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27 July 2023–24 July 2024

Operational activities for development segment

### Summary record of the 14th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 14 May 2024, at 10.30 a.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 10.35 a.m.*

### Opening of the segment

1. **The President**, opening the operational activities for development segment, said that the overarching theme of the current year's segment was improving the United Nations development system's delivery in support of programme countries and their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals.

### Agenda item 7: Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation

#### (a) Follow-up to policy recommendations of the General Assembly and the Council ([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](#))

2. **The President** said that humanity faced complex challenges. Deepening poverty, rising inequalities, a pervasive climate crisis and multiple conflicts were causing unbearable suffering, and a surge in humanitarian needs had challenged the ability to respond. While the 2030 Agenda thankfully presented viable solutions, only six years remained until the 2030 deadline. A mere 15 percent of the Goal targets were on track, a trend which must be reversed to fulfil the vision and ambition of the 2030 Agenda. It was therefore time for action.

3. The good news was that the Sustainable Development Goals Summit held in September 2023 offered renewed hope. The Summit's robust political declaration had reaffirmed the universal nature of the 2030 Agenda and had emphasized the shared responsibility to implement it. The Summit had also made a clear request to the United Nations development system to support countries in accelerating the implementation of the Goals.

4. The primary objective of the present segment was to assess the progress made by the United Nations development system in the implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities of the United Nations system. The Council's deliberations must provide guidance to the United Nations development system in supporting countries' efforts to achieve the Goals.

5. Discussions would be informed by the evidence-based Secretary-General's report on implementation of

General Assembly [75/233](#) on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities of the United Nations system ([A/79/72-E/2024/12](#)) and the annual report of the Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group ([E/2024/5](#)). The Council would engage in meaningful dialogue with the Deputy Secretary-General on those reports.

6. Through a dialogue with executive heads of the United Nations development system entities, the Council would explore ways to enhance integrated policy support for the Goals, even by entities not physically present in countries. The focus would extend to how the United Nations development system was fulfilling the collective pledge to leave no one behind, with particular attention given to women, youth and persons with disabilities. The Council would seek input from Governments and United Nations representatives on tailoring policy advice and technical support for Goal acceleration, based on country-specific circumstances. It would also explore how digital cooperation, science, technology, innovation and capacity-building could support countries' efforts to advance the Goals.

7. In addition, during the segment, discussions would be held on how to strengthen the Council's capacity to fulfil its oversight and accountability role. The segment would provide an opportunity to learn about recent evaluations and assessments of the United Nations development system and progress towards a system-wide evaluation plan. The discussions held would help to identify critical financing priorities with the potential to drive system-wide financing for the Goals. Deliberations would also be held on the new funding compact and how everyone could contribute towards its successful implementation.

8. The segment would include the voices of a wide range of stakeholders, including host Governments, contributing Governments, resident coordinators, United Nations entities, United Nations country teams and civil society. It would be an opportunity to share experiences and good practices in the quest for sustainable development.

9. Through its reforms, the United Nations had obtained a more effective, cohesive, transparent and accountable development system that offered integrated, system-wide solutions to support the achievement of the Goals. The reforms undertaken had already yielded significant returns on investment, with \$553 million in efficiency gains in 2023. The re-energized funding compact should also help to strengthen the partnership between Member States and the United Nations development system in order to foster an even more efficient, effective and collaborative system.

10. The segment would pave the way for the adoption of a new quadrennial comprehensive policy review that would guide the United Nations development system from 2025 to 2028, just before the deadline for the 2030 Agenda. Furthermore, in September 2024, the international community would gather in New York for the Summit of the Future, which would provide an opportunity to lay the foundations for more effective global cooperation to address contemporary multidimensional challenges.

11. Lastly, he was confident that the current discussions would yield a meaningful outcome, including by informing a possible Council resolution later that year and highlighting key priorities for the 2024 quadrennial comprehensive policy review.

12. **Mr. Francis** (Observer for Trinidad and Tobago), President of the General Assembly, said that the political declaration of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit, adopted in September 2023, was a clarion call and a strategic plan of action to address the lagging progress on the Goals. Only 15 percent of Goal targets were currently on track, prompting Member States to reaffirm their support for the reinvigorated United Nations development system, including enhancing the resident coordinator system and the Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund.

13. The urgency of galvanizing efforts towards achieving the Goals had recently motivated him to convene the General Assembly's first ever sustainability week, focusing on the critical sectors of debt, tourism, transport, infrastructure and energy. Those sectors had the potential to drive economic growth and therefore showed good prospects for leveraging development. It was important to build on that momentum in preparation for the forthcoming Summit of the Future, which offered an opportunity to meaningfully scale up commitments towards achieving the 2030 Agenda.

14. While acknowledging the setbacks and urgent need to accelerate efforts, it was important to highlight that tangible progress was being made: the new resident coordinator system had proven to be a powerful catalyst for accelerated action on the Goals and had received broad support from both host and development partners for enhancing coherence and reducing duplication; the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks were more closely aligned with national priorities and 94 percent of Governments considered them well-suited to their needs and effective in addressing national priorities and delivery of the Goals; reports on the Cooperation Framework indicated enhanced coherence and complementarity among humanitarian, development and peacebuilding

activities; and 98 percent of host country Governments agreed that United Nations country teams had effectively strengthened their capacities to help build resilience to crises, disasters and extreme climate events. As part of tailored support for each country context, the United Nations development system continued to provide evidence-based and integrated policy advice to help countries implement the 2030 Agenda. A remarkable 78 percent of Governments had identified the United Nations as the partner that best supported alignment with national priorities.

15. The Secretary-General's report ([A/79/72-E/2024/12](#)) provided useful analysis and underscored the progress achieved, including in addressing previous oversight gaps in the development system. For example, the United Nations Development Group System-wide Evaluation Office had now become operational and was undertaking independent evaluations to inform activities related to gender-based violence and development system reform. However, going forward, improving the means of implementation must remain the paramount focus for accelerating the achievement of the Goals.

16. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review, the Summit of the Future and the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development would provide opportunities to make the additional efforts required to secure the long-term, sustainable and efficient funding that would be critical to achieve the Goals and targets on time.

17. The operational activities for development segment provided the ideal platform for Member States to ensure accountability, especially at the country level, with a view to delivering a more sustainable, equitable and prosperous world for all.

18. **Mr. Li Junhua** (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) said that the United Nations development system had maintained a decades-long commitment to support the needs of Member States from the ground up. That support had constantly been adjusted over time until the creation of the Sustainable Development Goals, which marked a pivotal moment in Member States' approach to sustainable development. With the 17 Goals as a clear and unifying framework for action, Member States had charted a reform pathway that the United Nations system had successfully embraced.

