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Draft report

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Addendum

Programme questions: evaluation

(Item 3 (b))

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services entitled “Evaluation of the Development Coordination Office: contribution of the resident coordinator system to country-level programme coherence”

1. At its 9th meeting, on 3 June 2022, the Committee considered the report of OIOS entitled “Evaluation of the Development Coordination Office: contribution of the resident coordinator system to country-level programme coherence” ([E/AC.51/2022/2](#)).
2. The representative of OIOS introduced the report and, together with the representative of the Development Coordination Office, responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the report.

Discussion

3. Delegations welcomed and expressed thanks to OIOS for the report, which they termed interesting and of importance. They expressed appreciation for the fact that the Development Coordination Office was adopting the recommendations. A delegation voiced interest in the upcoming evaluation report on the support provided by the Office’s regional team to resident coordinators.
4. Further information was requested regarding the resident coordinator survey response rates, as reported in table 2, with a delegation terming them unsatisfactory. The delegation asked whether differences had been observed between peacekeeping and non-peacekeeping missions and whether resident coordinators encountered difficulties in terms of engaging with United Nations agencies owing to bureaucratic issues relating to hierarchy and authority. The delegation also asked how resident



coordinators were formally introduced to the national authorities. Another delegation, also referring to issues relating to hierarchy and authority, asked how country teams dealt with shared services, both within the country teams themselves and regionally among other country teams.

5. One delegation welcomed further information on the planned United Nations development system reform checklist and indicators.

6. A delegation commended the alignment of the OIOS assessment of the challenges of how the system functioned with the operational reality. The delegation asked whether the reform was working, noting challenges observed relating to coordination, including the limited financial resources available to the resident coordinator system to implement its mandate and the unmanageable resident coordinator workload.

7. A delegation emphasized the need for the resident coordinator system to maintain its focus on development, with the eradication of poverty as its overarching objective. Another delegation emphasized that all efforts to reform the system must be carried out in full adherence to its mandates, concepts and notions, saying that the reforms proposed by the Secretary-General should continue to be monitored through evaluation by the Committee.

8. With regard to the coordination of programmatic activities, a delegation noted the challenge of duplication and emphasized the need to improve coordination on the ground, as well as the key role of resident coordinators in that respect. The delegation called for resident coordinators to truly coordinate the programmatic activities of United Nations agencies in the same country team. Another delegation suggested that there was room for improvement in the coordinated delivery of operational activities, developing and providing more integrated policy advice. The delegation noted with concern the moderate progress made in the development and implementation of joint workplans.

9. The view was expressed that the resident coordinator system and the Development Coordination Office must strictly follow the advice and guidance of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs when dealing with sensitive political issues.

10. Several delegations commented on the importance of resident coordinator accountability to national Governments, inclusive of reporting obligations to the national authorities. A delegation said that the resident coordinator system, including the country team, should be fully accountable to national Governments for its functions and activities in host countries and should periodically report to host countries on its implementation of the relevant United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework. The delegation expressed concern regarding recommendation 3, saying that any related measures should not undermine report quality and the level of information provided to Member States. Another delegation stressed that proposals should not undermine national sovereignty over internal affairs and highlighted the need for the system to strengthen governance mechanisms relating to resident coordinators and country teams with national Governments.

11. A delegation expressed concern regarding recommendation 4, asking how cross-cutting issues to be mainstreamed were identified. The delegation noted that, in paragraph 44, the political sensitivity of Member States on certain issues had been highlighted. In that regard, a question was raised concerning how resident coordinators would balance recommendation 4 in diverse local and national contexts, with a comment made that the implementation of improper recommendations could be dangerous. With regard to paragraphs 49 (a) and (b), relating to the establishment

of roving advisers and the recruitment of dedicated advisers under recommendation 4, another delegation asked whether there would be budgetary implications.

12. A number of delegations said that the Committee's discussion should be focused on the evaluation of the Development Coordination Office.

Conclusions and recommendations

13. **The Committee noted the report of OIOS entitled "Evaluation of the Development Coordination Office: contribution of the resident coordinator system to country-level programme coherence", as well as the comments received from the Development Coordination Office in response to the report.**
