would be appreciated, as would the inclusion, in future reports, of the Office's findings and analyses with respect to the performance of the resident coordinator system across all objective areas.

56. The United States welcomed the United Nations system-wide efficiency gains of more than \$400 million in 2022 and looked forward to discussing how the cost savings could be used to help finance the resident coordinator system. His delegation looked forward to engaging in the consultative process outlined by the Secretary-General on the funding of the system. Budget transparency was key to understanding the efficiency of the operations of the resident coordinator; he requested more detailed information on expenditure in the resident coordinator system budget.

57. **Ms. Whyte** (Observer for Barbados) said that her delegation appreciated the emphasis, in the report on the Development Coordination Office (E/2023/62), on the role of global pooled funds, such as the Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund, which was key to enabling the United Nations to deliver on its promises to reform the development system and transform financing for sustainable development. Small island developing States, including Barbados, had benefited from the Fund, which was among the few United Nations mechanisms that provided dedicated resources to build resilience and address the unique vulnerabilities facing those States. The responsiveness of such funds had been instrumental in bringing together both resident and non-resident United Nations entities for the promotion of integrated national financing frameworks, enhancing national social protection systems and supporting tailored integrated policies to better address future shocks. Her delegation therefore joined the call to supply the Fund with \$1 billion by 2024.

58. **Mr. Gueye** (Observer for Senegal) said that it was clear from the report that the United Nations should be closer to people and serve their needs in supporting sustainable development. The changes implemented by the Development Coordination Office had significantly improved resident coordinators' capacity to assist Governments in implementing the 2030 Agenda. In that connection, his Government appreciated its frank collaboration with the Resident Coordinator in Senegal. He asked what strategies would be adopted, in addition to those related to funding issues, to improve collaboration and support decision makers for stronger planning. He also wished to know how the resident coordinator system would support programmes for young people and women in developing countries, particularly in Africa. Lastly, he asked how the efforts of resident coordinators would be tailored to support Governments in localizing the Sustainable Development Goals.

59. **Ms. Pindera** (Canada) said that the report allowed for a more tangible measurement of the progress made and the work to be done. Canada had recently disbursed its 2023 core funding contribution to the resident coordinator system, which played an important role in putting the world back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and facilitating greater coherence in the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. Her delegation stood ready to help find a collective solution for more sustainable and predictable funding. She asked what concrete actions were planned in the year ahead to address gaps in capacity development for gender mainstreaming, as well as financial resource allocation and tracking, in order to support gender equality as a primary objective in programming.

60. **Ms. Nazirmadova** (Observer for Tajikistan) said that reporting mechanisms must be improved to allow United Nations country team members to report to the resident coordinator on their individual capacity and the collective results of the development system in implementing the 2030 Agenda at the country level and within the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework. Capacity-building must be carried out at the country level to ensure that country teams were fit for purpose, and pursued tailored action and an integrated approach in line with national development policies. In that connection, her Government had organized three dialogues with the country team to improve coherence and understanding of the way forward during the reform of the development system and the reform's implications for the country.

61. **Mr. Kariuki** (United Kingdom) said that his delegation welcomed the work of the Development Coordination Office to revamp the resident coordinator selection system and minimize vacancies; however, in 2022, only 62 per cent of resident coordinator recruitments had been completed within the target time frame of 120 days. He therefore asked what steps the United Nations and its Member States could take to meet the target of 95 per cent by 2025. Given the pressure on existing resources, his delegation wished to know how the Office would balance support for in-country operations and the additional Secretariat functions it had taken on at Headquarters. It would also be interesting to learn how the Office would prioritize the structural reforms needed to allow resident coordinators to access United Nations system expertise and surge capacity in the event of a crisis, as well as ensure that such reforms were fully embedded at the regional level.

62. **Mr. Hjelmåker** (Sweden) said that future versions of the report could be restructured to better highlight the quantitative and qualitative results achieved by the Development Coordination Office. The report could also be strengthened with the inclusion of content on normative work, such as results achieved in terms of human rights. Since the report relied heavily on a survey of host countries, he wondered whether the low number of respondents gave cause for concern. His delegation welcomed the recent initiative to present case studies on the work of resident coordinators and country teams, and noted that other United Nations entities included in country teams could also be invited to share the results of increased coordination efforts.

