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Investing in rural people

Update on IFAD's Engagement in the Reform of the United Nations Development System

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Abbreviations and acronyms

ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
IFAD11	Eleventh Replenishment of IFAD's Resources
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
MERCOSUR	Common Market of the South
RBA	Rome-based agency
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SSTC	South-South and Triangular Cooperation
UNCT	United Nations country team
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDS	United Nations Development System
UNSDG	United Nations Sustainable Development Group
WFP	World Food Programme

Update on IFAD's Engagement in the Reform of the United Nations Development System

I. Purpose

1. Following discussions with the IFAD Executive Board in September 2018, this paper is presented to update the Board on the latest developments related to the reform of the United Nations Development System (UNDS). It also provides an overview of actions taken and planned by IFAD to implement the United Nations General Assembly Resolution on the reform of the UNDS.
2. The paper is not intended to provide an exhaustive account of how IFAD is responding to all areas of reform, but focuses on proposals that have immediate implications for IFAD. Given its importance to UNDS reform, this update pays special attention to the implementation plan for the reinvigorated resident coordinator system along with other areas that are important to highlight at this stage.

II. United Nations General Assembly resolution 72/279

3. Resolution A/RES/72/279 on the reform of the UNDS was adopted by the General Assembly on 31 May 2018. The resolution, included in appendix 1, identifies six key areas of transformation for the UNDS in delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): (i) a new generation of United Nations country teams; (ii) reinvigorating the role of the resident coordinator system; (iii) revamping the regional approach; (iv) strategic direction, oversight and accountability for system-wide results; (v) funding the UNDS; and (vi) following up on the repositioning efforts of the UNDS at the global, regional and country levels.

III. Key processes

4. Since the last update to the Board in September, IFAD has been engaged in several discussions on UNDS reform. These include: (i) dialogue with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) during the annual joint informal meeting of the FAO Council and the IFAD and WFP Executive Boards on 14 September; (ii) a discussion with the head of the United Nations repositioning transition team¹ on 17 September; (iii) an exchange with the Utstein Group at FAO headquarters on 21 September; and (iv) discussions at the United Nations headquarters in New York, which included participating in the Funding Dialogue with the Deputy Secretary-General and the meeting of the Utstein Group on 5 November. In addition, a meeting was held with the Inter-Agency Team Leader² of the Business Innovations Results Group³ on UNDS reform at the end of September.
5. IFAD is strengthening its engagement in working groups established to advance UNDS reform and representatives from IFAD have been nominated as members of two United Nations-wide working groups on the reform process. The SDG Implementation Strategic Results Group is tasked with developing a new United Nations system-wide strategy document and the Headquarters Reference Group was formed to develop guidance for the new generation of United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs). Both the new system-wide strategy document and guidance for new UNDAFs are expected by March 2019. In addition, IFAD is an active participant in the High-Level Committee on

¹ Robert Piper.

² Robert Turner.

³ The Business Innovations Results Group is one of the four strategic results groups set up by the Secretary-General to take the reform agenda forward. The other groups are devoted to SDG implementation, strategic financing and strategic partnerships.

Management, which focuses on United Nations reform and business process issues including compliance with objectives related to increasing efficiencies at headquarters and in the field.

6. In order to ensure that UNDS reform proposals are implemented in a timely manner, IFAD has developed a tracking matrix identifying required actions for IFAD, including deadlines, roles and responsibilities. The matrix was reviewed by the Operational Management Committee and endorsed by the Executive Management Committee. Progress against key deliverables in the matrix is tracked periodically.

