



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
6 June 2024

Original: English

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## 2024 session

27 July 2023–24 July 2024

Operational activities for development segment

### Summary record of the 17th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 15 May 2024, at 3 p.m.

*President:* Mr. Ladeb (Vice-President) . . . . . (Tunisia)

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*In the absence of Ms. Narváez Ojeda (Chile), Mr. Ladeb (Tunisia), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

*The meeting was called to order at 3.05 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/79/72-E/2024/12](#), [A/79/72/Add.1-E/2024/12/Add.1](#), [A/79/72/Add.2-E/2024/12/Add.2](#) and [E/2024/5](#))

*Interactive dialogue with host Governments, resident coordinators and United Nations country teams: “Tailoring support to each specific country”*

*Dialogue panel 1: Sudan*

1. **Mr. Hanif** (Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs), moderator, invited the panellists to share examples of how the United Nations had provided specific support, in particular how the policy advice and technical support functions of the United Nations development system had evolved with the repositioning of the resident coordinator system. He also asked them to identify any remaining gaps and challenges with a view to informing the discussions on the upcoming quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system.

2. **Mr. Mohamed** (Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations), panellist, said that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals remained an unfinished task in the Sudan. The country continued to face several challenges in such areas as nutrition and health, education, gender-based violence and the economic and political inclusion of women, deforestation and the environment, and disparities between regions.

3. The availability of data was a constraint for monitoring progress towards the Goals. In that regard, support was needed for implementation of the national strategy for promoting statistics, through which the Government sought to improve the availability and quality of administrative data in select sectors in line with Goal indicators. Support was also needed in the form of capacity-building, technology transfer and the enhancement of digital infrastructure.

4. There was an urgent need for a reform of the global financial architecture, with a view to facilitating equitable, swift, comprehensive and substantial debt relief, including debt standstills during negotiations and

outright debt cancellations for countries in high debt distress. Owing to the fragmented sources of financing for the Goals and the severe impacts of the war in the Sudan, his Government might not be able to achieve the Goals by 2030 without significant financial assistance.

5. **Ms. Nkweta-Salami** (United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for the Sudan), panellist, said that the United Nations development system had remained in the Sudan amid the conflict, supporting the Sudanese people and shoring up service delivery systems to prevent further institutional collapse. The war in the Sudan had created the world’s largest displacement crisis, which was exacerbating a development crisis of considerable proportions. Decades of hard-won development outcomes had been reversed. The development system had been able to adapt quickly, renewing its focus on mitigating development reversals even while shifting into crisis response mode.

6. The reinvigorated resident coordinator system was making a difference. The United Nations country team was on the ground as much as feasible and had the capacity to expand its community-based development support. It was boosting local social protection systems, delivering lifesaving aid and preventing further reversals in progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. Once its ability to move throughout the country was restored, the team would endeavour to address some of the disparities between regions and focus its attention on addressing the Government’s concerns about data.

7. The political mission had been closed in the Sudan and the country team had been called upon to ensure continued support. The multi-partner trust fund would be critical to ensuring that an enabling environment was in place to allow the United Nations to carry out its work.

8. **Mr. Rowe** (Country Director for the World Food Programme in the Sudan), panellist, speaking via video link, said that the World Food Programme, as part of the country team, had benefited from the impact of the reform of the United Nations development system and was receiving substantive support from the Resident Coordinator Office in the Sudan, a country where close to 5 million people were on the brink of starvation. Food insecurity and malnutrition were on the rise, particularly in areas hit by the conflict and areas where access had been limited.

9. The country team could stop the famine if given resources and unfettered access. Despite the worsening operational environment, the country team had quickly developed and implemented a famine prevention plan. A “development in emergencies” approach and peace-positive investments should complement the humanitarian

response and help to prevent a reversal of the development and peacebuilding gains achieved. The dual role of the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator was fundamental to ensuring strong coordination among United Nations entities, international partners and national actors.

10. **Mr. De Rezende Pinto** (Brazil) said that effective coordination between entities of the United Nations development system and host Governments required constant communication to ensure that United Nations support met the real needs of host countries. International development financing needed to be aligned with the objectives of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, in order to ensure that development efforts would be cohesive and focused on the Sustainable Development Goals prioritized by each country.