63. **Ms. Joyini** (Observer for South Africa), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that the Group welcomed the inclusive consultations on the revised resident coordinator system results framework, which would enable systematic reporting on a number of performance indicators during each cycle of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review. It also welcomed the continuous improvements in data availability. The Group was pleased to note the feedback from national Governments and resident coordinators regarding the support provided by the Development Coordination Office teams at Headquarters and in regional offices. Programme countries would struggle to make progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals without a robust United Nations development system led by resident coordinators and supported by the Office. The resident coordinator system must receive the funding necessary to attract and retain the most talented individuals to lead United Nations country teams. It must also provide continuous

and strengthened activities for leadership-building and skills training in various country contexts.

64. **Ms. Navarro Barro** (Observer for Cuba), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that every effort was being made to enhance the skill sets of resident coordinators, with a view to meeting the needs and priorities of host countries, and to expand the pool of resident coordinator candidates, including to improve regional representation and gender balance. Despite the progress made, the selection process must continue to improve in order to find the right person for each position and improve the representation of developing countries. It was crucial to preserve the capacities of the United Nations development system, particularly the resident coordinator system, in order to accelerate the provision of assistance to countries, given the serious risk that the Sustainable Development Goals would not be achieved.

65. **The Deputy Secretary-General** said that, with regard to capacity-building, resident coordinators received continuous training, which began during the onboarding process. A number of sessions were held with agency heads to discuss issues arising from the implementation of various frameworks at the country level. A complex process was employed to evaluate leadership positions in the resident coordinator system. The Secretariat had established a career track with more independence for resident coordinators and had improved the recruitment process so that the profiles included on the rosters of candidates for resident coordinator posts were more relevant and responsive to the work required. The delay in filling vacancies was mostly due to government approval, and the Development Coordination Office was working to accelerate the process. Although gender parity and equitable geographical representation had been achieved in the resident coordinator system, geographical challenges persisted within regions.

66. With regard to the main priorities for the Office, ensuring that there was adequate leadership among resident coordinators was a primary focus, given the recent change in the skills required for the role. The Office was also working to clarify which areas of investment proposals would result in the most concrete outcomes, so that resources were directed to countries with a clear vision for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The Office assisted countries in reframing their development investments in terms of the Goals, in order to facilitate access to funding. As a result of the integrated national financing frameworks, the Office had a greater understanding of the financing situation in many countries, thereby facilitating more productive engagement on domestic resource

mobilization, which funded much of the work of the United Nations country teams.

67. In order to improve country teams' results, the reconfiguration process would be a priority over the next year. Efforts were being made to match capacities with needs to help to achieve the Goals; however, such efforts required a balance between core and earmarked funding, as well as greater flexibility. At the regional level, some surge capacity rosters had been established. She hoped that the Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund could obtain the resources necessary to acquire the relevant expertise, either from internal or external sources, in order to meet countries' requests. While it was important to streamline the reform process, there must still be accountability. Member States should be kept informed through consultation, feedback and monitoring. The process had been simplified by allowing country teams and their systems to communicate. At the same time, system-wide cost efficiencies were estimated at approximately \$405 million, which was reinvested in programming at the country level.

68. With regard to normative work, well-designed development programmes included metrics related to the promotion of human rights, the number of women in the workplace and the impact of young people, rather than confining those issues to smaller projects. Much of that cross-cutting work relied on trust funds that had been considerably depleted. As a result, fewer staff would be seconded from elsewhere in the system, and the work of the regional coordinators would thus be affected. Better joined-up planning was therefore essential, and she hoped that the work of the Joint Steering Committee to Advance Humanitarian and Development Collaboration would improve coordination on the ground. It was a matter of concern that the international community had not met the gender targets established in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and that progress in the promotion of women's rights was in fact being reversed; the findings of the recent review of United Nations capacities in the area of gender equality would be taken into account by the Organization's funds, programmes and specialized agencies, and incorporated into the work of country teams.

69. The information contained in the report on the Development Coordination Office ([E/2023/62](#)) was supported by surveys and granular data that could be found in the annexes and on the UN-Info platform. Over 100 Governments had responded to the survey, along with 97 per cent of entities within the United Nations system at Headquarters. She invited Member States to inform the Office of any additional data that they would like included in future reports, including in the area of expenditure.

70. The resident coordinators and country teams would identify the gaps preventing States from making gains in priority areas, but the States themselves would achieve the Goals. Unfortunately, much of that work was hampered by a lack of data. She hoped it would be possible to gain momentum and generate more targeted support in relation to indicators for which data were lacking. Her Office was also focused on building the capacities needed to achieve the Goals at the local level to ensure that services could be delivered where needed.