IV. Resident coordinator system

7. As mentioned above, a more empowered, impartial and better resourced resident coordinator system is one of the core components of UNDS reform. On 14 September 2018, the Secretary-General transmitted to all UNDS principals the final implementation plan for the inception phase of the reinvigorated resident coordinator system.
8. The implementation plan outlines actions to ensure that the new resident coordinator system is operational in 2019. The plan focuses on creating an authorizing environment for a resident coordinator system, separated from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) resident representative, by assessing all administrative, legal and oversight arrangements. This requires the: establishment of a funding platform for contributions to the new system; development of a new job description for resident coordinators; establishment of posts in the Secretariat to host the reinvigorated resident coordinator system and the United Nations Development Operations Coordination Office; design of transitional administrative arrangements for offices of the resident coordinator in the field; and issuance of letters of appointment to resident coordinators. Arrangements for increased cost-sharing contributions from the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) members will also be needed.
9. IFAD supports the new resident coordinator system, including a strengthened United Nations country team (UNCT) and UNDAFs. The Fund has prepared revised guidelines for results-based country strategic opportunities programmes, which outline the need for IFAD to align its country programmes with UNDAFs. IFAD's organizational decentralization is allowing country directors to engage proactively in UNCT and UNDAF processes, and with the broader development community present in each country. The planned realignment of IFAD's organizational architecture at headquarters, including through the merger of the Global Engagement and Multilateral Relations Division and the Office of Partnership and Resource Mobilization, aims to ensure that the Fund can coordinate its engagement in United Nations reform processes more effectively.
10. Efforts to strengthen partnerships and coordination with the Rome-based agencies (RBAs) are also aimed at enhancing United Nations coherence and improving effectiveness and efficiency at the country level. The RBAs are preparing joint inputs for the UNDAF and identifying countries where joint RBA country strategies can be developed in the near future. Several IFAD Country Offices are co-located with the offices of other RBAs, providing opportunities for creating synergies, improving coordination and maximizing efficiency in corporate services.
11. IFAD has committed to the doubling of cost-sharing arrangements, as emphasized in the General Assembly resolution, to ensure that the new resident coordinator system is properly resourced. Provisions for enhanced budgetary allocations have been made in the proposed 2019 programme of work and budget. IFAD is committed to making its contribution in a timely manner once the Board recommends the approval of next year's budget to the Governing Council.
12. In line with the General Assembly resolution, IFAD country directors will share with resident coordinators the results of IFAD programming at the country level in

furthering achievement of the SDGs. Country directors have been requested to discuss the reporting formats and timelines with resident coordinators. As part of dual reporting to resident coordinators, IFAD has taken note of the requirement for all agencies with a defined role in UNDAFs to introduce a UNCT-related performance indicator into their corporate planning and appraisal mechanisms. IFAD's Human Resources Division has been tasked with developing a format and process for ensuring that this can be accomplished within the required timeframe. IFAD Management will decide based on the competing responsibilities of country directors and country programme managers, including the delivery of country programmes.

13. Finally, the implications for IFAD of the 1 per cent coordination levy on tightly earmarked third-party non-core contributions to UNDS activities can only be assessed once the planned implementation document from the United Nations Controller is made available. This document is expected to provide greater clarity on definitions, methodology and implementation of the levy.

V. Other areas of reform

14. While the resident coordinator system has garnered a great deal of attention from Member States and UNDS entities, progress on other UNDS work streams continues. IFAD continues to monitor developments and contribute to UNDS reform in several other areas.
15. A strengthened regional approach. General Assembly Resolution 72/279 reaffirms the role of UNDS at the regional level – including United Nations regional economic commissions and UNDS regional teams – but calls for revamping these structures. The resolution recognizes that many of the development challenges to achieving the SDGs transcend individual country boundaries, and that new approaches are required to ensure that the UNDS is fit for purpose in meeting these challenges.
16. In line with commitments to the Eleventh Replenishment of IFAD's Resources (IFAD11), the Fund is developing an innovative approach to regional operations. The aim is to articulate how IFAD can best lend its development assistance to address priorities at the regional and sub-regional levels through a mix of lending and non-lending instruments. Completion of work to articulate this regional approach is expected in 2019; the results will be presented to the Board.
17. In the meantime, IFAD is sharpening its regional focus through South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC); the provision of grants for agriculture research, capacity-building, policy dialogue, knowledge and analysis; and engaging with United Nations regional economic commissions on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. It is also ramping up dialogue with other important regional and sub-regional bodies such as the African Union, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR).
18. Monitoring and reporting on system-wide results. The General Assembly resolution stresses the need to improve monitoring and evaluation (M&E) on system-wide results. In this regard, as one example, the RBAs are working collectively to develop indicators to assess the results of collaboration, especially of joint action at the country level, to meet the SDGs. Moreover, given the numerous challenges faced in assessing the results of SSTC in agriculture and rural development, the RBAs have embarked on developing a methodology for assessing the contribution of SSTC to development results. This methodology will be of use to both the RBAs and the wider United Nations system. In addition to the aforementioned RBA initiatives, IFAD is an active member of the United Nations Strategic Planning Network and the United Nations Evaluation Group. Through its active participation in these processes, IFAD is contributing to improving M&E

