Mr. President

Switzerland thanks the Secretary-General for the reports on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the QCPR, the analysis of funding of operational activities for development of the United Nations system for the year 2011, as well as on the on the state of South-South cooperation.

A year ago the Member States negotiated on the QCPR. After two and a half months we concluded the process with a strong resolution that takes stock of the impact of operational activities and gives clear policy guidance in all relevant areas for the UN development system. The resolution has been reached by consensus by the Member States and therefore enjoys a high legitimacy.

The guidance emanating from the resolution is substantial and the UN development system has four years to implement a host of requests with different timelines. We are pleased to see that the system has reacted promptly as we can observe from the progress made since the adoption of the resolution. Let me cite a few examples:
We appreciate that the Funds & Programmes have aligned their new Strategic Plans for the period 2014-2017 to the QCPR. Switzerland welcomes in particular the integration of common QCPR indicators in the recently adopted results frameworks, as this will improve both monitoring and implementation of the QCPR.

The first year of implementation has brought significant progress also in other areas: the preparation of the multi-year UNDG QCPR Action Plan has laid the ground for the work of the 3 years to come; the establishment of a cost sharing agreement for the Resident Coordinator system within the UNDG will give the RC System more stability in terms of resources. And the finalisation of the standard operating procedures will allow countries wishing to adopt the “Delivering as One” approach to make informed choices on how to achieve more impact through a coherent UN system.

I would like to address now three issues where my delegation would like to see a strong push for timely implementation:

First, while we see the progress that has been made with regard to the Standard Operating Procedures, we note that the process of developing the SOPs also has shed light on a number of supporting measures to be implemented at headquarters level to ensure a success of the SOPs in the countries. Those measures have been outlined for each of the “Ones” in an annex to the SOPs. We ask the UN Development Group members to fully implement the measures and we are looking forward to be updated on progress by the Funds and Programmes in early 2014.

Second, the Member States have formulated a set of requests in resolution 67/226 with regard to the simplification and harmonization of business practices in order to secure efficiency gains within the development system. These were followed up with a sequencing of activities in the ECOSOC resolution on progress in the implementation of the QCPR. Many of these measures will be discussed in the operational activities segment of the ECOSOC in 2014. We know that this is an ambitious timeline, but we nevertheless urge both the UN Development Group and the High Level Committee on Management to continue their effort to implement the requests.

Third, Switzerland is still concerned that the overall structure of funding does not provide the right incentives for a better coordinated and thus more effective development system. The
shrinking level of core resources is worrying in this respect. We would like to remind the Funds and Programmes of the request to present proposals for the concept of critical mass to the governing bodies by the end of 2013.

Before concluding I would like to address the implications of the recent reform of ECOSOC for the monitoring and reporting on resolution 67/226: The shift of the operational activities segment from July into February raises the question how to make all relevant data available for the deliberation of Member States, in particular since the reporting cycle of the Funds and Programmes is geared towards the annual session of the Executive Boards in June. We would like to hear from the Secretariat how a monitoring framework can be ensured that is both comprehensive and up to date, in order to inform the decision making process of Member States through ECOSOC.

I thank you for your attention.