

United Nations Economic and Social Council
Operational Activities for Development Segment
New York, 20 - 22 May 2025

Keeping the promise on sustainable development in times of uncertainty – The United Nations development system delivering for results

Background

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) operational activities for development segment (OAS) serves as the accountability and oversight platform for the United Nations development system (UNDS) to accelerate system-wide performance and results in support of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. The General Assembly has also emphasized that at the segment, Member States will exercise oversight on implementation of the resolution on repositioning of the United Nations development system.

The 2025 segment will be the first opportunity for ECOSOC to guide the overall progress of the UNDS, including the Resident Coordinator system, in implementation of General Assembly resolution [79/226](#) on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for the United Nations development system (QCPR) and related mandates.¹

The QCPR emphasizes the role of the General Assembly in developing system-wide policy orientation and operational modalities for the UNDS. The ECOSOC OAS focuses on the coordination, coherence, effectiveness and efficiency of United Nations operational activities for development and provides the critical space for exchanging views on key results, lessons learned and challenges in QCPR implementation, with a view to have Member States policy guidance and recommendations to strengthen UNDS delivery.²

The segment is organized under item 7 of the Council's [agenda](#), “Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation” and its sub-items (a) to (c).

¹ General Assembly resolutions [72/279](#), [76/4](#).

² Paragraphs 92, 93, and 127.

Documentation

The segment will be informed by the 2025 report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the comprehensive quadrennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system and the 2025 report of the Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group. Additional documentation will be added to the segment webpage as it becomes available.

Meeting participation

To encourage interactive dialogue, groups and Member States are invited to provide their formal statements on progress in implementing General Assembly resolutions 79/226 and 72/279 to the Secretariat (qcpr@un.org) in advance of the segment. The statements will be posted on the QCPR website. The views and main points presented in the statements will be reflected in the Vice-President's Summary of the segment.

There will be no pre-established list of speakers for the interactive discussions and the time limit for interventions is 2-3 minutes. The time limit will be strictly implemented, including through microphone cutoff, as necessary.

Side events

A limited number of side events, closely linked to the OAS programme focus, can be organized on the margins of the segment, subject to the restrictions and measures to respond to the United Nations resource constraints. [ECOSOC OAS 2025 Side Event Request Form](#).

Outcome

The ECOSOC Vice-President will provide a Vice-President's Summary after the segment.

The ECOSOC membership is expected to adopt an intergovernmental decision on operational activities for development, following the OAS, in line with ECOSOC's oversight functions over the new Resident Coordinator system.

Website

All information will be posted as it becomes available:

[Guiding Operational Activities for Development | Economic and Social Council](#)

Programme

Keeping the promise on sustainable development in times
of uncertainty – The United Nations development system
delivering for results

ECOSOC Chamber, New York, 20 – 22 May 2025

DAY 1: TUE 20 MAY High-level	DAY 2: WED 21 MAY	DAY 3: THU 22 MAY
<p>10:00 AM – 10:30 AM 1. Opening of the segment</p> <p>10:30 AM – 1: 00 PM 2. Supporting the front-lines of operational activities for development: Messages from the field</p>	<p>10:00 AM – 1:00 PM 4. Dialogue with the Deputy Secretary-General on the UNSDG Chair’s report on the Development Coordination Office and the Resident Coordinator system</p>	<p>10:00 AM – 12:00 PM 7. Effective accountability: UN system evaluation Report of the System-wide Evaluation Office (SWEO) Dialogue on recent evaluation results and management response</p> <p>12:00 PM – 1:00 PM 8. Effective accountability: Action for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment</p>
	Side Event tbc	Side Event tbc
<p>3:00 PM – 6:00 PM 3. High-level Dialogue with the Secretary-General on his report on the Implementation of General Assembly resolution 79/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system</p>	<p>3:00 PM – 4:30 PM 5. Dialogue with UNDS Executive Heads: Supporting countries to achieve sustainable development in the current context</p> <p>4:30 PM – 6:00 PM 6. SDG financing at the country level: dialogue with UN country teams and other actors</p>	<p>3:00 PM – 4:30 PM 9. Supporting countries in implementing the SDGs in complex settings: interlinkages between development and peacebuilding</p> <p>4:30 PM – 5:45 PM 10. Development needs and solutions for internally displaced persons</p> <p>5:45 PM– 6:00 PM 11. Closing</p>

DAY 1 – Tuesday, 20 May 2025

10:00 AM – 10:30 AM**1. Opening of the segment**

10:30 AM – 1:00 PM**2. Supporting the front-lines of operational activities for development: Messages from the field**

As the United Nations marks its 80th anniversary and the 2024 QCPR provides a renewed guidance from United Nations Member States for the UN development system – and coming on the heels of the SDG Summit and the Pact for the Future – this session will be an opportunity to hear from programme country Governments across different country contexts, including from Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States, Landlocked Developing Countries, or Middle-Income Countries, and their UN development system partners in two panels.