within the United Nations system by exploring innovative M&E methods to capture system-wide results.

19. Strengthened partnership with the Executive Board. As noted in the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, there is a need to enhance system-wide coherence, reduce duplication and build synergies across governing bodies of UNDS entities. As a result, UNDS entities have been called upon to "initiate discussions on improving the working methods of the joint meetings of the Executive Boards so that they offer a platform for exchange on issues with cross-cutting impact".⁴
20. IFAD values the strategic direction and oversight provided by the Executive Board and is committed to enhancing dialogue between Management and Member States. Several actions are being taken and planned to this end, including: periodic Board retreats with the participation of IFAD Management (the next retreat is being planned for the first quarter of 2019); frequent consultation with Convenors and Friends on Board matters and related governance issues; dedicated annual Board visits to IFAD country programmes; enabling the participation of more than one delegate from Member States in Board meetings; and measures to improve efficiency in the sessions of the Board (including timely provision of documents and restricting the length of Management introductory remarks on Board documents). Annual informal joint meetings of the FAO Council and the IFAD and WFP Boards have been initiated as a means for the RBAs to discuss issues of mutual interest.

VI. Efficiency gains

21. One of the major objectives of reform is for individual United Nations organizations and the entire UNDS to pursue efficiency gains in implementing the 2030 Agenda and achieving the SDGs. In line with the reform process, IFAD's Operational Excellency for Results initiative aims to identify efficiencies while ensuring that IFAD is fit for purpose and effective in delivering on its mandate.
22. A number of initiatives are currently being implemented to improve IFAD's institutional efficiency. They include: (i) decentralization of staff and delegation of authority for selected administrative processes to the country level; (ii) closer cooperation with the RBAs on business processes (e.g. common procurement activities in the framework of the High-Level Committee on Management Procurement Network and the Common Procurement Team of the RBAs, and joint negotiation of corporate airline fares); (iii) a rationalized budget process; (iv) improved modalities for working with governing bodies; (v) continuous improvement of information and communications technology platforms; (vi) innovative financing mechanisms; (vii) strengthened risk management; and (viii) an improved organizational architecture, including the establishment of a change, delivery and innovation unit. This unit is expected to assist IFAD in sharing knowledge and promoting innovation in the years to come.
23. At the country level, a strengthened country-based business model will also contribute to improved efficiency. This will be achieved through partnerships with governments, United Nations organizations including the RBAs, and other development actors, and by facilitating the wider participation of country directors in United Nations processes. Currently, more than 50 per cent of in-country IFAD offices are co-located with either FAO or WFP, advancing common business operations, enabling joint work and generating greater efficiencies. Pursuant to the target of 50 per cent common premises by 2021, IFAD will continue to identify and establish new joint locations whenever feasible, including financial appraisal of all options.

⁴ Joint Response of the Executive Board Secretariats of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP on Executive Board Working Methods.

24. IFAD is very conscious of the need for efficiencies. The actions listed above are just some of those being implemented towards this end. At the same time, it should be noted that realizing and quantifying efficiencies as a result of ongoing internal reforms will require enough time for these reforms to be fully established within IFAD's daily operations.

VII. Conclusion

25. IFAD supports United Nations reform and is committed to taking forward the proposals detailed in General Assembly resolution 72/279 in line with its mandate as a United Nations specialized agency and an international financial institution. Whenever possible, the Fund will take these proposals forward in collaboration with the other RBAs. In addition, the Fund will continue its participation in dialogue and take necessary steps to enhance the coherence of the entire UNDS for better results.