71. With the establishment of the regional collaborative platforms, interaction with international financial institutions had improved. For example, in the Arab region, much work on bonds had been carried out in partnership with the Islamic Development Bank. Many plans had been established with the capacity necessary to implement them, but the resources were lacking. The Office was working with international financial institutions to find solutions, including increasing fiscal space, addressing debt concerns and rechannelling available funds. Improving partnerships with the private sector and international financial institutions was at the heart of reforms, but gaps remained and more work needed to be done.

72. With regard to the least developed countries, her Office hoped to provide some of the skill sets to scale up the work needed to align efforts with the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and frameworks that impacted the least developed countries.

73. When the current funding models were not delivering the necessary resources to allow States to implement the 2030 Agenda, it was not premature to re-examine those mechanisms. The purpose of the reforms was to make the institution fit for purpose by providing it with sufficient resources.

Interactive discussion: "Financing the Sustainable Development Goals: working with financial institutions and beyond"

74. **The President** said that the discussion provided an opportunity to examine efforts by United Nations country teams to help leverage financing for the Sustainable Development Goals, including in partnership with international financial institutions and national and regional development banks. It would also explore the measures needed to scale up such cooperation, including further support for countries' efforts to implement integrated national financing frameworks.

75. **Mr. Hanif** (Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, Department of Economic and

Social Affairs), moderator, said that States must design strategies to acquire public and private resources, both domestic and international, to best suit their context. Through integrated national financing frameworks, States could demonstrate understanding of their needs and present a financing strategy. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was assisting over 80 States in developing such frameworks with a view to securing resources to fill the significant gap in investments for the Goals.

76. **Mr. Steiner** (Under-Secretary-General, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme) said that financing for development was the variable that would either allow countries to overcome the current crisis or cause them to fall deeper into it. The support provided by United Nations country teams with regard to financing for the Sustainable Development Goals was evolving, particularly with the introduction of integrated national financing frameworks as part of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. In 2023, 86 States were using the frameworks to better leverage both public and private financing for sustainable development. Through that exercise, States could evaluate all sources of finance and adjust their priorities accordingly. Although financial stress stemming from current crises necessitated the process, many States were investing deliberately and explicitly in achieving specific Goals.

77. In that connection, the Secretary-General, in his Sustainable Development Goal stimulus plan, addressed the challenges that countries faced in terms of liquidity, debt restructuring, the cost of capital and the cost of borrowing. Integrated national financing frameworks allowed countries to articulate their national priorities through a realistic assessment of their funding potential. Country teams, in coordination with resident coordinators, were working with a range of partners to support the country-led frameworks, which ministers of finance and planning were using to plan beyond short-term goals, boost climate resilience and unlock new sources of public and private finance from domestic and international resources.

78. Collaboration and coordination were essential to the success of integrated national financing frameworks, and regular inter-agency sessions were convened to coordinate technical assistance. In that connection, the Integrated National Financing Framework Facility had been launched by UNDP, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Children's Fund, the European Union, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and the Governments of Italy, Spain and Sweden.

79. Owing to the frameworks, a number of countries were in the process of launching financing strategies. Maldives had implemented a gender-responsive climate financing strategy to move from fossil fuels to a green economy, and Mongolia had launched a financing strategy for its medium-term development plan. The frameworks also provided the foundation for innovative financial vehicles, including Sustainable Development Goal bonds in Uzbekistan, a blue economy financing platform in Cabo Verde and an inaugural blue bond in Indonesia.

80. **Mr. Hart** (Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Climate Action and Ambition for a Green Transition) said that the world was facing a critical moment in the fight against climate change, as every climate indicator was moving in the wrong direction. In order to meet the target of limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C and prevent the worst impacts of climate change, global emissions must decline by approximately 7 per cent per year and be halved by 2030, which would require \$4 trillion of public and private investment in clean energy solutions. Developing countries would need approximately \$300 billion per year to adapt and build resilience to a worsening climate. Unfortunately, they continued to face significant barriers in accessing public and private finance, which was not flowing to the activities or places necessary to save lives and livelihoods. The climate crisis had exposed significant inequalities. Those that had contributed the least to climate change were facing the worst impacts. People living in Central and South America, Africa, South Asia and small island developing States were 15 times more likely to die from climate disasters. Over the past 50 years, 70 per cent of all climate-related deaths had occurred in the least developed countries.

81. To address the climate crisis, there was an urgent need to scale up solutions, including renewable energy and resilience-building in key sectors, such as infrastructure, agriculture and water. The mass mobilization of public and private finance was urgently needed to invest in resilience and adaptation, since less than a decade remained in which to reverse course. With regard to mitigation, private finance was required to invest in renewable energy solutions; however, the high cost of capital in developing countries was a significant deterrent. Instruments and institutions were therefore needed to assist developing countries in reducing the cost of capital for clean energy investments, which was a major goal in the reform of the international financial architecture and for multilateral development banks.

