

UNDP Segment of the First Regular Session 2020 of the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS

INDIA STATEMENT

By

Ms. Vidisha Maitra

First Secretary

4 February 2020

Thank you Mr. President for giving me the floor. I take this opportunity to deliver the following remarks on behalf of my country in national capacity.

Let me begin by thanking Administrator Achim Steiner for his comprehensive statement and, most importantly, for his remarkable contribution to the management of this critical and complex organization. We see in him a champion of development and we wish him continued success in his endeavours in addressing future challenges.

Mr. President,

Allow me to also congratulate the UNDP team and the Secretariat of the Board for their tremendous and tireless efforts to ensure the success of the first session of the Executive Board in 2020. We have no doubts that this session, during the first year of the 'Decade of Action', will contribute in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the organisation and to streamline better delivery of its mandate.

Among the various issues discussed by the Board in this session and during this year, one of the most crucial, if not the most important, is the

implementation of UNDS reforms. We have taken note of the progress update by UNDP on its support in the implementation of the UNDS repositioning process, including UNDP's role as the primary business services provider to RC offices worldwide. Indeed, UNDP's contribution - by providing significant inputs, supporting implementation, making necessary internal adjustments and alignments - in ensuring a smooth transition to the new system and repositioning of the UN Development System is commendable.

While it is understandable that every reform measure would need time to take roots before delivering its fruits, it is also imperative that the implementation of reforms is constantly monitored and evaluated to ensure that they provide the results for which they were instituted in the first place. In this regard, we support the statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of Rwanda on behalf of the African group. We too underscore the importance of implementation of the key reform measures without adversely affecting the overarching original objective: eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions and ensuring sustainable development, which was reaffirmed in General Assembly Resolution 72/279.

Mr. President,

For India, and indeed most of the developing world, there cannot be any compromise on the ambition of the Agenda 2030 and its fulfilment. And the reforms cannot, and should not, become an impediment in speedy implementation of the Country programs. Developing countries look upto UNDP with immense hope and aspirations to make sure that our common development objectives are fulfilled.

India and UNDP share one of the longest and largest developmental partnerships. As one of the biggest contributors to UNDP among the developing countries, we take keen interest in the organisations' success and in our collective efforts to implement the mandate of the UNDP. Please be rest assured of our steadfast commitment to UNDP, in ensuring the fullest implementation of Agenda 2030.

Thank you Mr. President.