Seventy-second session
Agenda item 24 (a)

**Resolution adopted by the General Assembly
on 31 May 2018**

[without reference to a Main Committee ([A/72/L.52](#))]

72/279. 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

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution [71/243](#) of 21 December 2016 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system and its general guidelines and principles for the United Nations development system, to better position the United Nations operational activities for development to support countries in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁵

Taking note with appreciation of the reports of the Secretary-General on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review,⁶ and welcoming his efforts on the repositioning of the United Nations development system,

I

A new generation of United Nations country teams

1. *Welcomes* a revitalized, strategic, flexible and results- and action-oriented United Nations Development Assistance Framework as the most important instrument for the planning and implementation of United Nations development activities in each country, in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁵ to be prepared and finalized in full consultation and agreement with national Governments;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to lead the efforts of the entities of the United Nations development system to collaboratively implement a new generation of United Nations country teams, with needs-based tailored country presence, to be built on the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and finalized through open and inclusive dialogue between the host Government and the United Nations development system, facilitated by the resident coordinator, to ensure the best configuration of support on the ground, as well as enhanced coordination, transparency, efficiency and impact of United Nations development activities, in accordance with national development policies, plans, priorities and needs;

3. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to work, through the United Nations Sustainable Development Group and in consultation with the Member States concerned, to determine appropriate criteria with regard to the presence and composition of United Nations country teams, based on country development priorities and long-term needs and the approved United Nations Development Assistance Framework, in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and United Nations norms and standards;

⁵ Resolution [70/1](#).

⁶ [A/72/124-E/2018/3](#), [A/72/684-E/2018/7](#) and [A/73/63-E/2018/8](#).

4. *Further requests* the Secretary-General, in pursuance of General Assembly resolution [71/243](#), to conduct a review of the configuration, capacity, resource needs, role and development services of multi-country offices, in full consultation with the countries involved, to improve the contribution of the offices to country progress in achieving the 2030 Agenda, to be presented to the Economic and Social Council at the operational activities for development segment of its 2019 session;

5. *Calls upon* the entities of the United Nations development system to strengthen capacities, resources and skill sets to support national Governments in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and, where relevant, build capacities and expertise across United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to promote progress on those Goals lagging behind, in line with respective mandates and building on comparative advantages, and reducing gaps, overlaps and duplication across entities;

6. *Welcomes* measures by the Secretary-General to advance common business operations, where appropriate, including common back-offices, and with the target of 50 per cent common premises by 2021, to enable joint work and generate greater efficiencies, synergies and coherence, and requests the implementation of those measures in accordance with resolution [71/243](#);

II

Reinvigorating the role of the resident coordinator system

7. *Reaffirms* that the focus of the resident coordinator system should remain sustainable development, with the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions as its overarching objective, consistent with the integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda and in line with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and national leadership and ownership;

8. *Decides* to create a dedicated, independent, impartial, empowered and sustainable development-focused coordination function for the United Nations development system by separating the functions of the resident coordinator from those of the resident representative of the United Nations Development Programme, drawing on the expertise and assets of all United Nations development system entities, including non-resident agencies;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to strengthen the authority and leadership of resident coordinators, as the highest-ranking representatives of the United Nations development system, over United Nations country teams, and system-wide accountability on the ground for implementing the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and supporting countries in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda, through:

(a) Enhanced authority for the resident coordinator to ensure alignment of both agency programmes and inter-agency pooled funding for development with national development needs and priorities, as well as with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, in consultation with the national Government;

(b) Full mutual and collective performance appraisals to strengthen accountability and impartiality, with resident coordinators appraising the performance of United Nations country team heads and United Nations country team heads informing the performance assessment of resident coordinators;

(c) The establishment of a clear, matrixed, dual reporting model, with United Nations country team members accountable and reporting to

their respective entities on individual mandates, and periodically reporting to the resident coordinator on their individual activities and on their respective contributions to the collective results of the United Nations development system towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda at the country level, on the basis of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;

