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Chair: Mr. Dhanapala (Vice-Chair) (Sri Lanka)

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In the absence of Mr. Diallo (Senegal), Mr. Dhanapala (Sri Lanka), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 24: Operational activities for development (continued)

(a) Operational activities for development of the United Nations system (continued) (A/68/97-E/2013/87)

(b) South-South cooperation (continued) (A/68/212)

1. **Mr. Wang** Min (China) said that poverty eradication was the greatest global challenge and was indispensable for achieving sustainable development. The United Nations system should maintain it as a central priority, including in the post-2015 development agenda, and enhance the development capacities of developing countries. The provisions of resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review should be fully implemented, maintaining the universal, voluntary, grant and multilateral nature of United Nations operational actions for development and respecting national ownership of development, and of efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

2. Since adequate resources and a rational resource structure were critical to meeting the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs, donor countries should increase core resources and improve the quality of non-core resources. The management, functioning and coordination of the United Nations development system should be reformed with a view to ensuring more effective and better targeted programme delivery. The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) should be based on the principle of national ownership and should be flexible enough to adapt to the specific situations of recipient countries.

3. South-South cooperation was important for developing countries, but should operate as a complement to, and not a substitute for, traditional North-South cooperation. In a spirit of solidarity and mutual benefit, China had provided 120 developing countries with assistance in the context of South-South cooperation. It would soon launch new measures to support African development. China had made the achievement of the MDGs an organic part of its development strategy, and was balancing

socioeconomic development with respect for the environment.

4. **Mr. García Landa** (Mexico) said that the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations should maintain their physical and programmatic presence in all developing countries, including middle-income countries. His delegation welcomed the alignment of the strategic plans and integrated budgets of the agencies, funds and programmes with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review and appreciated their attention to the needs of developing countries, particularly the Latin American countries. The operational activities of the United Nations development system must be conducted in an increasingly efficient and coordinated manner in the spirit of “Delivering as one”. He also noted the work of the United Nations Development Group, the resident coordinator system and the regional commissions and, at the same time, the need for increased programmatic cooperation and organizational synergies, both at Headquarters and in the field.

5. His delegation stressed the growing importance of South-South cooperation as a clear expression of the commitments of the countries of the South to other developing countries, guided by the principles of solidarity, non-conditionality and mutual benefit. South-South cooperation was a useful tool to promote development through the exchange of knowledge, experiences and best practices among nations that faced similar challenges, but it must be a complement to, and not a substitute for, traditional North-South coordination. Triangular cooperation was an excellent example of how those two forms of cooperation could be mutually reinforcing. Consequently, South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation should be mainstreamed into the United Nations development system as basic supplementary types of development efforts.

6. **Mr. Silberberg** (Germany), highlighting areas that had seen progress since December 2012, said that agreements had been reached by the United Nations Development Group on standard operating procedures for “Delivering as one” and cost-sharing for the resident coordinator function. The executive boards of a number of United Nations funds and programmes had adopted new strategic plans that were underpinned by robust results frameworks.

7. However, three issues must be addressed with regard to development coordination. First, agency-specific programming, work planning and reporting requirements must be replaced by common tools with agency-specific annexes and One United Nations Country Results Report (“One Programme” pillar of “Delivering as one”). Second, agency-specific incentives and instructions for the contribution of representatives to country teams must be introduced and urgent steps must be taken to ensure full compliance with the management and accountability system (“One Leader” pillar). Third, agency procedures must be harmonized in the areas of logistics, procurement and common finance and audit (“Operating as One” pillar).

8. In conclusion, his delegation looked forward to the implementation of the cost-sharing agreement for the resident coordinator function and an analysis to determine whether the funds allocated would allow the system to function effectively.

9. **Ms. Sloane** (United States of America) agreed that 2012 had seen significant progress and reform in the operational activities of the United Nations development system. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review, expertly facilitated by Switzerland, had been a resounding success, giving clear guidelines to increase efficiency, transparency, cost-effectiveness and productivity. It had also had a galvanizing effect on reform throughout the United Nations development system, including establishing a common approach to cost recovery and elaborating strategic plans and integrated budgets. The standard operating procedures thus outlined should help the United Nations development system operate more smoothly and efficiently while saving resources.

10. The United States was pleased with the progress achieved thus far, but emphasized that gender mainstreaming should continue to be prioritized in order to lead to real improvements in the lives of women and girls around the world. In addition, system-wide metrics should be established in order to achieve comparability.

11. **Mr. Versegi** (Australia), also speaking on behalf of Canada, welcomed the United Nations Development Group Action Plan on implementing the quadrennial comprehensive policy review and the development of common indicators for it. He commended positive steps forward in the new strategic plans of the

agencies, funds and programmes, including increased emphasis on results-based management, the common approach to simplification of results chains and the integrated budgetary process. The ability of United Nations agencies to clearly demonstrate the cost-efficiency and effectiveness of their programmes would encourage donor support.

