

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Hyunwoo CHO
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea
ECOSOC Operational Activities Segment 2024
High-level dialogue between the Secretary General and Member States
New York, 14 May 2024

Thank you, Mr. Vice-President and Madame Deputy Secretary General,

I would like to express my appreciation for the comprehensive reports and commend the UNSDG and the UNDCO for their efforts in enhancing the development effectiveness and active engagement with Member States.

With only six years before 2030, this year offers pivotal opportunities, including events like SIDS4, LLDC3, and the Summit of the Future, to strengthen our efforts for sustainable development.

In this regard, we welcome the six priority areas where scaled-up efforts are needed, as outlined in the SG's QCPR report. I hope for fruitful outcomes at this year's Operational Activities Segment to advance these areas, and I would like to make five comments on the report.

First, we welcome the progress made on UN Development System reform. We are encouraged that 96% of program countries view the UN Country Team as effective, 92% acknowledge that Resident Coordinators successfully led the UNCT, and 91% regard the RCs' as having the right skill sets, according to the report.

On the other hand, however, we need improvements in the MAF [Management and Accountability Framework], as 62% of RCs report that less than one third of the UN agencies' country directors give performance inputs and only 65% of UN entities are aware that they should report to RCs on key activities.

Second, we firmly support the UN's efforts in promoting the HDP Nexus across the world. The approval of 200 million dollars of Peacebuilding Fund projects in 36 countries, and the UN's partnership with the World Bank in over 50 countries on crisis prevention in 2023, represent notable progress. Korea stands ready to collaborate with the UN on HDP Nexus in diverse areas.

Third, we find it worrying that development activities are still dependent on top 10 donors, increasing to 69% in 2022 from 65% in 2021. However, it is promising that we saw a 63% increase in contributions to total funding from the private sector and a threefold increase from IFIs, compared to 2020. We look forward to seeing the UN's ongoing efforts to diversify and broaden the donor base.

Fourth, we applaud the UN's achievement in unprecedented efficiency gains of 553 million dollars in 2023, a dramatic increase of 45% from 405 million dollars in 2022. We believe that the UN system-wide Revised Efficiency Roadmap worked well, focusing on Business Operation Strategies, and common premises, among others, in driving results. We would like to encourage the UN to continue enhancing efficiency.

Last but not least, regarding the Revised Funding Compact, we welcome that the previous voluminous content was streamlined and the indicators are now a better fit, enhancing its applicability among UN entities and Member States. With the new Funding Compact in our hands, we expect to see enhanced understanding from capitals and stronger monitoring and reporting on its implementation until 2028.

In closing, following a 21% increase in our ODA last year and with an additional 30% increase this year, we would like to participate further in development activities and dedicate ourselves to achieving the SDGs, leaving no one behind.

I thank you. /END/