The first panel will provide an opportunity to share experiences of the development system's support for national development pathways to eradicate poverty and address critical sustainable development challenges in their specific country context, including in areas of food security, empowerment of women and girls, jobs and social protection, closing digital divides, combatting climate change and building resilience against and preventing disasters. Discussion will also focus on how the repositioning of the United Nations development system supports country efforts to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals in an integrated and innovative manner.

Guiding questions:

- How has the UN development system helped catalyze country policy changes for key national development priorities?
- What lessons can be drawn from your country's experience with the UN support in driving policy changes for sustainable development?

The second panel will be an opportunity to learn about good practices, experiences, performance gaps and needs in supporting programme countries to ensure their means of implementation to accelerate sustainable development progress. This will include support in scaling up national policy, regulatory and institutional capacity, mobilizing finance, sectoral expertise and new structural development priorities, including in data and digital economies and societies. Speakers will share how UN

country teams can provide a stronger policy-centred approach to results, including through implementation of the new Funding Compact, for more effective and efficient delivery.

Guiding questions:

- What lessons are transferable to other country settings from your country's experience with the UN support in enhancing national capacities, particularly in data and digital economies?
- How has the Funding Compact 2.0 been utilized at country level, including through efforts to enhance joint resource mobilization to maximize the impact of UN country team support?

3:00 PM – 6:00 PM

3. High-level Dialogue with the Secretary-General on his report on the Implementation of General Assembly resolution 79/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

The Secretary-General will present his report on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 79/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (QCPR) that was adopted in December 2024 and sets out the vision for the United Nations development system to enable more effective support to countries to accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the last mile of the 2030 Agenda. The Secretary-General will update on the status of the development system and situation that has built on its reform. The Secretary-General will set out the key priorities that the system will take forward and challenges the system must address, where Member States can provide guidance and recommendations for further progress and transformations.



DAY 2 – Wednesday, 21 May 2025

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

4. Dialogue with the Deputy Secretary-General on the UNSDG Chair's report on the Development Coordination Office and the Resident Coordinator system

This session will include the presentation and discussion of UNSDG Chair's report on the Development Coordination Office (DCO) and the Resident Coordinator system. As the key forum for providing oversight for the Resident Coordinator system, the dialogue will be the opportunity for Member States to review results enabled by the reinvigorated Resident Coordinator system and challenges that remain for the Resident Coordinator system to deliver on its mandate. Guided by the 2024 QCPR, the dialogue will provide strategic direction and guidance for the Resident Coordinator system moving forward, outlining Member States' expectations, areas requiring further attention and how best to enable the Resident Coordinator system to support acceleration and country level implementation of the SDGs.

3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

5. Dialogue with UNDS Executive Heads: Supporting countries to achieve sustainable development in the current context

The dialogue will look at concrete actions of the UN development system entities working together to accelerate progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda in its three dimensions: economic, social, and environmental, with special attention to the needs of countries in special situations. Executive Heads, faced with increasing funding constraints, will discuss measures they are taking, in line with the 2024 QCPR, to adjust their business models and scale up joint work to advance key transitions to deliver better country support, while increasing efficiencies, including through enhanced coordination.

Discussions will touch on areas of work that exemplify the integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda, and how development system entities are adapting their development operations in the current context challenged by the impacts of global crises, fragility and conflict, as well as challenges to multilateralism. These discussions will be supported with examples of cross-cutting actions, such as how the UN development system is working together to advance efforts to address development challenges and scale up means of implementing the 2030 Agenda at an accelerated pace.

Guiding questions:

- How are agencies aligning their strategic plans with the 2024 QCPR and UNDS reform priorities?
- What are the key enablers and obstacles to improved collaboration among UNDS entities at the country level?
- What efforts are being made to ensure a funding approach that is strategically aligned to national priorities, including in relation to resource mobilization efforts?

4:30 PM – 6:00 PM

6. SDG financing at the country level: dialogue with UN country teams and other actors

The session will explore how the United Nations development system helps countries unlock financing and investments for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through innovative approaches and stronger coordination at the country level. In response to the evolving financing landscape and building on the 2024 QCPR mandate, the session will feature best practices in identifying opportunities for investments, unlocking multistakeholder financing, and aligning public and private finance with national development priorities. This session will also showcase how UN entities and other actors, including international financial institutions, multilateral development banks, national development banks, can collaborate to deliver concrete solutions on the ground, which are tailored to diverse country contexts and maximize development impact – by supporting Governments to design and implement public strategies and systems that attract investment, mobilize domestic resources, and leverage catalytic partnerships.