12. “Delivering as one” and other tools for reform would not live up to donor expectations without incentives for coherence that went even beyond such measures as pooled funding and support to joint programmes. His delegation therefore welcomed the inclusion of several key elements in the Action Plan, including updating the roles and responsibilities of resident coordinators, implementing the decision on inter-agency cost-sharing for the resident coordinator system and rolling out the standard operating procedures for “Delivering as one”. All United Nations agencies, without exception, must make an effort to provide stronger guidance on a systematic approach to common services across United Nations country teams and a more coherent regulatory framework.

13. Although some progress was evident in the efforts of the United Nations system to better address the needs of persons with disabilities, Canada and Australia remained concerned about the lack of adequate disability-disaggregated data at the UNDAF country analysis level and the less than full response to the outcome document of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Realization of the Millennium Development Goals and Other Internationally Agreed Development Goals for Persons with Disabilities.

14. **Mr. Achergui** (Morocco) echoed the need for policy and action coherence as embodied in the quadrennial comprehensive policy review. Although progress had been made, the failure to address certain national capacity-building issues reduced programme impact and compromised national ownership. Resident coordinators must have adequate resources to accomplish their mission in the best conditions possible.

15. The decrease of resources in real terms and, in particular, the imbalance between core and non-core resources gave cause for concern. As a middle-income country, Morocco was committed to South-South cooperation and urged the United Nations system to mainstream it into all its operational activities.

Morocco likewise expressed solidarity with countries of the South, in particular, the least developed countries, small island developing States and all other countries in vulnerable situations.

16. **Mr. Pibulnakarintr** (Thailand) welcomed the establishment of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing in June, as it would provide practical strategies to facilitate resource mobilization and effective use of financing. Thailand was deeply concerned about the decline in official development assistance (ODA). It called for greater aid effectiveness and supported an enhanced global partnership as a means of expediting the mobilization of all kinds of financial resources to help developing countries achieve their sustainable development objectives. Operational activities for development must respond to the national development needs, policies and priorities of host countries, as there was no 'one-size-fits-all' solution for development.

17. He urged the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation to take the lead in coordinating cooperation programming, synergizing inter-agency efforts and using resources more efficiently. For its part, Thailand was committed to intensifying South-South, triangular and technical cooperation. In the context of sharing its knowledge, experiences and expertise with development partners, Thailand had launched the Thai-Africa Initiative.

18. **Ms. MacDonald** (Mozambique) said that her delegation noted with mixed feelings that while the levels of core financial resources had remained the same in 2010 and 2011, a significant portion of those resources had been channelled into long-term development programmes. The effectiveness of the United Nations at the country level depended heavily on the quality and predictability of the core funds available for its work. Her delegation thus stressed the need for greater commitment to increasing contributions to United Nations agencies, funds and programmes. As one of the pilot countries of the "Delivering as one" initiative, Mozambique welcomed the positive results and coherence achieved by the pooled funding approach in such areas as governance, social protection, HIV/AIDS, food security and nutrition, and disaster risk reduction.

19. Her delegation supported the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation (A/68/212, section V.)

As a complement to North-South cooperation, South-South cooperation played an increasingly important role in economic growth and the achievement of the MDGs. In Mozambique, South-South cooperation, and especially triangular cooperation, were increasing productivity in agriculture and strengthening national capacities for disaster risk management.

20. As noted in the sixth High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, the need to match financial resources and partnerships to development ambitions could not be overemphasized.

21. **Ms. Ritchie** (United Kingdom) said that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review had given the development system a clear mandate to strengthen results-based management. In September, the executive boards of the funds and programmes had approved new strategic plans for 2014-2017, marking the first time that the agencies' planning cycles were aligned with the quadrennial review, and the first time that agencies' budgets were explicitly linked to the outcomes of their strategic plans.

22. **Mr. Yuh Chang Hoon** (Republic of Korea) said that despite the progress heralded by the quadrennial comprehensive policy review and its importance with regard to the MDGs and the post-2015 development agenda, coherence, effectiveness and efficiency must still be enhanced. He focused on three points: the functional, the substantive and the funding aspects of the quadrennial review's mandate. In terms of functionality, it was necessary to create a results-oriented culture, simplify and harmonize business practices, improve the resident coordinator system and expand the "Delivering as one" approach. In terms of substance, his delegation attached great importance to mainstreaming gender equality. Additionally, not enough South-South cooperation projects had been converted into established forms of cooperation and integrated into the day-to-day programming of the United Nations development system. With regard to funding, it was crucial to expand resource bases and expand donor bases. His delegation repeated its commitment to increasing ODA and participating in the inclusive multi-stakeholder Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation.

