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Operational activities for development: operational activities for development of the United Nations system

Bolivia (Plurinational State of):* draft resolution

Operational activities for development of the United Nations system

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 67/226 of 21 December 2012 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system and Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/14 of 14 July 2014 on progress in the implementation of resolution 67/226,

Recalling also the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document,¹ and the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals,²

Reaffirming the importance of the comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development, through which the General Assembly establishes key system-wide policy orientations for development cooperation and country-level modalities of the United Nations system,

Recalling the role of the Economic and Social Council in providing coordination and guidance to the United Nations system so as to ensure that policy orientations established by the General Assembly are implemented on a system-wide basis in accordance with Assembly resolutions 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 61/16 of 20 November 2006, 67/226 and 68/1 of 20 September 2013 and other relevant resolutions,

Affirming that the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system should be enhanced to deliver the

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

¹ Resolution 65/1.

² Resolution 68/6.



implementation of the ambitious and transformational objectives of the post-2015 development agenda, especially as regards their universal, voluntary and grant nature, their neutrality and their multilateralism, as well as the need to scale up their ability to respond to the development needs of programme countries in a flexible manner in order to assist them in responding to the challenges of sustainable development, and that the operational activities are carried out for the benefit of programme countries, at the request of those countries and in accordance with their own policies and priorities for development,

Recognizing the importance and catalytic role of predictable official development assistance for international development,

Taking note of the report of and the note by the Secretary-General submitted to the Economic and Social Council at the operational activities segment of its substantive session of 2014,³

1. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the selection and appointment process for United Nations resident coordinators, including preparation, training and support provided for their work,⁴ and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon;⁵

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation on its eighteenth session⁶ and the decisions adopted at that session;⁷

3. *Requests* the United Nations funds and programmes to make every effort to continue to improve monitoring and data-collection methods, with a view to contributing to further enhancement of the analytical quality of the report of the Secretary-General on operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

4. *Reaffirms* the importance of the contribution of operational activities for development to national capacity development and development effectiveness of the United Nations development system in addressing the key areas identified in the quadrennial comprehensive policy review;

5. *Reiterates* that core resources, because of their untied nature, continue to be the bedrock of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and in this regard recognizes the need for organizations to address, on a continuous basis, the imbalance between core and non-core resources and to report to the Economic and Social Council in 2015, as part of their regular reporting, on the measures taken to address this imbalance;

6. *Notes* that the majority of the increase in funding for the United Nations development system between 1997 and 2012 was in the form of non-core resources, resulting in an imbalance between core and non-core resources, and notes with

³ [A/69/63-E/2014/10](#) and [A/68/658-E/2014/7](#).

⁴ [A/69/125](#).

⁵ [A/69/125/Add.1](#).

⁶ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/69/39)*.

⁷ *Ibid.*, chap. I.

concern that the percentage of core resources in the overall funding for operational activities has declined, representing only 28 per cent in 2012;

7. *Also notes* that non-core resources represent an important contribution to the overall resource base of the United Nations development system and complement core resources in supporting operational activities for development, thus contributing to an increase in total resources, while noting the need to make non-core resources more flexible and aligned with strategic plans and national priorities and recognizing that non-core resources are not a substitute for core resources;

8. *Recognizes* that non-core resources pose challenges, in particular restricted earmarked funding such as single-donor project-specific funding, by potentially increasing transaction costs, fragmentation, competition and overlap among entities and providing disincentives for pursuing an Organization-wide focus, strategic positioning and coherence, and may also potentially distort programme priorities regulated by intergovernmental bodies and processes;

9. *Expresses its regret* that the mandate contained in its resolution 67/226 with respect to the critical mass of core resources was not fulfilled, and reiterates the request to the United Nations funds and programmes to define common principles for the concept of the critical mass of core resources, which may include the level of resources adequate to respond to the needs of programme countries and to produce the results expected in strategic plans, including administrative, management and programme costs, in consultation with Member States, and to present specific proposals in 2015 with a view to a decision in 2015 by their governing bodies;

10. *Stresses* the need to avoid the use of core or regular resources to subsidize activities financed by non-core or extrabudgetary resources, reaffirms that the guiding principle governing the financing of all non-programme costs should be based on full cost recovery from core and non-core funding sources, proportionally, and in this regard notes the timelines agreed by the executive boards of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) for an independent and external assessment to be performed in 2016 of the consistency and alignment of the new cost-recovery methodology with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review;

11. *Notes with appreciation* the work undertaken by those entities of the United Nations development system that have made efforts to align their strategic plans, frameworks and budgets with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, and encourages all entities of the United Nations development system to take further steps in this regard;

12. *Underlines* the need to develop methodologies and indicators for measuring human development that better reflect the common understanding of States regarding all dimensions of development, with the objective of reflecting an accurate assessment of national needs;