19. Through better informed policies and strategies, and greater collaboration and cooperation, the United Nations development system continued to help countries improve lives and livelihoods and secure the future needed for people and the planet. However, with just six years left to deliver on the Goals, the world was facing

huge challenges and the need for agile, responsive and demand-driven support was greater than ever before. The operational activities for development segment provided an opportunity for Member States to assess if the United Nations development system had met their expectations and to provide guidance on how support could be strengthened.

20. The meetings to be held during the segment would provide an opportunity to engage with the Deputy Secretary-General on the analysis, recommendations and insights from the Secretary-General's report on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review (A/79/72-E/2024/12). The Deputy Secretary-General would also provide updates, in her capacity as Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group, on the work of the Development Coordination Office and the resident coordinator system. There would also be an opportunity for discussions on delivery mechanisms, policies and system-wide evaluations with the executive heads of United Nations development system entities. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs was pleased to have provided the technical, substantive and organizational support for such discussions, in close collaboration with United Nations system partners.

21. The perspectives and recommendations to be put forward during the current segment should lay the groundwork for an ambitious quadrennial comprehensive policy review in October 2024. He looked forward to the discussions and outcomes in the days ahead.

*Interactive discussion: "High-level dialogue on the Secretary-General's 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"*

22. A video from the Development Coordination Office was screened on the urgent need to scale up efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

23. **The Secretary-General**, in a pre-recorded video statement, said that the current annual discussion was more important than ever. The world stood at a pivotal moment in the journey towards the 2030 deadline for the Sustainable Development Goals and the United Nations development system, led by resident coordinators, was critical to get there.

24. The Sustainable Development Goals Summit in September 2023 had called for a rescue plan and the United Nations was shifting gears to accelerate action. The Organization was ensuring support across the six targeted areas where urgent transitions were most needed and it was supporting the capacity development

of countries, including efforts to strengthen policy and regulatory environments. The development system was increasingly the last bastion of United Nations support when missions closed or drew down, such as those in Mali, the Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The United Nations continued to stay and deliver.

25. Resident coordinators were building new partnerships and tapping into innovative financing mixes to achieve results. The latest report on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review (A/79/72-E/2024/12) clearly showed that United Nations work across the system and with Governments was becoming more joined-up and coordinated every year: 96 per cent of Governments agreed that country teams were aligned with their national priorities and responding to their Goal-delivery needs through the Cooperation Frameworks; 90 per cent had affirmed that the United Nations development system provided adequate support in securing Goal financing; and 94 per cent had indicated that the United Nations provided adequate evidence-based policy support. Notably, resident coordinators were more diverse than ever: 50 per cent were women and 54 per cent were from host countries. The report also showed a remarkable return on investment with \$553 million in efficiency gains in 2023 alone, an increase of 37 per cent over the previous year.

26. The Organization was also enhancing its focus on results through the System-wide Evaluation Office, which was up and running. But improvements must and would continue to be sought, and he would welcome Member States' guidance on the resolution arising from the segment and in October 2024. At the same time, he was deeply concerned about the system's funding, especially as the pace and scale of the Organization's work was increased to reach the Goals. Core funding for development entities had plunged to 16.5 per cent of total funding, with some agencies declining to 12 per cent. Voluntary contributions for the resident coordinator system had also fallen short in 2023, which jeopardized the ability to deliver at a critical moment.

27. He had therefore submitted a proposal to the General Assembly to provide funding from the regular budget for the resident coordinator system as the only logical and principled solution. Securing sustainable and predictable funding was his main priority for the system in 2024. He counted on Member States to consider his proposal and provide the system with the vital resources needed. Above all, solidarity was needed by those countries more able to provide support helping those less able to do so. The re-energized funding compact he had presented provided an important new push for Member States to raise and align their funding ambitions to meet countries' needs. It also raised the bar

for United Nations entities to report on greater impact and results, such as the ones currently under discussion. In embarking on the next cycle of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, it was the time for ambition. In the new era of Goal acceleration, efforts should be redoubled for all people and the world they shared.

28. **Mr. Kwoba** (Observer for Uganda), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that with only 15 per cent of the Sustainable Development Goal targets on track, it was evident that many developing countries were being left behind by the 2030 Agenda. The low level of progress in developing countries was due to the failure by the international community to provide the required means of implementation to developing countries to support their national efforts to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Urgent actions must be taken at all levels to realize the 2030 Agenda and the international community, particularly developed countries, must urgently fulfil the commitments made to provide the means of implementation in that regard.

29. The United Nations development system remained a key player in supporting States to implement the 2030 Agenda, particularly in developing countries. The system should focus on development, with eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, as its overarching goal. In that context, the Group appreciated the information contained in the report of the Secretary-General ([A/79/72-E/2024/12](#)) on the activities that the system had provided to support countries in their national efforts to accelerate actions to implement the 2030 Agenda and achieve the 17 Goals.

30. The Group remained concerned over the low level of funding to development related activities by the United Nations development system at a time when developing countries were already facing enormous financing challenges that undermined their efforts to fully implement the 2030 Agenda. It therefore called on donors to increase funding for those activities to ensure that the system was more strategic and responsive to the needs and priorities of developing countries.

31. Recognizing the role played by the resident coordinator system as a catalyst for sustainable development in programme countries, the Group reiterated the importance of providing adequate tools to the United Nations development system and its resident coordinator system, in particular the necessary funding to deliver better in supporting the needs and priorities of programme countries.

32. Developed countries had an obligation to assist developing countries in meeting their development objectives and should fully honour the commitments

that they had made in the funding compact. However, as joint planning and programming continued to be constrained by compartmentalization, joint activity budgeting and programme delivery was needed in accordance with the Cooperation Frameworks, which were the most important instruments for planning and implementing United Nations development activities at the country level in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

33. Lastly, the Group remained committed to engaging actively and constructively in the quadrennial comprehensive policy review process to ensure that the United Nations development system had the policy guidance needed to strengthen the system in support of accelerated actions to achieve the Goals in the remaining six years.

34. **Mr. Maniratanga** (Observer for Burundi), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that the Group had always supported the United Nations development system reforms. As the largest beneficiary of the resident coordinator system, Africa required tailored assistance to advance implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want.

35. The Group welcomed the Council's evidence-based reports, which provided specific data on the budget of the United Nations development system and reflected the comments provided by African countries in response to surveys. The Group also welcomed the progress made in the implementation of the reforms of the United Nations development system and the resident coordinator system, particularly the tangible results achieved in countries such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt and Kenya.