23. **Ms. Myat** (Myanmar) said that sustainable and predictable funding was essential for effective planning and implementation of operational activities. Her delegation urged donor and other countries to maintain

and substantially increase their voluntary contributions to the regular budget of the United Nations development system. Alignment of the strategic plans of the funds and programmes with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review and the “Delivering as one” approach would enhance the coherence of operational activities for development.

24. Myanmar welcomed the establishment of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and hoped that it would benefit nationally from South-South and triangular cooperation, especially in the sharing of knowledge, experience and best practices regarding economic development. The recent changes and wide-ranging economic reforms in Myanmar had attracted widespread international support, as well as growing interest by the United Nations system and the donor community. Her country welcomed the signing of an agreement in April on the resumption of the UNDP normal country programme for the first time in two decades. Myanmar also wished to express its appreciation to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for its financial and technical assistance, as well as for the mobilization of the required funding for its 2014 census. In conclusion, she hoped that the recommended repositioning of the United Nations system in Myanmar would be carried out in full consultation with the Government.

25. **Mr. Ferami** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the principle of national ownership at both the macro and micro levels of United Nations programming must continue to be strictly adhered to at all stages of development. That would entail aligning operational activities with the mandates of the quadrennial review, building national capacity, enabling countries to use their own expertise in dealing with development challenges and providing Member States with a coherent and unified monitoring framework to be implemented in accordance with the principle of national ownership. The imbalance between core and non-core resources for operational activities should be addressed, and resources should be tailored to the needs and priorities of programme countries.

26. While his delegation welcomed the recommendations made by the Secretary-General in his report on the state of South-South cooperation, it also believed that the main focus should be on South-South cooperation activities led by the United Nations system and its different agencies, many of which were not included in the report. Concrete initiatives and

mechanisms should be put in place for sustained South-South cooperation; one positive example of that was the institutionalization of the South-South Global Assets and Technology Exchange by the Office for South-South Cooperation.

27. **Mr. Herlihy** (Ireland) said that Ireland valued the United Nations as a partner for its overseas development programme. Progress towards implementing the quadrennial review in 2013 had been impressive; the strategic plans of the funds and programmes contained much of what was needed to provide greater coherence and a more effective and efficient approach. The one area for concern was establishing and fully implementing a second generation of “Delivering as one” called for by the Secretary-General in his five-year action agenda. Ireland would work closely with those entities that prioritized greater coherence. Incentives and instruction should also be used to encourage full participation in United Nations country teams.

28. One of the strong elements of resolution [67/226](#) was a major improvement in monitoring, reporting and evaluating. His delegation looked forward to progress reports on the United Nations development system with clear and consistent indicators in an easy-to-understand framework indicating the need for effective implementation.

29. **Ms. del Águila Castillo** (Guatemala) said that the operational activities of the United Nations development system should focus on the global goal of eradicating poverty. Her delegation was worried about the imbalance between core and non-core resources. The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) had emphasized that a critical mass of core resources was needed to meet development goals in the region and to respect the timeline established in the quadrennial review.

30. Her delegation highlighted the need for the newly adopted strategic plans to remain dynamic and flexible, in particular by adapting to local conditions and ensuring the physical presence of the various funds and programmes of the United Nations system, including in middle-income countries.

31. **Ms. Pacheco** (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that humanity was experiencing a global crisis which was at once financial, environmental, institutional, cultural and spiritual and had been brought on by an irrational international economic order imposed by the

most powerful countries. Although they were not responsible for the crisis, countries of the South were suffering the gravest consequences. Developed countries were not fulfilling their commitments to allocate 0.7 per cent of their gross national income (GNI) to ODA (and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent to ODA for the least developed countries).

32. South-South cooperation stood opposed to interventionism, neo-liberalism and colonialism, and promoted mutual respect, selfless aid, complementarity and solidarity. In order to enhance South-South integration, coalitions and partnerships must be formed to elaborate treaties in support of life, rather than free trade treaties which brought only death to populations worldwide. Integration should be as broad as possible, in areas ranging from technology and energy to health and education. Likewise, the populations of the South and the populations of the North must be united in brotherhood and sisterhood in order to destroy imperialism and live in harmony with Mother Earth. Integration initiatives by a number of regional groups, such as the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), the Bolivarian Alternative for the Peoples of Our Americas (ALBA), PetroCaribe and the Bank of the South were promising. Her delegation called for the strengthening of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation

33. Operational activities should respect the development priorities of each country and be based on the mandates of each development entity. Consequently, the strategic plans of the agencies, funds and programmes must remain dynamic and flexible in order to adapt to diverse local priorities and conditions. It would be equally important to address the imbalance between core and non-core funding and define the concept of critical mass of core resources.

The meeting rose at 4.25 p.m.