11. **Mr. van der Straaten** (Observer for the Kingdom of the Netherlands) said that despite the successful transition towards more tailored policy advice and technical support, additional efforts were needed, not only by the United Nations development system but also by Member States. In that context, the funding compact was a key component in ensuring that the development system could meet the needs of programme countries. He asked the panellists to identify issues that should be addressed by Member States in the quadrennial comprehensive policy review to ensure that United Nations entities could deliver support more effectively.

12. **Ms. Nkweta-Salami** (United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for the Sudan), addressing the issue of how United Nations support was aligned with country priorities, said that the Organization's work must always be aligned with the needs of populations and the visions of Governments. The priorities were clear in the Sudan, but encouraging partners and donors to support United Nations efforts amid the complex situation in the country was a challenge. Efforts in support of the Government of the Sudan were guided by a common approach because there was no Cooperation Framework in place for the country. The United Nations development system was focusing its efforts on community-based support, which would serve as a bridge until full development support could be delivered. She hoped that peace would come to the Sudan so that the primary focus could return to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

13. Responding to the question raised by the representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, she said that Member States should provide not only engagement and dialogue, but also funding, resources and knowledge capacity.

14. Lastly, addressing the topic of the humanitarian to development transition, she said that, as Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, she sought to ensure that humanitarian support was provided in a way that also invested in systems and institutions, so that the benefits of that support would produce benefits in the future.

15. **Mr. Mohamed** (Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations) said that the existing food gap in the Sudan had been caused by the war. The Rapid Support Forces had sought to turn that gap into a full-scale famine by obstructing access to specific areas and looting the harvest. The Government of the Sudan had been engaging positively with the United Nations and was providing access so that aid could be delivered, but the response had been weak because donors were not honouring their pledges. Mobilization of resources, resumption of education and health services, capacity-building and technology transfer were required so that the Sudan could recover.

*Dialogue panel 2: Chile*

16. **Ms. Narváez Ojeda** (Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations and President of the Economic and Social Council), panellist, said that the innovations to the resident coordinator system had enabled accelerated progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The leadership role of the resident coordinator had been strengthened, enabling more effective collective action, as the comparative advantages of United Nations system entities were being tapped, thereby reducing redundancies and generating synergies. For the first time, a forum for dialogue with civil society representatives had been established in Chile on matters that could affect the implementation and monitoring of the Cooperation Framework.

17. However, certain pending issues could adversely affect the progress made, including the chronic funding shortfall of the resident coordinator system. Sustainable and predictable funding would be necessary to ensure a coherent response to the challenges encountered in efforts to achieve the Goals.

18. **Ms. Torres Macho** (United Nations Resident Coordinator in Chile), panellist, speaking via video link, said that the work of the country team in Chile was closely aligned with that of the Government and its priorities. The country team had been targeting those Sustainable Development Goals with medium to low progress and addressing challenges through integrated policy advice, systematic support to ensure continuity after political transitions and swift crisis response. In addition, the country team was engaging different

stakeholders in dialogue, using technical support and regulatory approaches on challenging issues such as immigration, decent jobs and combating informality.

19. Mobilizing resources for a high-income country was no easy task, but the country team was pursuing a multisector, multiagency approach, under which it was tapping the Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund and its specialized window for digital transformation to unlock \$5 million in private sector investments for large developing areas in Chile. The United Nations could also be a partner in efforts to meaningfully engage with the private sector, which was key in certain areas such as green growth.

20. **Mr. Bertranou** (Director of the International Labour Organization Country Office for the Southern Cone of Latin America), panellist, speaking via video link, said that there were significant opportunities for the United Nations to work to address the inequalities that persisted in Chile and prevent their exacerbation. For instance, efforts were needed in such areas as the integration of women, young people and migrants into the labour force; the establishment of a comprehensive care system and the creation of jobs with social and labour protections in emerging industries and sectors undergoing transitions. Such issues were being addressed by closing regulatory gaps, strengthening institutional capacities and adopting a whole-of-society approach through pilot projects that could subsequently be scaled up and replicated nationally.

21. He asked Member States to reflect upon four major issues: how could coordination efforts be enhanced through a focus on national plans to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals; how could complementarity in financing for the Goals be fostered, especially in areas where collaboration with international financial institutions and donors was critical; how could strategic engagement with donors be achieved with a view to shifting funding away from fragmented project-based approaches and towards more comprehensive initiatives; and how could the private sector and civil society be leveraged in efforts to accelerate the achievement of the Goals.