36. However, the Group remained deeply concerned by the financing shortfall of \$64 billion, which could compromise the effective implementation of programme activities. The deficit threatened to undermine the sustainability of the resident coordinator system in developing countries. All delegations should therefore commit constructively to resolve that issue within the Fifth Committee. At the same time, the new funding compact was a crucial tool for providing high-quality, predictable financing that could help the United Nations development system to reposition itself and better meet the needs of Member States.

37. **Mr. Thapa** (Nepal), speaking on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries, said that the Group was facing immense challenges owing to multiple ongoing cascading crises. Development gains were at great risk of reversal and there should have been greater support from the United Nations development



system to help countries in special situations advance their implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

38. The Group welcomed the repositioning of the United Nations development system, which was enhancing countries' efforts to accelerate the achievement of the Goals. It also appreciated the fact that United Nations country teams were working in alignment with the national needs and priorities of host countries. Reforms of the United Nations development system, including of the resident coordinator system, were crucial both for consolidating the path towards the Goals and for ensuring the smooth and irreversible graduation of the least developed countries from that status.

39. The Group commended efforts to analyse the situation of countries facing special challenges, including the least developed countries, and stressed that reporting the outcomes of such efforts in countries should be strengthened. Similarly, more should be done to strengthen the reporting of system-wide results on the ground.

40. Unfortunately, a large part of the expenditure on United Nations operational activities in the least developed countries had been diverted from development activities to humanitarian crises and emergency assistance. It was vital to ensure that funding for core development was not reduced when constant multiple crises were threatening sustainable development.

41. The Group was highly concerned by the persistent imbalance between core and non-core resources. Stable funding through regular resources was critical for the effective functioning of the United Nations development system and the achievement of the Goals. It therefore welcomed the Secretary-General's call for increased contributions to core funding in order to enhance the predictability and sustainability of the system. However, the least developed countries should themselves be exempt from the additional burden of increased assessed contributions to the resident coordinator system.

42. **Mr. Luteru** (Observer for Samoa), speaking on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), said that while the report of the Secretary-General ([A/79/72-E/2024/12](#)) conveyed very detailed coverage of the work of the United Nations development system, including its funding aspects, it could have been enhanced by including more information on the gaps and challenges, as well as more recommendations. Those aspects would afford Member States better insights on how to guide the system more appropriately.

43. AOSIS welcomed the fact that the United Nations development system was now fully repositioned and able to support the accelerated achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States would shortly be held in Antigua and Barbuda, where a sustainable development blueprint for the next 10 years would be adopted. It was therefore critically important for small island developing States to know that the United Nations development system, as a major development partner, was fit-for purpose and fully equipped to assist with their implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the new programme of action.

44. Small island developing States continued to face the devastating impacts of climate change. They were disheartened to note the recent troubling finding that the global temperature goal would exceed 2.5 degrees Celsius in the twenty-first century, which would exceed internationally agreed targets and cause catastrophic consequences for humanity and the planet. Small island developing States reiterated their call for urgent climate action to reverse that global trend, to which they themselves had not contributed and over which they had no control.

45. AOSIS was also saddened that each year few resources were being made available for development and that developing countries were being pushed to either fund their own development agendas or seek support from the private sector, resulting in many developing countries, especially small island developing States, becoming highly indebted.

46. Lastly, United Nations development system entities must work together to deliver services in a more efficient and effective manner. Working in silos was not the answer.

47. **Ms. Bryant** (Observer for Australia), speaking also on behalf of Canada and New Zealand, said that the scope of working being undertaken by the United Nations development system was absolutely astounding. The system was the single largest channel of multilateral aid and was of key importance to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

48. The resident coordinator system remained vital for effective United Nations leadership, coordination and policy advice on the ground. Resident coordinators and country teams played an important role in meeting the needs and ambitions set out by Member States. However, as persistent shortfalls in voluntary contributions to the resident coordinator system were a matter of concern, the use of assessed contributions from the regular budget was welcome as part of the funding formula. While the formulation of a new

funding compact was also welcome, a better understanding was needed of how the \$553 million in efficiency gains in 2023 was being redirected towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and its Goals.

49. The United Nations development system must be better customized to meet the needs of small island developing States, which were still reporting lower levels of satisfaction with the United Nations in certain areas. Frank analysis on what was behind those persistent views would be helpful. The uneven integration of United Nations mandates on gender equality, disability inclusion, youth and Indigenous issues remained another key concern.

50. **Mr. de la Maisonnette** (Representative of the European Union in its capacity as observer) said that the European Union and its member States welcomed the substantial results achieved since the previous report by the whole United Nations development system, which included a well-functioning resident coordinator system and impressive efficiency gains of over half a billion dollars in 2023.

51. Overall, the United Nations development system, and especially the country teams, had performed well in supporting partner Governments by leveraging the four “engine room” capacities mentioned in document [A/79/72-E/2024/12](#). The European Union supported the shift from isolated projects to integrated policy support, which was under way throughout the entire United Nations development system and was very much required in order to make the desired impact at scale. All United Nations entities must rally behind the objectives of the Cooperation Frameworks, which should systematically include ambitious goals such as implementing social protection schemes and tackling the food crisis while embracing cross-cutting normative issues that included gender equality, human rights and climate change.

52. A collective effort would be needed to mobilize resources and accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, which also implied more effective strategies for private sector engagement, domestic resource mobilization, cooperation with international financial institutions and innovative financing.

53. The European Union welcomed the new funding compact between Member States and the United Nations development system and would strive to adhere to its targets. In particular, the European Union recognized the need for more core funding and quality pool-funding. Adequate funding of the resident coordinator system remained a key concern and the European Union would be fully engaged in considering the Secretary-

General’s proposal for a new financing model in the context of the Fifth Committee negotiations.

54. **Ms. Hamdouni** (Observer for Morocco), speaking on behalf of the Like-Minded Group of Countries Supporters of Middle-Income Countries, said that the Group welcomed the deep transformation that the United Nations development system had undergone. It acknowledged that the system had effectively strengthened leadership for development and had better empowered country teams to transform global commitments into country-level action in accordance with the national plans and priorities of programme countries.

55. Recent external shocks had driven up living costs and food insecurity in many middle-income countries. They continued to face common challenges, such as high inequality, limited access to affordable financing, rising public debt and slow post-pandemic job recovery. Unfortunately, the middle-income category was a punishment rather than a blessing. In that context, the United Nations development system should continue to improve its tailored support to middle-income countries in response to their specific needs and challenges while taking into account their diverse development needs. In particular, a system-wide response plan should be drawn up to facilitate inclusive support to middle-income countries. That plan should build on the mapping exercise partially presented during the seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly.

