68TH PERIOD OF SESSIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda Item 24: Operational Activities
STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ON BEHALF OF THE COMMUNITY OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES (CELAC)

New York, October 2013

68º PERIODO DE SESIONES DE LA ASAMBLEA GENERAL DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS
SEGUNDA COMISIÓN
Tema 24 de la Agenda: Actividades Operacionales

INTERVENCIÓN DE LA MISIÓN PERMANENTE DE CUBA ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS
EN NOMBRE DE LA COMUNIDAD DE ESTADOS LATINOAMERICANOS Y CARIBEÑOS (CELAC)

Nueva York, Octubre de 2013
Mr. President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). We appreciate the presentation by the Secretary General of the relevant reports and documentation under agenda item 24.

Mr. President,

CELAC Members attach great importance to the follow-up to the Operational Activities for Development. The UN Agencies, Funds and Programs, as well as Member States should base their actions in this field on the intergovernmentally agreed documents and guidelines, particularly resolution 67/226 (QCPR) and the previous TCPRs. We should also be guided by the relevant ECOSOC resolutions and Executive Board Decisions.

In this regard, allow me to share some elements of paramount importance to CELAC countries:

1. We reaffirm the principles and fundamental characteristics of Operational Activities for Developments, as agreed by this General Assembly in the abovementioned documents. In particular, we should continue to work in order to ensure that operational activities are undertaking under the leadership of national authorities of programme countries, in a way that respects their national development priorities, and under the mandates and responsibilities of each organization.

2. CELAC Members reaffirm that operational activities should focus in the development mandate of each entity, particularly the contribution to the eradication of poverty, as the overarching priority for the international community and the United Nations Development System.

3. We further reaffirm that the full implementation of the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review will allow the strengthening of ECOSOC’s role within its Charter mandate, in the overall coordination of funds, programmes and specialized agencies.

4. We reiterate our concern for the lack of progress on critical issues mandated by the General Assembly, such as strategies for the definition and implementation of the concept of Critical Mass of Resources; for addressing the imbalance between core and non-core resources; for increasing the support to South-South and
Triangular Cooperation, including through the strengthening of the Office for South-South Cooperation, and other important actions.

5. The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean firmly believe that the Agencies, Funds and Programmes should continue to have a role to play in addressing the particular development needs and goals of all developing countries, including Middle Income Countries. We reiterate the need to ensure and strengthen the involvement of these entities in our region, including through the physical presence in Middle Income Countries, particularly in the so-called “upper MICs”.

6. We reiterate that the implementation of the recently adopted Strategic Plans at the respective Executive Boards, must be dynamic and flexible, in order to allow the programmatic development activities to evolve, and adapt to the international environment, local conditions and the priorities of individual programme countries.

7. CELAC also advocates for a stronger voice and more effective participation of developing countries in the governance of the United Nations development system. We must devise innovative ways to enhance the capacity of developing countries to actively engage in the intergovernmental decision-making structures of the United Nations, especially the Executive Boards and Governing Councils of UN Funds and Programmes, in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical representation.

Mr. President,

To conclude, allow me to reiterate the commitment of CELAC Member States with the effective and efficient functioning of the UN Development System and its Operational Activities, as well as our support for this topic to be adequately reflected in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. You can count on our active and constructive engagement in that regard.

I thank you