22. **Mr. Vongnorkeo** (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that support measures must be put into place for countries that were graduating from the category of least developed countries. The United Nations development system should focus on providing tailored technical support for the implementation of smooth graduation strategies and on increasing awareness of the socioeconomic implications of graduation, particularly so that the private sector would be ready to cope with its potential impacts.

23. **Mr. Mwasota** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that the new configuration of the United Nations resident coordinator system had brought about crucial improvements in terms of leadership, coordination and convening capabilities, with the resident coordinator serving as a vital coordinator for all activities undertaken by the United Nations development system.

24. Despite Member States' commitment to United Nations reform, funding remained an issue. The development system's unique value proposition for advancing development progress at scale could not be realized without predictable and sustainable funding. His country therefore supported the proposal by the Secretary-General to provide resources from the regular budget to fund the resident coordinator system.

25. **Ms. Goodman** (United Kingdom), noting the upcoming quadrennial comprehensive policy review, asked the panellists to discuss what was and what was not working at the country level, how best practices from Chile could be replicated elsewhere, whether the right tools and resources were in place to drive collaboration with international financial institutions and what Member States could do to support such collaboration.

26. **Ms. Narváez Ojeda** (Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations and President of the Economic and Social Council) said that certain national initiatives, such as the lithium strategy, required high-level technical support from the United Nations system. Chile was fortunate that the country team was well positioned and prepared to support its specific needs in such areas.

27. Responding to the question raised by the United Kingdom about best practices in Chile, she said that her country had sound macroeconomic policies and thus had a collaborative relationship with international and regional financial institutions.

28. **Ms. Torres Macho** (United Nations Resident Coordinator in Chile), speaking via video link, said that one challenge for the country team in Chile was harnessing high-level technical support needed for emerging issues in the Sustainable Development Goals agenda. The team was requesting assistance from agencies with expertise in such areas as critical minerals.

29. The most interesting challenge for the country team in Chile was how to materialize the cooperation with communities, the private sector, civil society and local authorities. Given that it was not easy to mobilize resources for Chile, greater alignment with donors was needed. In the quadrennial comprehensive policy review,

the focus should be placed on how to bring real action to local areas and provide continuity to that action.

30. **Mr. Bertranou** (Director of the International Labour Organization Country Office for the Southern Cone of Latin America), speaking via video link in response to the question raised by the United Kingdom on collaboration with international financial institutions, said that, previously, there had been competition between the United Nations and international financial institutions. In recent years, however, the United Nations development agenda had served as a framework to enable greater cooperation between the United Nations and international financial institutions on not only financial or economic issues, but also on political or social issues, such as migration.

31. While Chile was leading the region in many labour indicators and had a relatively low informality rate, the country continued to face challenges relating to the informal sector and to the very fast demographic transition that it was undergoing. Under the Cooperation Framework of Chile, the United Nations was working with the Government on different aspects of the care system, including financing, the labour force and integration with the existing social security system.

32. **Ms. Narváez Ojeda** (Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations and President of the Economic and Social Council) said that the middle-income trap was a real concern. Upper-middle-income countries like Chile still required support from international financial institutions in addition to technical support in critical sectors, such as the energy sector and critical minerals.

33. Member States and the United Nations could work together to produce not only positive social impacts, but positive economic impacts as well. For example, the United Nations had worked effectively with Latin American countries, including Chile, to design a good strategy for shaping care economies.

*Interactive discussion: “United Nations development system efforts in implementing system-wide policies”*

34. **Ms. Mehrotra** (Director of the United Nations System Coordination Division, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)), moderator, said that women, young people and persons with disabilities represented the future; if their perspectives were not taken into account, it would be to the detriment of all.

35. **Ms. Russell** (Executive Director of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)), panellist, said that

although the Convention on the Rights of the Child was the most ratified international human rights treaty in history and had delivered transformative change for children worldwide, the rights of children remained at risk. Children were affected by intractable crises including armed conflicts, climate change, poverty and the ongoing socioeconomic consequences of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Moreover, the very legitimacy of children’s rights was increasingly being called into question in various parts of the world, and some Governments were rolling back laws and policies that protected children and women from domestic and gender-based violence or that supported children’s civil and political rights. That was unacceptable. Children, defined in law as those under 18 years of age, constituted a distinct group of rights holders under international law.