56. Lastly, the Group remained concerned by the current shortfall in the funding of the resident coordinator system and joined other delegations in calling for sustainable, predictable and adequate funding for the system.

57. **Ms. Lelek** (United States of America) said that her country remained a steadfast supporter of the United Nations development system and had been its largest voluntary contributor in 2023. It was fully committed to a strong and effective development system that could help propel progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Many of the reforms put in place through the Council were increasing the effectiveness of the system in that regard. The report of the Secretary-General ([A/79/72-E/2024/12](#)) pointed to areas where additional progress was needed by 2030 and beyond.

58. The operational activities for development segment provided opportunities to continue to improve the coherence of the United Nations development system while maintaining a focus on transparency, accountability and efficiency. Those principles were

critical for a development system with impactful resident coordinators at its centre.

59. There remained areas for improving the work of the United Nations. For example, less than 30 per cent of resident coordinators considered all entity country programmes to be aligned with the Cooperation Frameworks. Her delegation looked forward to the forthcoming report of the System-wide Evaluation Office on the alignment of country programme documents with Cooperation Frameworks as a key input to improving that situation.

60. Her delegation encouraged the United Nations development system to continue learning what worked, and what did not, to enable better development outcomes. That meant not only promoting coherence across humanitarian, development and peace efforts, but also building new ways of working with international financial institutions, development banks and the private sector.

61. Lastly, the inclusion of all, including women and girls, persons with disabilities and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex persons, was central to advancing the Goals. Her delegation therefore appreciated the forthcoming session on system-wide action plans in that regard.

62. **Ms. Chan Valverde** (Costa Rica) said that it was crucial to remove all existing barriers and create suitable incentives to foster more proactive collaborations among agencies to support national priorities. Accountability and the transparent exchange of information must also be strengthened.

63. With only 15 per cent of the Sustainable Development Goal targets on track, efforts must be enhanced with a strategic focus on the six urgent transitions: food systems, energy, digital connectivity, education, employment and social protection, and the triple environmental crisis.

64. Her delegation welcomed the substantial gains from the resident coordinators' strengthened leadership in providing integrated policy suggestions, promoting system convergence and coherence, and catalysing partnerships and innovating financing. It called for continued work on the consistent alignment of agency programmes with the agreements outlined in the Cooperation Frameworks.

65. Costa Rica recognized the urgent need for a change in direction to accelerate the necessary transitions for development and commended efforts to revitalize the funding compact. It appreciated the progress in results-based management and the full operationalization of the System-wide Evaluation Office.

66. As confidence in the development system was the key to its success, her delegation wished to emphasize the fundamental role that the Council must play in continuing to strengthen the system.

67. **Mr. Vasconcelos** (Observer for Mexico) said that it was truly alarming that only 15 per cent of the Sustainable Development Goal targets were on track to be met, especially with only six years before the 2030 deadline, and the multiple interrelated crises faced in the past four years were one of the main reasons for that failure. As the work done by the United Nations through the development system remained crucial, a handful of donors could not continue to carry the burden of funding the system. More options were therefore needed to improve and diversify funding of the development system and its resident coordinators. That would allow more alternatives to be evaluated by the main donors of the relevant United Nations agencies, as well as major contributors to the regular budget, and was the only way to ensure increased accountability and more effective development results for all countries.

68. **Mr. Prabowo** (Observer for Indonesia) said that it was crucial to ensure progress in the repositioning of the United Nations development system in order to scale up actions and accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. In that context, both the United Nations development system and the resident coordinator system needed to connect meaningfully with the development priorities of their host countries, which included understanding their social, economic and cultural characteristics. Continued consultations with host Governments were crucial to fostering a collaborative environment for effective programming.

69. The funding gap must be addressed to enhance partnerships. Efforts to mobilize diverse stakeholders for financing of the Goals, including innovative financing and public-private partnerships, should be promoted by the United Nations development system.

70. His delegation acknowledged that regional collaboration was key and noted the important role played by regional commissions in that context. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific had been instrumental in supporting the translation of global mandates into action, amplifying regional voices in global policy discussions, and identifying gaps and mobilizing support to fill them.

71. The deliberations held during the operational activities for development segment must be connected with other relevant processes, including the Sustainable Development Goals Summit, the Summit of the Future and the Fourth International Conference on Financing



for Development, to ensure synergy and coherence towards better targeted actions.

72. **Ms. Schlyter** (Sweden) said that Sweden was a strong supporter of the reforms of the United Nations development system and of the resident coordinator system. It had asked its embassies across the globe to share their observations on the implementation of the development reform agenda as well as their insights on the important mandate of resident coordinators as drivers of United Nations norms and values. They had noted enhanced in-country appreciation of the resident coordinator function, clear progress in terms of increased coordination and strengthened engagement with host Governments. Cooperation Frameworks and pooled funding mechanisms were also found to contribute towards strengthened coordination and a resident coordinator with a clear mandate.

73. Overall, the United Nations, through empowered resident coordinators, was stronger and more able to promote a normative mandate in a positive direction. However, the ability of resident coordinators to have a high impact depended on constructive leadership from the full United Nations country team. In that regard, Sweden was committed to further strengthening its engagement across the United Nations governing bodies.

74. It was also of the utmost importance to jointly address the lack of predictable and sustainable funding for the resident coordinator system, and to ensure flexible funding for the United Nations development system.

75. **The Deputy Secretary-General** said that the operational activities for development segment was taking place during very trying times, including atrocities in the Sudan, carnage in Gaza and floods in Kenya and Brazil. It was much more difficult for the United Nations development system to support countries in such complex environments. The discussions during the current segment also took on particular importance both in the context of the forthcoming negotiations on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, to be held later in the year, and in the light of the abysmal state of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals noted at the Sustainable Development Goals Summit held in September 2023.

76. Turning to the representative of Uganda, she said that great efforts had been made within the development system to ensure that Cooperations Frameworks addressed countries priorities and were aligned with country programme documents, and governing boards had been instrumental in reinforcing that alignment. The

Cooperation Frameworks were central to United Nations system-wide coherence efforts. At the same time, funding still dictated where resources were allocated. The new funding compact should help to ensure that country team activities were better aligned with national priorities, but country teams would need more core resources to develop the surge capacities that many countries were requesting and expecting from them. The full achievement of the Goals would depend on the allocation of those resources.