82. In addition to its advocacy work, the United Nations system must promote coordination and

collaboration to solve the challenges to mitigation and adaptation. Although improvements were still needed, developed countries were coordinating with key economies under the Just Energy Transition Partnership to support an accelerated transition away from coal to renewable energy. Those partnerships had incentivized coordination within States and attracted significant amounts of private finance. With regard to adaptation, the Secretary-General's Early Warnings for All initiative provided another example in which coordination and collaboration could deliver impacts at the scale and with the urgency needed.

83. **Ms. Villar Forner** (United Nations Resident Coordinator in Colombia), speaking via video link, said that the focus of United Nations country teams was to assist States in accelerating poverty reduction and achieving development impact at scale. The reform of the United Nations development system had equipped resident coordinators with an unequivocal mandate and an initial set of tools to focus on financing for development. Country teams had specialist capacity in the area of financing, access to the work of agencies that had deployed tools and frameworks to engage with the private sector, and better data and analysis on the financial landscape of countries, owing to initiatives such as integrated national financing frameworks and common country analyses. As a result of the reform of the resident coordinator system, country teams had begun to collaborate with public and private financial institutions and, in some cases, had established new financial vehicles in conjunction with those institutions. Through the provision of technical expertise, they were also playing a greater role in national financial ecosystems. Country teams worked to connect public and private entities, support pipeline development and design the impact frameworks needed to reward investments that accelerated the achievement of the Goals. Furthermore, the Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund had catalysed innovative financing partnerships.

84. As Resident Coordinator in Colombia and, previously, in Uruguay, she had recruited external financing experts to provide the in-house capacities needed to gain credibility with ministries of finance and private banks. In Uruguay, UNDP had joined with the Inter-American Development Bank to support the country's first Goal-related sovereign bond. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and UNDP had established a financial facility to support the country's second energy transition, for which they had received resources from the Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund. In Colombia, the integrated national

financing framework process had been launched. Over 670 companies had provided financing information on their alignment with the Goals, and the country team had mapped investment opportunities with a strong impact for the Goals. With funding from the United Nations multi-partner trust fund for sustaining peace in Colombia, six blended finance schemes had been implemented to support productive value chains in the poorest and most conflict-affected areas. Through partnerships with impact investors, the resources had been multiplied sixfold. Through those initiatives, resources from Member States had been invested and multiplied by leveraging private capital in support of national priorities.

85. Those efforts had yielded a proof of concept that should be scaled up across Latin America and the Caribbean. With the experience gained by United Nations country teams around the world in structuring financial instruments and expanded support from the Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund, a regional portfolio of financial vehicles could be built to enable Latin American and Caribbean countries to implement their transformative proposals. She therefore called upon Member States to provide the capital necessary for the Fund.

86. **Mr. Hossain** (Observer for Bangladesh), speaking on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries, said that securing sufficient resources to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals remained a major challenge, despite ambitious global commitments. Developing countries faced a financing gap of up to \$3 trillion per year. The scope of domestic resource mobilization for the least developed countries was also significantly limited. They had experienced declines in real gross domestic product growth, concessional financing from international financial institutions and external sources of financing, such as official development assistance, export earnings, investment and remittances.

87. The United Nations system therefore provided vital support for the least developed countries. In particular, the Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund could stimulate strategic investments to regain progress in achieving the Goals; however, its capitalization had decreased by 75 per cent between 2021 and 2022. The Fund should be fully capitalized with \$290 million per year, as established by the General Assembly, and its donor base should be diversified. It should also support countries' efforts to implement integrated national financing frameworks and scaled-up programmes for food systems, education, digitalization, decent jobs, social protection, climate action, energy

transitions and Goal localization, working closely with the relevant United Nations entities and partners.

88. The resident coordinator system must be further strengthened through timely and predictable financing. Resident coordinators must fully leverage the United Nations country teams to respond more effectively to the diverse needs and priorities of the least developed countries during the current crises. The Development Coordination Office and resident coordinator system must strengthen country-based pooled funds to complement global funds in order to leverage instruments for the Goals. In that connection, multi-stakeholder partnerships involving donor countries, international financial institutions and the private sector should be catalysed. Lastly, the resident coordinator system should fully integrate the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries into the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and mobilize partnerships and pooled funding for its timely implementation, with a view to assisting the least developed countries in recovering from the ongoing crises, building resilience to future shocks and accelerating the achievement of the Goals.