36. Children’s rights must be at the centre of development efforts. Investing in children and the systems they relied on not only was the right thing to do, but also yielded economic and societal dividends for all. The July 2023 guidance note of the Secretary-General on child rights mainstreaming presented a system-wide strategy for making such rights an integral part of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes within the United Nations system. All children must be reached, including the poorest and most marginalized, girls, children with disabilities, children living in humanitarian crises and children affected by climate change and environmental degradation.

37. UNICEF continued to invest significantly in system-wide plans to address gender equality, with a specific focus on adolescent girls. It was also prioritizing the inclusion of children with disabilities as part of the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy and the UNICEF Disability Inclusion Policy and Strategy 2022–2030.

38. National budgets and public finance systems must guarantee that investments in children were prioritized and protected. Additional work was needed to ensure adequate and efficient financing, particularly for social sectors, which required a paradigm shift towards investing in children and supporting them, with a specific focus on their early years. As part of the country teams, UNICEF was supporting Ministries of Finance in more than 80 countries to develop integrated financial systems and strategies for sustainable development. It was also helping Governments to engage with international financial institutions so that they could access development financing to support vulnerable children.

39. **Mr. Ryder** (Under-Secretary-General for Policy, Executive Office of the Secretary-General), panellist, said that significant progress had been made over the past year in the implementation of the system-wide policies under discussion, thanks to strong leadership from resident coordinators and country teams. The results were measured by impact on the ground.

40. Efforts by the United Nations to ensure gender equality and women's empowerment involved internal transformations related to power dynamics, leadership approaches, priorities and accountability. In that context, the United Nations system was strongly committed to implementing the new United Nations System-wide Gender Equality Acceleration Plan, and a system-wide steering group on gender, led by the Secretary-General, had been convened for the first time on 8 May 2024. In addition, the Secretary-General was requiring all entities to uphold a zero-tolerance approach to sexual harassment and to create a safe, inclusive work environment at the United Nations.

41. Persons with disabilities accounted for 16 per cent of the global population and the vast majority of them lived in developing countries. The central promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to leave no one behind could be realized only through the full inclusion of persons with disabilities in processes related to the Sustainable Development Goals. The United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy was the highest-level commitment to institutional change in that regard. It required consultation with persons with disabilities, the consideration of disability issues in strategic planning, the collection of data disaggregated by disability and the meeting of physical and digital accessibility requirements.

42. The Secretary-General was committed to involving young people in genuine political decision-making. A United Nations Youth Office had been established to advance youth issues and encourage greater collaboration, coordination and accountability on youth-related matters. Young people would have a strong role to play at the Summit of the Future, including through a youth-led action day held prior to the Summit whose purpose was to ensure that their voices would be heard.

43. It was important to avoid a siloed approach in the implementation of those strategies. Aligning the strategies on gender, youth and disability would ensure a holistic approach to inclusion that would not only strengthen the impact of each strategy individually, but also enhance the collective impact of the work of the United Nations. Member States were partners on that

journey and should continue their engagement, guidance, support and leadership.

44. **Mr. Paullier** (Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs, United Nations Youth Office), panellist, said that the United Nations Youth Strategy had continued to gain momentum since its launch in 2018. Currently, 55 United Nations entities and all 132 country teams were participating in its implementation. During the first five years, solid foundations had been established for the implementation of the strategy through global governance and system-wide coordination structures, accountability systems and mechanisms for tracking progress.

45. The strategy had had a strong impact on Governments' efforts by making available data on youth issues, providing technical assistance for the development of youth policies and through capacity-building for government institutions and the implementation of joint projects. In addition, the strategy enabled youth engagement in policymaking and in voluntary national reviews.

46. The United Nations had played a crucial role in empowering youth-led organizations at the country level. Through capacity-building programmes, it had fostered a vibrant ecosystem of young leaders dedicated to social change. Furthermore, youth engagement in the Cooperation Frameworks had increased tenfold since 2020. The parallel roll-out of the youth strategy and the repositioning of the United Nations development system had had a positive impact on coherence, collaboration and advocacy on youth issues.

47. In the first interim review of the Youth Strategy, several enablers had been identified, including leadership by the resident coordinators, alignment with national priorities and the availability of guidance and capacity development opportunities. The Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund, when available, had also been an excellent enabler. Additional financial and human resources were needed, however, to advance the youth agenda.