77. Responding to the representative of Nepal, she said that the Sustainable Development Goal stimulus proposed by the Secretary-General was being used to address short-term funding gaps. In the longer term, however, she looked forward to a good outcome on the international financial architecture from the upcoming Summit of the Future.

78. In response to the representative of Samoa, she said that she and the Secretary-General both looked forward to attending the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, to be held shortly in Antigua and Barbuda, at which the next 10-year plan of small island developing States would be unveiled. The outcomes of the Conference would be incorporated into the work of the resident coordinator system. She also noted that some success had been achieved in aligning the climate agenda more centrally with the development agenda, including on the biodiversity actions that must be taken under the sustainable development agenda.

79. Turning to the representative of Australia, she said that efficiency gains had been made by individual agencies and were fed back directly into their mandated programmes. Further work might be needed, however, to see how those efficiency gains aligned with the priorities in the Cooperation Framework.

80. More needed to be done to improve the coordination and coherence of gender inclusion policies, including by strengthening the leadership of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women). However, it was not UN-Women alone but the United Nations system as a whole that must deliver on gender inclusion agenda in countries.

81. Responding to the representative of the European Union, she said that the terms “engine room” capacities and “sustainable transitions” had been used to give direction not only to country teams, but also to investors who requested more clarity than the 17 Goals provided on what specific actions could be taken at the country level. As cross-cutting areas, specific actions offered opportunities to lift all the Goals. Existing policy gaps could also be addressed through better alignment with international financial institutions and multilateral

development banks. Having strong institutions was the prerequisite for scaling up efforts.

82. Lastly, the new System-wide Evaluation Office would need more financial support to make the impact required on the ground. The work of the resident coordinator system would similarly come to a halt without sufficient funding.

83. **Mr. Szczerski** (Poland) said that his delegation welcomed the recent improvements in the United Nations development system, in particular moving to a more strategic and integrated approach, adapting the system to the conditions of the digital age and strengthening coherence among humanitarian, development and peacebuilding activities. While urgent measures were needed in the six areas indicated in the report of the Secretary-General (A/79/72-E/2024/12), reducing education and skills gaps and ensuring decent jobs and social protection should be the top priority as achieving those targets would make societies more resilient and better prepared to tackle climate issues, energy transition and food systems transformation. It was therefore critical to allocate more funds to those two targets.

84. Full achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals would not be possible without fostering deeper and more effective partnerships among the various stakeholders involved in the process. The need to strengthen collaboration with international financial institutions, the private sector and civil society had never been more evident. In that context, Poland supported the resident coordinator system, which placed greater emphasis on convening partners and stakeholders with a view to strengthening cooperation between United Nations bodies and developing countries.

85. Dealing with the financing gap for the Goals would require bold decisions and innovative solutions. Official development assistance (ODA) must be used as effectively as possible, and its catalytic role enhanced. However, ODA alone would not be sufficient to cover the financing needs of the Goals. Appropriate budget allocation and mobilizing private sector capital in support of the 2030 Agenda would also be necessary.

86. While as much progress as possible should be made by 2030, it was obvious that efforts towards sustainable development were a long-term commitment that required renewed trust and effective multilateralism, both within the United Nations system and through regional cooperation. The upcoming Summit of the Future would provide an opportunity to reinvigorate and strengthen the multilateral system, and adjust it to the challenges ahead.

87. **Mr. Woodroffe** (United Kingdom) said that, following the Sustainable Development Goals Summit held in September 2023, the focus must be placed on accelerated delivery of the Goals. Ensuring that the United Nations development system was best positioned to support governmental efforts was critical to achieving that outcome. Indeed, the international development white paper launched by his Government in 2023 specifically set out that the Government of the United Kingdom would support the United Nations in its efforts to achieve greater development impacts on the ground, including ensuring that the United Nations development system was better configured to respond to development needs under the strong leadership of the resident coordinators.

88. Since the previous quadrennial comprehensive policy review, there had been a concerted effort by United Nations agencies, programme countries and donors to implement the reforms. The upcoming review was an opportunity to turbocharge such efforts in several key areas.

89. First, resident coordinators played a critical role in supporting delivery of the Goals and ensuring United Nations country-level coherence. Given the clear value of the resident coordinator system, his Government strongly supported the funding proposal put forward by the Secretary-General and encouraged others to similarly consider its positive benefits.

90. Second, the full breadth of expertise across the United Nations must be harnessed, whether an entity was present in a country or not. It was also vital that resident coordinators had a greater say over the composition of their country teams, and that they and programme countries could access the expertise that they required to address the unique development challenges before them.

91. Third, five years into the development reform agenda, it was essential for the United Nations system to deliver as one, which meant ensuring that the right tools were in place so that humanitarian, development and peace operations adopted coordinated and joint approaches. It was not possible to achieve development unless people had access to safe food and water, and sustainable peace was not possible without sustainable livelihoods.

92. Lastly, looking forward, the Summit of the Future would provide an opportunity to collectively set out a bold vision for a more coordinated, coherent, flexible and responsive United Nations development system that provided the greatest and most urgent support possible to get the delivery of the Goals back on track.

93. **Mr. Soberón Guzmán** (Observer for Cuba) said that his delegation remained committed to supporting the repositioning of the United Nations development system, which would ensure that work on the ground was adequate to implement the 2030 Agenda. At the same time, it was important to fully respect national sovereignty, independence, national ownership and leadership, as well as different national circumstances, capacities and levels of development. Repositioning must continue to reinforce the development pillar, with poverty eradication as its top priority and main objective. His delegation wished to know what progress had been made in the fulfilment of that objective.

94. The best way to deal with crises was to address their root causes. Investment in development to eliminate inequality, hunger, poverty and the digital divide would also help to prevent the conflicts and humanitarian situations that jeopardized human well-being.

95. The continuing imbalance between core and non-core resources, as well as the 18.3 per cent reduction in core funding for development-related activities in 2023, showed a lack of commitment to the development of the global South. The insufficient provision of flexible funding to agencies could not be taken as a matter of course. It demonstrated the clear interest of donors in placing conditions on the work of the development system.

96. **Ms. Zalabata Torres** (Colombia) said that transformative changes were needed in the three dimensions of sustainable development, including overcoming inequalities between and within countries and ensuring social inclusion; accelerating a just and inclusive energy transition; reforming the international financial architecture; and, in general, transforming the economic and social model to achieve truly sustainable development that respected the environment, based on the principles of intergenerational equity, human rights and a transformative approach to culture in harmony with nature.

