



Economic and Social Council

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Agenda item 7

Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 22 July 2020

[on a proposal considered under silence procedure (E/2020/L.28)]

2020/23. Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 71/243 of 21 December 2016 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, including its general guidelines,

Reaffirming also General Assembly resolution 72/279 of 31 May 2018 on the repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

Reaffirming further General Assembly resolutions 73/248 of 20 December 2018 and 74/238 of 19 December 2019 on the operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

Recognizing the unprecedented effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, including the severe disruption to societies and economies, and recognizing further the central role of the United Nations system in catalysing and coordinating the global response to control and contain the spread of COVID-19,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;¹

¹ A/75/79-E/2020/55 and A/75/79/Add.1-E/2020/55/Add.1.



2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group on the work of the Development Coordination Office,² including on the operational, administrative and financing aspects of the activities of the Office;

3. *Encourages* a continued comprehensive, evidence-based and analytical approach to the reporting to the operational activities for development segment of ECOSOC and also encourages the continued use of data and examples from the work of resident coordinators on the ground in all future reporting on the implementation of the reinvigorated resident coordinator system;

4. *Welcomes* the progress achieved by the United Nations development system and takes note of the challenges on the repositioning of the United Nations development system, and looks forward to the full and timely implementation of all reform mandates as contained in General Assembly resolutions [71/243](#), [72/279](#), [73/248](#) and [74/238](#);

5. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Secretary-General in formulating the recommendations to harness the regional assets of the United Nations development system and requests the Secretary-General to continue to conduct and rely on, in the course of the implementation process, transparent and inclusive United Nations consultations with all countries concerned at all levels, in particular the countries of the region through further deliberations of ECOSOC with input from existing processes within regional economic commissions and other United Nations regional assets, to ensure that the longer-term reprofiling and restructuring of the regional assets of the United Nations is addressed on a region-by-region basis and in accordance with the region's specific needs and priorities, and reaffirms that the regional repositioning be conducted with the support of the regional economic commissions, specialized agencies, funds, programmes and regional offices of the Development Coordination Office while preserving and reaffirming their respective roles and mandates, and looks forward to further deliberations in the ECOSOC operational activities for development segment and requests the Secretary-General to continue regular follow-up, monitoring and reporting, including to the ECOSOC operational activities for development segment;

6. *Further welcomes* the recommendations of the Secretary-General on reinforcing support in multi-country office settings,³ and takes note of the information contained in the multi-country office review update dated 25 March 2020 circulated to Member States,⁴ and calls upon the Secretary-General to proceed with the implementation of the recommendations, while continuing transparent and inclusive consultations with all countries concerned throughout and after the implementation phase, and to conduct regular monitoring, reporting and follow-up, including to the Council at its annual operational activities for development segment, with a view to considering the adjustments necessary to ensure the delivery of sustainable and effective development resources and services to enable countries served by multi-country offices to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;⁵

7. *Recommends* the present resolution to the General Assembly for adoption.

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² [E/2020/54](#).

³ See [A/75/79-E/2020/55](#), sect. V.

⁴ Circulated in the context of the third plenary briefing convened by the Deputy Secretary-General on the remaining mandates of the repositioning of the United Nations development system, held virtually on 27 March 2020.

⁵ General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).