(d) Reporting by the resident coordinator to the Secretary-General and to the host Government on the implementation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;

(e) A collectively owned internal dispute resolution mechanism;

10. *Emphasizes* that adequate, predictable and sustainable funding of the resident coordinator system is essential to delivering a coherent, effective, efficient and accountable response in accordance with national needs and priorities, and in this regard decides to provide sufficient funding in line with the report of the Secretary-General,⁷ on an annual basis starting from 1 January 2019, through:

(a) A 1 per cent coordination levy on tightly earmarked third-party⁸ non-core contributions to United Nations development-related activities, to be paid at source;

(b) Doubling the current United Nations Development Group cost-sharing arrangement among United Nations development system entities;

(c) Voluntary, predictable, multi-year contributions to a dedicated trust fund to support the inception period;

11. *Strongly urges* all Member States to contribute to the trust fund, in particular as front-loaded contributions for the inception of the reinvigorated resident coordinator system, and in a timely manner, to ensure necessary, predictable and sustainable funding for the inception period;

12. *Calls upon* all Member States in the relevant governing bodies of all United Nations development system entities to ensure that all entities double their agreed contributions under the current United Nations Development Group cost-sharing arrangement;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the United Nations development system entities, to present an implementation plan for the inception of the reinvigorated resident coordinator system, including on the operationalization of its funding arrangements, to the General Assembly, before the end of the seventy-second session;

14. *Emphasizes* the need to ensure full achievement of the efficiency gains envisioned in the report of the Secretary-General⁷ in a timely manner and to redeploy these efficiency gains for development activities, including coordination;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report annually, starting in 2019, to the Economic and Social Council at its operational activities for development segment on the implementation of the reinvigorated resident coordinator system, including its funding, to ensure accountability towards Member States;

16. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit for the consideration of the General Assembly, before the end of its seventy-fifth

⁷ [A/72/684-E/2018/7](#).

⁸ The levy would not be charged on local government cost-sharing and cooperation among programme countries.

session, a review with recommendations on the functioning of the reinvigorated resident coordinator system, including its funding arrangement;

17. *Endorses* the transformation of the Development Operations Coordination Office to assume managerial and oversight functions of the resident coordinator system under the leadership of an Assistant Secretary-General and under the collective ownership of the members of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group, as a stand-alone coordination office within the Secretariat, reporting to the Chair of the Group, and requests the Chair to present a comprehensive report on an annual basis, including on the operational, administrative and financing aspects of the activities of the Office, to the Economic and Social Council at its operational activities for development segment;

III

Revamping the regional approach

18. *Reaffirms* the role and functions of the United Nations development system at the regional level, including the regional economic commissions and the regional teams of the United Nations development system, and underlines the need to continue to make them fit for purpose in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and to revamp the regional structures, recognizing the specificities of each region and bearing in mind that no one size fits all;

19. *Emphasizes* the need to address gaps and overlaps at the regional level, and endorses a phased approach to revamping the United Nations development system at the regional level, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To implement, as part of the first phase, the proposed measures to optimize functions and enhance collaboration at the regional and subregional levels;

(b) To provide options, on a region-by-region basis, for longer-term reprofiling and restructuring of the regional assets of the United Nations to the Economic and Social Council at the operational activities for development segment of its 2019 session;

IV

Strategic direction, oversight and accountability for system-wide results

20. *Takes note* of the proposal of the Secretary-General on the repositioning of the operational activities for development segment of the Economic and Social Council, and looks forward to the outcome of the ongoing review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution [68/1](#) of 20 September 2013;

21. *Also takes note* of the proposal of the Secretary-General to gradually merge the New York-based Executive Boards of funds and programmes, and urges Member States to continue making practical changes to further enhance the working methods of the Boards with the aim of improving the efficiency, transparency and quality of governance structures, including through deciding on ways to improve the functions of the joint meeting of the Boards;

22. *Stresses* the need to improve monitoring and reporting on system-wide results, and in this regard welcomes the strengthening of

independent system-wide evaluation measures by the Secretary-General, including improving existing capacities;