48. **Mr. Barreto** (Resident Coordinator for Guatemala), panellist, speaking via video link, said that progress on gender, youth and disability issues was essential for advancing the Sustainable Development Goals and poverty eradication strategies. The Resident Coordinator Office in Guatemala was leveraging the reform of the United Nations development system to accelerate the achievement of the Goals using the system-wide approach.

49. The Resident Coordinator Office employed annual scorecards that measured how well women, youth and

persons with disabilities were included in activities related to the Cooperation Framework. The Office had also established a cross-linked map of scorecard indicators as a policy guide. By highlighting the clear linkages across the scorecards, the map allowed the Office to identify common areas of focus and to ascertain progress made across operations and programmes for the development of joint programmes. The map would also inform the development of the Cooperation Framework that would be initiated by the end of 2024.

50. The country team in Guatemala had analysed its joint work plan on inclusion and its joint programmes related to gender, youth, disability and Indigenous Peoples. The resultant map had allowed the country team to identify where United Nations funds, programmes and activities were focusing their activities. Efforts related to gender and youth actions converged most in the Dry Corridor area of Guatemala, one of the least developed areas of the country. The map indicated areas where the United Nations should focus its future efforts. In conjunction with the Government of Guatemala, the Resident Coordinator Office was using that information to engage persons with disabilities as partners in United Nations programming.

51. Modest seed funding from the Resident Coordinator Office had been used to accelerate joint action in the areas of gender, youth and disability. For example, the Office was using an interactive inter-agency tool to raise the visibility of the work of the country team members, and the first field-based training on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse was currently under way for representatives of the United Nations and non-governmental organizations.

52. **Ms. Emsch** (Observer for Switzerland) said that, while the resident coordinator system had demonstrated its added value in supporting the system-wide policies, there was room for improvement. She asked whether the new United Nations System-wide Gender Equality Acceleration Plan would replace the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and, if not, how the two policies would interact.

53. Her delegation had read that the gender equality marker had been adopted as a new financial data standard for system-wide reporting of financial data and wished to know what improvements that would bring and what additional measures were needed for further progress, especially at the country level. It was imperative to learn from the successes and failures of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women to facilitate

the implementation of the action plans on youth and disability. She asked whether there were plans to do so. Her delegation also wished to know whether the modest seed funding mentioned by the Resident Coordinator for Guatemala had been taken from the United Nations Country Coordination Fund or whether the Resident Coordinator Office had needed to raise the funds.

54. **Ms. Lassen** (Denmark) said that the reporting on the resident coordinator results framework revealed that indicators related to gender had decreased in 2023. In particular, consultations with women and girls in the preparation of Cooperation Frameworks stood at 44 per cent, which was a marked decrease from 2022. In that regard, Denmark asked the panellists to share their diagnoses regarding the lower-than-expected level of progress on joint programmes addressing gender equality and on involving women and girls in the Cooperation Framework process. Furthermore, when did they expect ambitions to be realized regarding the Cooperation Frameworks themselves and Cooperation Framework practices at the country level, and what support could Member States offer in that regard?

55. **Ms. Paereli** (Germany) said that her delegation was interested in hearing about how the data from the various system-wide policies under discussion were being triangulated to ensure a coordinated and coherent approach, and how the United Nations System-wide Gender Equality Acceleration Plan would intersect with those policies. Germany also wished to know what efforts were being made to ensure coherence and cooperation among cross-cutting issues that were not covered by a system-wide policy, such as social protection. Lastly, she asked whether other system-wide policies were being planned.

56. **Ms. Lelek** (United States of America) said that her delegation, on reviewing 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/79/72-E/2024/12](#)), saw room for improvement. In particular, mechanisms should be put in place to empower, encourage and protect United Nations staff seeking to report sexual abuse. The United States was interested in hearing what the United Nations System-wide Gender Equality Acceleration Plan would mean for the system and for other, already existing, gender action plans, and how Member States could be useful in implementing the Plan.

57. Furthermore, the report of the Secretary-General noted that only 31 per cent of United Nations entities were meeting the expectation of consultation with

persons with disabilities and that recruitment of persons with disabilities and accessibility had fallen short of expectations. Given the number of areas in need of improvement, her delegation wished to know whether the United Nations would seek to address specific issues in the coming year.