97. The Summit of the Future would be an opportunity to accelerate transformations, instead of repeating the platitudes that had prevented progress at the pace required to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

98. The role of the United Nations development system was more important than ever in supporting national efforts in developing countries to implement the 2030 Agenda. Her delegation called on all countries, but especially donors, to move forward urgently to close the financing gap for development and to provide adequate, sustainable, sufficient and predictable funding to the system to achieve the Goals.

99. **Mr. Lagorio** (Observer for Argentina) said that greater synergy was needed between the Bretton Woods system and the San Francisco system. The international financial institutions had an immense influence on global economic policies, which could not be dissociated from the debates held in the Organization.

100. The United Nations system must not forget the specific needs of middle-income countries. Adopting development approaches beyond economic or gross domestic product indicators would be a substantive step towards doing a better job.

101. The challenges of digital education for the development of future generations were another important element to consider. It was imperative to equip people with the skills and knowledge they needed to thrive in the digital age. In such fast-moving times of technological development, “digital illiteracy” must be avoided.

102. While the United Nations was doing a great deal in pursuit of development, often its invaluable work was overlooked because of bureaucratic language and institutional complexities. Clearer and more accessible communication would help to involve and empower individuals from all walks of life to become active participants in development objectives.

103. **Mr. Cho Hyun Woo** (Republic of Korea) said that while his delegation welcomed the progress made on reforming the United Nations development system, improvements were needed in the management and accountability framework, as 62 per cent of resident coordinators had reported that less than one third of the country directors of United Nations agencies had given performance inputs and only 65 per cent of United Nations entities had been aware that they should report to resident coordinators on key activities.

104. His delegation firmly supported United Nations efforts to promote the humanitarian-development-peace nexus across the world and stood ready to collaborate with the United Nations on the nexus in diverse areas. The approval of \$200 million of Peacebuilding Fund projects in 36 countries, and the United Nations partnership with the World Bank in over 50 countries on crisis prevention in 2023, represented notable progress.

105. While it was worrying that United Nations development activities remained dependent on the top 10 donors, the 63 per cent increase in contributions to total funding from the private sector and the threefold increase from international financial institutions, compared with 2020, were promising developments. His delegation looked forward to further efforts by the United Nations to diversify and broaden the donor base.

106. The unprecedented efficiency gains of \$553 million dollars in 2023 were commendable. The system-wide revised efficiency road map worked well in driving results and the United Nations should continue such efforts to enhance efficiency.

107. **Mr. Eldahshan** (Observer for Egypt) said that his delegation acknowledged the progress achieved not only in providing quality integrated policy advice involving expertise from across the United Nations system, but also in leveraging partnerships in support of national development plans and priorities in programme countries under the leadership of resident coordinators. The results mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General ([A/79/72-E/2024/12](#)) were welcome, and the forthcoming resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review would offer a perfect opportunity to identify areas that required particular attention and further policy guidance in support of the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

108. The chronic shortfall in funding for the resident coordinator system remained a source of concern. His delegation looked forward to the conclusion of the ongoing discussions in the Fifth Committee on the proposal by the Secretary-General to convert voluntary contributions to assessed funding from the regular budget of the United Nations in order to ensure adequate and predictable funding for the system.

109. **Ms. Lasseur** (Observer for the Kingdom of the Netherlands) said that the upcoming Summit of the Future would be a key moment to step up efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda. At the same time, her delegation appreciated the consultative process that had led to a streamlined and more strategic funding compact and called on all members of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group and all representatives of Member States to ensure that they jointly fulfilled their commitments under the compact. Only a sustainably funded and reformed United Nations development system could deliver on the commitments made. Country teams, under the leadership of a resident coordinator, must be able to carry out their mandates in full, including all aspects of their normative work.

110. **Mr. Moretti** (Brazil) said that negotiations on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review offered a prime opportunity to reinvigorate the United Nations development system as an indispensable means of implementing the 2030 Agenda. The report of the Secretary-General ([A/79/72-E/2024/12](#)) provided important information and insightful suggestions for identifying priorities for the negotiations. Repositioning efforts had made important strides, including a new generation of Cooperation Frameworks, tailored support

to countries' priorities, resource mobilization for the Sustainable Development Goals and enhanced South-South and trilateral cooperation. More attention had also been given to the delivery of Goals 2 and 3.

111. However, imbalances still needed to be addressed. Resource allocation was concentrated on a small number of countries and funds were being provided by a narrow base of contributors. Spending on humanitarian activities, however necessary, had taken precedence over long-term development. A new quadrennial comprehensive policy review should be crafted for a United Nations development system that was well resourced, fit for purpose, results-oriented and accountable. The key commitment must be the timely implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Goals, bearing in mind the overarching objective of poverty eradication.

112. The system must be empowered to provide both operational and policy support, in full alignment with Cooperation Frameworks, strategic plans approved by governing bodies, the mandate of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review and the repositioning mandate, in a comprehensive, integrated and balance manner and in keeping with the needs, priorities and plans of country programmes. That would mean, for example, helping countries to address climate-related challenges in a way that simultaneously eradicated poverty and hunger while bridging inequality among countries and individuals.

113. **Mr. Chumakov** (Observer for the Russian Federation) said that the Russian Federation was a major partner of the United Nations development system and it recognized the system's contribution to the progress made by countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda. His country had been among the top 20 donors in terms of core contributions for 2018–2022 and would continue to provide support to United Nations development activities.

114. At the same time, his delegation wished to express its concern that much of the report of the Secretary-General ([A/79/72-E/2024/12](#)) was dedicated to a discussion of the development system's work on "sustainable transitions", which had been defined by the Secretariat without consultation with Member States. It was interesting that the word "poverty", the eradication of which was recognized as the main Sustainable Development Goal, was mentioned only once in the report. By comparison, there were 34 mentions of "climate" and 52 mentions of "gender". Sustainable transitions should take into account the various economic systems in different countries.

115. His delegation was ready to actively discuss the financing of resident coordinators in the Fifth Committee and the proposal of the Secretary-General to increase the share of the regular budget, based on the system of accountability and in accordance with the rules for programmes funded by the regular budget.

116. **Ms. Patel** (India) said that woefully inadequate progress had been made on the Sustainable Development Goals. Structural inequities and uneven development had imposed burdens of the global South. Several developing countries were in debt distress and looked to the international community for support. For its part, India attached great importance to the United Nations development system and its guiding principles. It was vital that the system did not weaken its focus on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable.