23. *Welcomes* the decision by the Secretary-General to brief the Economic and Social Council in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to ensure full transparency in the activities of the Board and improve its effective interaction with, and its responsiveness to, the Member States;

V

Funding the United Nations development system

24. *Recognizes* that significantly improving its voluntary and grant-based funding is vital to the successful repositioning of the United Nations development system, as well as to the strengthening of its multilateral nature, with the aim of better supporting countries in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda in line with national needs and priorities in a coherent and integrated manner;

25. *Welcomes* the call by the Secretary-General for a funding compact as a critical tool to maximize the investments of Member States in the United Nations development system and the system's transparency and accountability for system-wide actions and results, and, recognizing the need to address the imbalance between core and non-core resources, takes note of the proposals of the Secretary-General to bring core resources to a level of at least 30 per cent in the next five years and double both inter-agency pooled funds to a total of 3.4 billion United States dollars and entity-specific thematic funds to a total of 800 million dollars by 2023;

26. *Also welcomes* the proposal of the Secretary-General to establish a dedicated coordination fund, and in this regard invites Member States to provide voluntary contributions in the amount of 35 million dollars to the resident coordinator system, in support of system-wide activities on the ground associated with the implementation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;

27. *Invites* Member States to contribute, on a voluntary basis, to the capitalization of the Joint Fund for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at 290 million dollars per annum;

28. *Welcomes* the commitment of the Secretary-General to repositioning the United Nations development system in accordance with calls by Member States set out in resolution [71/243](#) and in the present resolution, recognizes that that commitment to reform is an essential component of a funding compact, and therefore requests the United Nations development system, as the starting point for its commitment to the funding compact:

(a) To provide annual reporting on system-wide support to the Sustainable Development Goals and present aggregated information on system-wide results by 2021;

(b) To comply with the highest international transparency standards to enhance transparency and access to financial information in all United Nations development system entities;

(c) To undergo independent system-wide evaluations of results achieved, at the global, regional and country levels;

(d) To comply with existing full-cost recovery policies and further harmonize cost recovery by individual United Nations development system entities through differentiated approaches;

- (e) To allocate, where applicable, at least 15 per cent of non-core resources for development to joint activities;
- (f) To enhance the visibility of Member State contributions to core resources and pooled funds, and related results;
- (g) To achieve efficiency gains as envisioned by the Secretary-General in his report;⁷
- (h) To achieve common results at the country level;

29. *Also welcomes* the proposal of the Secretary-General to launch a funding dialogue in 2018 with a view to finalizing a funding compact in the form of a commitment between the United Nations development system and Member States, and requests the Secretary-General to report on the outcome of the funding dialogue at the operational activities for development segment of the 2019 session of the Economic and Social Council, noting that the funding compact relates to voluntary funding of the United Nations development system, as well as to other contributions;

VI

Following up on the repositioning efforts of the United Nations development system at the global, regional and country levels

30. *Requests* the heads of the entities of the United Nations development system, under the leadership of the Secretary-General, to submit to the Economic and Social Council at the operational activities for development segment of its 2019 session, for consideration by Member States, a system-wide strategic document, in the light of the present resolution and in line with resolution [71/243](#), and to ensure that it is specific, concrete and targeted in addressing gaps and overlaps;

31. *Reaffirms* the role of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, and looks forward to the update by the Secretary-General to the Member States on the alignment of the Department with the 2030 Agenda, in accordance with General Assembly resolution [70/299](#) of 29 July 2016;

32. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure an effective and efficient transition to a repositioned United Nations development system, in particular to a reinvigorated resident coordinator system, including by giving due consideration to the role of a responsive United Nations Development Programme as the support platform of the United Nations development system providing an integrator function in support of countries in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda;

33. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Economic and Social Council on progress made in the implementation of the mandates contained in the present resolution and the mandates contained in resolution [71/243](#), as part of his annual reporting to the Council at the operational activities for development segment of its 2019 session, and to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session for further consideration by the Assembly and to inform the next cycle of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review to be launched in 2020.

*91st plenary meeting
31 May 2018*