13. *Reaffirms* its request to the United Nations development system to develop, for the consideration of Member States, a common approach for measuring progress in capacity development, including measures to ensure sustainability, as well as to develop specific frameworks aimed at enabling programme countries,

upon their request, to design, monitor and evaluate results in capacity development to achieve national development goals and strategies, and invites the Secretary-General to provide comprehensive and evidence-based updates on measures taken in this regard in his 2015 annual report on the implementation of its resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

14. *Requests* the funds and programmes of the United Nations development system, and invites specialized agencies, to consider the findings and observations related to national capacity gaps repeatedly highlighted by programme countries to be addressed through the work of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system, including through the strengthening and use of national capacities, and to report to their governing bodies in 2015 with recommendations for implementation in this regard;

15. *Recognizes* the importance of continuing to strengthen and improve the results-focused delivery of operational activities for development of the United Nations system in order to maximize their support for accelerating progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, especially in the least developed countries and other developing countries that are lagging behind in meeting the targets, as well as their support for the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

16. *Welcomes* the integration of poverty eradication, as the overarching priority, into the strategic plans of some United Nations system organizations, in accordance with their mandates;

17. *Reaffirms* its call, contained in its resolution 67/226, for the organizations of the United Nations development system to assign the highest priority to the eradication of poverty, and in this regard requests the United Nations funds and programmes to include in their regular reporting to the Economic and Social Council information on steps taken, in accordance with their mandates, on the scaling up of efforts to address the root causes of extreme poverty and hunger, sharing of good practices, lessons learned, strategies, programmes and policies, such as capacity-building, employment generation, education, vocational training, rural development and the mobilization of resources, which aim at achieving poverty eradication and promoting the active participation of those living in poverty in the design and implementation of such programmes and policies;

18. *Requests* the United Nations funds and programmes to align their strategic plans and integrated results and resources frameworks with the post-2015 development agenda, once adopted, in the context of the midterm reviews and the elaboration of future strategic plans;

19. *Recalls* the requests contained in its resolution 67/226 on strengthening South-South cooperation, in this regard notes the progress made by some entities of the United Nations development system in mainstreaming South-South and triangular cooperation into their key policies, strategic frameworks, operational activities and budgets, and welcomes decision 18/1 of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation,⁷ which contains, inter alia, measures to strengthen South-South and triangular cooperation, including through improved allocation of resources across the United Nations development system, including the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation;

20. *Reaffirms* the call in paragraph 77 of its resolution 67/226 for all countries in a position to do so, as well as other stakeholders, to increase their support for South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, especially by providing technical assistance and mobilizing financial resources on a sustainable basis, and in this regard requests the United Nations funds and programmes to clarify for Member States, as part of their regular briefings, the role of all stakeholders and the action taken so far by such entities in this regard;

21. *Stresses* that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation;

22. *Recalls* the policy for independent system-wide evaluation of United Nations operational activities for development prepared by the interim coordination mechanism for system-wide evaluation of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;⁸

23. *Affirms* the importance of conducting, during 2015, two pilot independent system-wide evaluations, the themes of which shall be “Meta-evaluation and synthesis of United Nations Development Assistance Framework evaluations, with a particular focus on poverty eradication” and “Evaluation of the contribution of the United Nations development system to strengthening national capacities for statistical analysis and data collection to support the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals”, and regrets the lack of implementation of its decision in this regard during 2014;

24. *Invites* countries in a position to do so to contribute extrabudgetary resources for the effective implementation of the pilot independent system-wide evaluations, and requests the interim coordination mechanism to provide an update on progress in the implementation of the pilot independent system-wide evaluations to the Economic and Social Council at the operational activities segment of its substantive session of 2015;

25. *Recalls* Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/14 on operational activities for development, and expresses appreciation for the guidance provided by the Council on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/226;

26. *Recognizes* the need to review the composition and functioning of the governing structures of the United Nations funds and programmes, in this regard welcomes Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/14, and calls for early reforms of those governance structures;

27. *Reaffirms* the importance of achieving diversification in the composition of the resident coordinator system in terms of geographical distribution, gender and agency of origin, in this regard encourages all agencies to make efforts to nominate candidates for the resident coordinator assessment centre, and requests the Secretary-General to make appointments irrespective of the agency of origin;

28. *Recognizes* the role of the General Assembly in providing key system-wide policy orientation for development cooperation and country-level modalities of the United Nations development system, welcomes the dialogues held at the operational activities segment of the Economic and Social Council of its substantive session of 2014 regarding the role of the United Nations development system in the

⁸ See [A/68/658-E/2014/7](#).

changing development landscape and the need to align the United Nations system to address emerging challenges, in this regard recognizes the need for a structured follow-up on the transparent and inclusive dialogue convened by the Council, involving Member States and all relevant stakeholders, on the longer-term positioning of the United Nations development system with a view to tackling the interlinkages between the alignment of functions, funding practices, governance structures, capacity and impact of the United Nations development system, partnership approaches and organizational arrangements, within the context of the post-2015 development agenda, and looks forward to these discussions being reflected in the report of the Secretary-General on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review to be submitted to the General Assembly for consideration and action by Member States during the quadrennial comprehensive policy review in 2016.