89. **Ms. Wegter** (Denmark) said that her country was actively engaged in facilitating investment in the green energy transition. She asked what steps could be taken to strengthen integrated national financial frameworks and their role in facilitating private investment for renewable energy. She also wished to know how international financial institutions were collaborating with those frameworks.

90. **Mr. De Rezende Pinto** (Brazil) said that developing countries often faced significant hurdles in access to financing from multilateral development banks and funds linked to environmental concerns, such as the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund. For example, the national development bank in Brazil had sought to obtain funding from both funds without success for over five years, owing to excessive bureaucracy and the imposition of too many conditions. At the same time, it had struggled to raise funds independently. The issue warranted earnest consideration, as other developing countries were likely to have faced similar situations. Loan procedures should be simplified and fewer conditions should be imposed on developing countries, in order to facilitate access to the international funds needed for their development.

91. While the assistance of United Nations country teams in mobilizing resources for the Goals was welcomed, including through integrated national financing frameworks, care should be taken to ensure that the frameworks did not become another condition

that limited access to financing. Developing countries must have greater flexibility in accessing development finance, and more trust must be placed in country systems and States' ability to define strategies to implement the 2030 Agenda. The international community must also acknowledge the existence of other pathways for the implementation of national development policies and support financing needs beyond the 2030 Agenda, such as those arising from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

92. **Ms. Ríos Serna** (Colombia) said that access to financing was the biggest challenge for developing countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The international financial system was insufficient to address current challenges and was morally bankrupt, as the Secretary-General had often stated. Systemic responses were needed to transform the system and address the root causes of vicious cycles of crises, shocks and financial restrictions for developing countries, which impeded the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Until such reforms could be implemented, the United Nations development system must be able to assist Governments in overcoming those challenges, mobilizing necessary financing and establishing public-private partnerships. In that regard, the work of the Resident Coordinator Office and the country team in Colombia demonstrated the potential impact of collaborative work carried out with international financial institutions and multilateral development banks. It also served as a good example of creating synergies in the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. Given that public financing was essential for leveraging private financing for mitigation, she asked what steps could be taken to encourage similar investments in adaptation, which also required significant public investments but did not provide attractive returns for private capital.

93. **Mr. Steiner** (Under-Secretary-General, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme) said that the actions that developing countries could take were largely limited by their current financial reality. In terms of public financing, the United Nations and international instruments could address only a fraction of the existing financial challenges. Furthermore, much of the finance available in the world was in capital markets and the private sector, rather than in the public domain, and did not naturally flow to those countries most in need.

94. Integrated national financing frameworks were unequivocally designed to assist countries in establishing an agenda according to their national development planning priorities and realistic assessments of accessible financing. The frameworks were therefore not subject to conditions; however, they did not multiply the available

financing. In the dire situation currently facing financing for development, the frameworks were vital to empowering national decision-making in accordance with national priorities, which, in working with the United Nations, inevitably involved issues related to the Goals.

95. **Mr. Hart** (Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Climate Action and Ambition for a Green Transition) said that the United Nations was not in a position to solve every problem and should not attempt to play every role. For example, in terms of energy transition, it should provide support for essential policy and regulatory reform, assisting countries in delivering a just transition to meet their unique context and in understanding the impacts that the transition would have on marginalized and disadvantaged communities. The United Nations should not duplicate the work of multilateral development banks or private finance. Integrated national financing frameworks and resident coordinators were therefore more essential than ever. Urgently needed solutions on the scale required could only be delivered with unprecedented cooperation, coordination and collaboration to bring together the strengths of each agency to support countries in addressing their most pressing development challenges.

96. The financing model for adaptation differed significantly from that of mitigation, and required additional public money, grants and concessionary financing to support investments. In that regard, the United Nations system could assist in sharing lessons learned and best practices from successful instruments and models in order to scale up adaptation financing to support vulnerable populations.

97. **Ms. Villar Forner** (United Nations Resident Coordinator in Colombia), speaking via video link, said that United Nations country teams and resident coordinators should participate in the forthcoming discussions on the international financing architecture, including by working with non-resident agencies to assist countries in engaging with the loss and damage fund whose establishment had been announced at the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. In addition, they should be involved in discussions on the governance of carbon markets, to ensure that communities were not negatively impacted by those arrangements. With regard to the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, humanitarian actors should be able to access climate financing in order to respond to the humanitarian implications of climate impacts.

The meeting rose at 6.20 p.m.