58. **Mr. van der Straaten** (Observer for the Kingdom of the Netherlands) said that his delegation was interested in hearing about challenges that remained when it came to the implementation of the system-wide policies and the development of new policies that Member States could address during the upcoming quadrennial comprehensive policy review and through the governing boards of the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes. Commending the work that had been undertaken by United Nations entities to increase the capacity to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse, he asked the panellists to elaborate on United Nations internal best practices regarding the recently developed uniform template for reporting on protection from sexual abuse and harassment. His delegation also wished to know how the outcome of the recent Economic and Social Council youth forum could be leveraged for the Summit of the Future and the daily work of the agencies, funds and programmes.

59. **Mr. Ryder** (Under-Secretary-General for Policy, Executive Office of the Secretary-General) said that the United Nations System-wide Gender Equality Acceleration Plan would build upon the sector-wide approaches. The Plan's distinctive feature, however, was that it was truly transformative: it been had consciously been formulated to address structural barriers. While it was currently difficult to say when the efforts related to the Plan would bear the fruits desired by Member States in terms of improved metrics on gender equality, the Secretary-General's ambition was to accelerate and improve on past performance by drawing lessons from previous evaluation processes.

60. The system-wide strategies on gender, youth and disability were being pursued in an intersectional manner and not in isolation. While he could not provide detailed information on how data would be triangulated between those strategies and any others that may be formulated, he had noted the need for data comparisons given that metrics should be a key driver of the overall process.

61. Member States could contribute to the implementation of the strategies on gender, youth and disability by ensuring accountability within United Nations agencies and across the entire United Nations system. In doing so, they would encounter a genuine

willingness and enthusiasm to meet the expectations contained in those strategies.

62. **Ms. Russell** (Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)) said that the United Nations system, when providing support for countries in the integration of gender, youth and disability perspectives into their national policies, faced many challenges, including armed conflicts, climate change, discrimination and the socioeconomic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, it was deeply concerning that the legitimacy of children's rights was being questioned in many places around the world, a development that should be countered by pointing to the fact that the Convention on the Rights of the Child was the most robustly endorsed instrument in United Nations history.

63. Progress had nevertheless been made. The system-wide plans were important to the work of United Nations entities because they provided a basis for joint work. A particularly important area of focus for UNICEF was the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. The Fund needed to enjoy a high level of trust because it worked with children. UNICEF therefore supported aggressive efforts to tackle sexual abuse and domestic violence, including through a useful and important United Nations e-learning training course on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. The guidance note of the Secretary-General on child rights mainstreaming provided a strong example of how cross-cutting policies, through the commitment of every agency, could have a widespread and profound impact.

64. **Mr. Barreto** (Resident Coordinator for Guatemala) said that sector-wide approaches allowed country teams to evaluate their efforts to support Governments in the implementation of national policies.

65. In response to the question from the delegation of Switzerland, he said that the modest seed funding had come from the United Nations Country Coordination Fund as resident coordinators were not allowed to engage in fundraising that would compete with that of the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes.

66. The United Nations was actively putting inclusive policies into practice in Guatemala. Women, persons with disabilities and Indigenous Persons were all represented among staff, and the Resident Coordinator Office was encouraging other agencies to follow suit in that regard. At each meeting, gender was tallied in order to ensure women's participation. Moreover, the previous day, at a meeting between the United Nations system and representatives of the European Union in Guatemala, it had been shown that European investment was helping programmes to reach beneficiaries, the majority of



whom were women. A funding compact was needed in order to transform Guatemala one policy at a time.

67. **Mr. Paullier** (Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs, United Nations Youth Office) said that, with six years remaining for implementation of the United Nations Youth Strategy, it was critical to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and operationalize Our Common Agenda. Integrated policy support was important for engaging youth in the process of shaping and implementing the key Goal transitions. Several country teams were focusing on jobs and social protection as key transition areas, and young people should be included in those discussions. Other actions that should be considered included strategic joint initiatives linked to acceleration of the Goals; leveraging the Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund and other financing mechanisms to develop market-ready youth-related projects; and engaging youth in the operationalization of specific Our Common Agenda recommendations and policy briefs. Governments could be encouraged to engage youth in policymaking and decision-making processes and efforts should be made to seek the input of young people at the Summit of the Future.

*The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.*