117. Her delegation supported the call of the Secretary-General for a Sustainable Development Goals stimulus and was committed to engaging constructively to find resources for it. At the same time, the fundamental principles of sovereignty, national ownership and leadership, and deference to national development plans and priorities, must continue to guide the system. Guided by those very principles, India had been complementing the work of the system through South-South cooperation. India's development cooperation ranged from commerce to culture, energy to engineering, health to housing, and information technology to infrastructure, among other areas. The India-United Nations Development Partnership Fund was currently supporting 78 projects across 55 countries to advance progress on the Goals in the global South.

118. While India was assessing ways in which it could support the proposed funding compact, it wished to stress that developing countries should not have to bear additional financing burdens, especially those, like India, already engaged in strong development cooperation with other countries of the global South.

119. **Mr. Umar** (Nigeria) said that his country was committed to accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. It recognized the profound transformation in the United Nations development system, which aimed to move from sectoral approaches to integrated solutions, and welcomed the fact that the reforms of the system had improved the leadership and operational effectiveness of country teams. Those reforms had helped to transform global commitments into impactful country-level actions, which were significant for countries facing unique developmental challenges such as Nigeria. The reinvigorated resident coordinator system had considerably improved the coherence and

effectiveness of support from the United Nations development system to Nigeria. His delegation commended the increased integration and the strategic focus on leveraging expertise across the system, which had been pivotal in increasing alignment with national strategies and better meeting developmental needs.

120. However, challenges remained in terms of funding and operational integration. His delegation was concerned by the undercapitalization of the Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund and the limitations that imposed on the ability of resident coordinators to mobilize resources effectively. Sustainable and predictable funding was an urgent issue that required collective attention and innovative solutions. All stakeholders should increase their support for a fully capitalized Joint Fund and explore new financing mechanisms that ensured flexibility and responsiveness to the needs of developing countries. Further collaboration was also needed between United Nations entities, international financial institutions and private sector partners to support the coherent implementation of the Cooperation Frameworks. Nigeria advocated continued strengthening of the United Nations development system to ensure that it remained fit for purpose in delivering the 2030 Agenda.

121. **Ms. Laursen** (Denmark) said that her country remained committed to transforming the 2030 Agenda into reality and leaving no one behind, including by working with the United Nations development system, which received approximately one quarter of the 0.7 per cent of Denmark's gross national income allocated to ODA. The report of the Secretary-General ([A/79/72-E/2024/12](#)) presented valuable insight into progress on the system's reforms and its current capacity to deliver on the 2030 Agenda.

122. Her delegation welcomed the fact that 96 per cent of Governments considered United Nations country teams effective in responding to national priorities for the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals, and that 94 per cent considered Cooperation Frameworks to be closely aligned with their needs. The fact that host Governments found climate change to be among the most effective areas of engagement with the United Nations development system clearly showed its potential for addressing the greatest challenges of the modern age.

123. Denmark was pleased to note that host countries saw United Nations entities as collaborating well across the humanitarian and development pillars. In contrast, the reported drop in the percentage of resident coordinators and country teams who perceived there to be close collaboration across the humanitarian,



development and peacebuilding pillars should stir reflection.

124. While the progress achieved in reforming the United Nations development system should be applauded, the fact that less than 30 per cent of resident coordinators considered all entity programmes to be aligned with Cooperation Frameworks indicated that there was still more to do.

125. Lastly, Denmark welcomed the permanently functional System-wide Evaluation Office. The evaluation reports issued by that Office to date demonstrated the potential of increased integration across the United Nations development system.

126. **Mr. Sichimba** (Zambia) said that the upcoming Summit of the Future presented the only hope for the international community to renew its commitment to the global development agenda. While the United Nations development system had improved its support to programme countries, there was still a need to explore innovative financing models for the system to be able to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals. His delegation therefore supported the Secretary-General's proposal for adequate and predictable development funding from the regular budget of the United Nations. It also called for continued streamlining of the processes of United Nations country offices to facilitate timely support and impacts.

127. **Mr. Abbas** (Kenya) said that recent devastating flooding in several countries, including Kenya, had left communities grappling with profound loss and widespread destruction. From submerged homes to damaged infrastructure, the aftermath of the floods had been catastrophic. As climate change would clearly continue to have a significant impact on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, it was crucial to ensure that the United Nations development system was appropriately funded. Adequate financial support for the system was indispensable to facilitate coordinated and effective responses to natural disasters, including floods, and to enhance resilience within vulnerable communities.

128. Support from the United Nations development system remained critical for achieving the Goals of the 2030 Agenda. It was important for delegations to have information about such support, including how the \$553 million in efficiency gains was being channelled back into efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda.

129. Kenya was committed to strengthening the United Nations development system and supported the proposal of the Secretary-General for adequate, predictable and

sustainable funding of the resident coordinator system, as a key pillar of the development system.

130. **Mr. Latrous** (Observer for Algeria) said that his delegation was a staunch supporter of the reforms of the United Nations development system undertaken since 2018 and welcomed the positive results achieved to date. It also appreciated the transformative changes brought about by the newly empowered resident coordinator system and encouraged support to help all developing countries overcome their multidimensional challenges.

131. The United Nations development system needed to be fully resourced, including through the proposed funding compact, with predictable and sustainable funding for the resident coordinator system to address the current funding gap. Flexible and high-calibre resources, particularly through an enhanced core and pooled funding mechanism, were of paramount importance in empowering the repositioned development system to fulfil the aspirations of Member States.

132. **Mr. Etter Lindegger** (Switzerland) said that support for the resident coordinator system remained central to the reform efforts behind the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Switzerland welcomed the new funding compact and supported the Secretary-General's call for increased contributions to core funding to the resident coordinator system. While the undeniable progress made in reforming the United Nations development system was welcome, there was still room for improvement. The Council's debate on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review should focus on specific and achievable guidelines for the development system.

133. Switzerland supported efforts to ensure predictable and sustainable funding from the regular budget for the System-wide Evaluation Office, which was a key function of the development system. Strengthening the accountability of United Nations agencies for national development outcomes was essential, and the role played by resident coordinators remained crucial in that regard. The next report on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review should include strengthened, quantifiable and evidence-based indicators.

134. **Mr. Dai Bing** (China) said that his country welcomed the reformed and repositioned United Nations development system, in which leadership had been consolidated over operational activities for development and greater expertise was now provided to help developing countries meet their pressing priorities in such areas as food security, energy transition, digital connectivity and climate response. His delegation

wished to make five points in connection with the topics under discussion.

135. First, it was important to deepen global partnerships in order to broadly marshal development resources. Developed countries should honour their ODA and climate financing commitments to increase the share of core funding.