Guiding questions:

- How are UN country teams leveraging Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs) to mobilize SDG-aligned investments?
- What strategies are proving most effective for unlocking private and blended finance at the country level?
- What partnerships are being pursued by the UN country teams to leverage the potential of other actors operating on the ground for maximum impact on advancing development?



DAY 3 – Thursday, 22 May 2025

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

7. Effective accountability: UN system evaluation

- Report of the System-wide Evaluation Office (SWEO)
- Dialogue on recent evaluation results and management response

This session will include a presentation by the Executive Director of the System-Wide Evaluation Office (SWEO) of their annual report of the System-wide Evaluation Office (SWEO). The presentation will cover the system wide evaluation policy and the implementation of the policy, highlights of the Office's work in 2024, and programme of work for 2025. Member States will be given a chance to ask any questions related to the report. This will be followed by a presentation of recent evaluations conducted by the Office of Internal Oversight Services and the System-Wide Evaluation Office, including the evaluation on the role of Resident Coordinators in complex settings and preliminary findings of the on-going system-wide evaluation on country programme derivation from Cooperation Frameworks and UNCT configuration. This will be followed by an inclusive conversation between panelists and Member States focused on progress aimed at strengthening the internal oversight of the United Nations development system.

Guiding questions:

- What concrete actions are being taken to enhance evaluation of UNDS results, including by harmonizing evaluation norms and standards among UNDS entities?
- What mechanisms exist to ensure recommendations from OIOS evaluations of the Resident Coordinator system and United Nations system-wide evaluations are implemented and used to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of operational activities for development?

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

8. Effective accountability: Action for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment

The session will explore how the United Nations development system is advancing a victim-centred, accountable, and transparent approach to preventing and responding to sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment. In response to

the 2024 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review's call for urgent action, the United Nations development system has made important progress in strengthening accountability and transparency. The session will highlight progress made across entities and country teams - such as the rollout of action plans, the deployment of victim support functions and strengthened reporting to governing bodies. The session will include a global level overview on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and hear from the country level to explore how these policies are operationalized in local contexts. It will also confront critical gaps, including underreporting, limited whistleblower protection and insufficient dedicated roles at the country level. Through interactive discussion, the session will identify ways to institutionalize good practices, scale up coordinated efforts, and reinforce the UN's zero-tolerance policy through effective accountability and survivor-focused support.

Guiding questions:

- What are the most persistent and/or pressing gaps, or systemic barriers, in PSEAH implementation across the UN and why do they remain unresolved?
- How can reporting mechanisms be improved to ensure that they are accessible, trusted, harmonized and lead to tangible outcomes?
- What investments and capacity enhancement measures are needed and/or lacking for sustaining long-term PSEAH initiatives?

3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

9. Supporting countries in implementing the SDGs in complex settings: interlinkages between development and peacebuilding

This session will provide a platform for Member States to engage in an exchange on how the United Nations development system can better support countries in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in different complex settings.

The cost of addressing conflicts is disproportionately higher than investing in conflict prevention and sustaining peace. The session will showcase how investment in long-term development is an investment in sustaining peace. It will also explore how investing in peacebuilding efforts contributes to development and achieving peaceful societies, by strengthening their resilience and cohesion, enabling social dialogue, as well as building inclusive state institutions.

Member States will have an opportunity to engage directly with key actors to better understand the extent to which shifts in strategic planning have translated into action at the country level, including through joint UN development programmes financed by the Peacebuilding Fund, and identify actions to strengthen the development response in complex settings.



Guiding questions:

- How could current initiatives on United Nations development system reform contribute to better coordination that enhances interlinkages between interventions in complex settings for greater development impact?
- How is the United Nations development system supporting countries on the availability and accessibility of data to support SDG implementation in complex settings?

4:30 PM – 5:45 PM

10. Development needs and solutions for internally displaced persons

The 2024 QCPR resolution for the first time made internal displacement explicitly a responsibility also of the development system. Addressing the root causes of forced and protracted displacement and facilitating access to durable development solutions for internally displaced persons is a priority. Building on the momentum generated by the Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement and the progress made in 15 pilot countries —where national and subnational plans now cover solutions for over 11 million displaced persons—the session will highlight good practices, challenges, and opportunities for scaling up efforts. The session will discuss how to embed durable development solutions for internally displaced persons into development planning and ensure sustained engagement across the United Nations system and beyond. The session will open with a global look at how the UN and international financial institutions are addressing internal displacement through development and financing efforts, followed by country-level insights and best practices.

Guiding questions:

- What role does the UNDS play in supporting durable development solutions for internally displaced persons?
- What operational and capacity enhancement measures are needed to provide the most effective options to deliver those solutions, and ensure agility in the operational footprint to scale down when support is no longer needed?
- How can data and evidence be better utilized to inform programming and policy for IDPs?

5:45 PM – 6:00 PM

11: Closing