136. Second, resident coordinators needed to make sure that Cooperation Frameworks were closely aligned with programme country needs, with a focus on building national capacities for long-term development.

137. Third, it was crucial to strengthen system-wide oversight and evaluation. United Nations country teams must work together in unison to enhance coherence between policymaking and actions, and to ensure greater efficiencies in the delivery of results.

138. Fourth, China was firmly committed to the global development agenda and had put forward and implemented a global development initiative that had reached more than 30 million people in over 60 countries.

139. Lastly, China looked forward to working with all to further strengthen South-South and triangular cooperation in order to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

140. **Ms. Kristmoen** (Observer for Norway), welcoming the positive results of the reform of the United Nations development system, said that her delegation was nevertheless concerned that less than 30 per cent of resident coordinators considered all entity country programmes to be aligned with the Cooperation Frameworks. Such examples demonstrated that important accountability frameworks within the system still needed to be addressed. United Nations leadership and all entity heads should urgently follow up on that matter.

141. Challenges also remained regarding how the United Nations collaborated across the humanitarian and development pillars, and especially across peace pillar. Her delegation would appreciate further reflections on how progress could be made in that regard.

142. Norway welcomed the new funding compact. An important innovation in the compact was its definition of types of funding, which provided a common basis for performance reporting and transparency. Strong incentives should be put in place to encourage country directors to implement the compact.

143. Lastly, Norway supported the proposal to provide assessed contributions to the resident coordinator

system, which would be key to the success of the United Nations reforms.

144. **Mr. Nakagawa** (Japan) said that Japan supported the United Nations development system and its reforms. According to the list of top financial contributors, Japan had ranked eleventh in terms of voluntary core funding in 2022, despite the difficult fiscal situation in Japan owing to the depreciation of the Yen.

145. It was necessary to consider the unique circumstances of each country when setting targets for core budgets and multi-year contributions. For example, Japan, under its single year budget system, provided assistance to meet urgent needs which were considered on a case by-case basis. If multi-year targets were set through the funding compact, it would not be easy for Japan to meet them.

146. His delegation wished to know how the points of the discussions on financing for development would be reflected in the 2024 quadrennial comprehensive policy review and the current status of its preparation.

147. **Mr. Amorín** (Uruguay) said that urgent coordinated efforts were needed through the United Nations development system, including through cooperation with international financial institutions and the World Trade Organization, to accelerate the progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

148. While the reforms of the resident coordinator system were welcome, a more balanced alternative long-term financing mechanism was needed to ensure more predictable funding for the system, taking into account the co-financing burden already shouldered by many developing and middle-income countries.

149. **The Deputy Secretary-General** said that improvements continued to be made to the profile of resident coordinators and she hoped that the ongoing discussions would help to address the many funding gaps in the resident coordinator system. In the run up to the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, key issues would be reviewed to assess how fit for purpose the current models and financial systems were. Country analysis by resident coordinators could also help Member States to determine their priority funding areas. While the composition of country teams was crucial for harnessing expertise, building the necessary capacities in that regard would require core funding and not earmarked funding.

150. Sustainable Development Goal 1 on eradicating poverty indeed remained the top priority, but many of the Sustainable Development Goals also helped to reduce poverty and inequality. The Goals were not in

competition with each other because the three pillars of sustainable development were interrelated. It was therefore more important to look at the substance of the report of the Secretary-General (A/79/72-E/2024/12), rather than the number of times that a particular word, such as poverty, was mentioned. She hoped that the integrated nature of the Goals would be demonstrated further during the coming week from examples in those countries where poverty was a major challenge.

151. There was nothing new about the “sustainable transitions” themselves, only the scale at which they would be needed to achieve the Goals. While each transition would help to address poverty and inequality, no single transition was more important than another. Decent jobs, social protection floors and filling the skills gap in education, for example, were transitions that could help to prevent people from falling below the poverty line. As the transitions went beyond the scale of traditional ODA, they would have a much greater impact on the achievement of the Goals than ODA.

152. The System-wide Evaluation Office was carrying out incredibly important work and its forthcoming reports would help to clarify what was being done to improve both accountability and impact.

153. She looked forward to a robust outcome from the discussions on financing for development in 2025. The World Summit for Social Development, to be held in the same year, would build on the unfinished business of the Goals by addressing key issues related to poverty, hunger, education and health.

154. Discussions had already been held on alternative sources of funding for the resident coordinator system, but to date none of them had met the need for adequate and predictable funding of the system. Some countries would be asked to pay more to address the crisis not only in the humanitarian sector, but also in the development sector. However, as sustainable development remained the best way to keep the peace and address many of the root causes behind conflict, including poverty, she encouraged Member States to demonstrate the necessary solidarity to leave no one behind, in keeping with their commitments.

155. The capacity of the resident coordinator system had been greatly improved in recent years. It was now capable of addressing issues that had previously not been given sufficient attention. However, more investment in development would be needed over the next six years to keep ahead of the curve and avoid falling back.

156. The Cooperation Frameworks were instruments that had been repositioned to better reflect countries’

priorities. While they could certainly still be improved upon, they represented a significant improvement on the previous United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks.

157. One of the main challenges to address was related to the fact that the country project documents of each individual agency were not driven by resources from countries, but by other resources for which core funding had fallen. At the same time, earmarked funding was not aligned with the Cooperation Frameworks because it did not reflect countries’ priorities. More must therefore be done to align the funding of country project documents with the Cooperation Frameworks. The resident coordinators might be able to provide specific examples of where greater alignment was needed so that the governing bodies could then take the necessary remedial action.

158. The United Nations had worked with Member States to come up with the 17 Goals to make the world a better place. They could also help the Organization to communicate the purpose behind that common strategy more effectively to the media.

159. In general, it was important to consider how development intersected with the broader concept of “people on the move”, rather than categorizing people in silos as either refugees or migrants.

160. Only increased efforts would accelerate the achievement of the Goals by 2030. The political, human rights and development pillars were all under stress, but straightening the development pillar, which was already buckling, could help to bolster the other two pillars. The development pillar needed to be more responsive and resources must be delivered at scale and on time. There should be no competition for resources between humanitarian and development activities because development funding was an investment in peace in an interconnected world.

161. Lastly, she noted that an orchestra needed a good conductor to play a symphony and avoid cacophony. In the context of the United Nations, the orchestra was its development system, the conductor was its resident coordinator system and the symphony to be performed, in conjunction with Member States, equated to the achievement of the Goals.

*The meeting rose at 1.35 p.m.*