Statement by Sergio Rodrigues dos Santos
Minister Plenipotentiary

14 October 2013

(Please check against delivery)
Mr. Chairman,

Brazil aligns itself with the statements delivered by Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and by Cuba on behalf of CELAC. We would like to add the following remarks in our national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

The United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes account for over 60% of all the activities carried out by the United Nations system. This makes the UN the single largest channel for directing multilateral funding under the framework of international cooperation for development.

Last year, the General Assembly adopted the QCPR, reflected in resolution 67/226, which provides the basis for the functioning of the UN operational activities for development. This year, we are tasked with following-up on the implementation of the policy guidance of the QCPR. This comes at a crucial moment when the Organization is engaged in the implementation of the results of the Rio+20 Conference and the preparation of the intergovernmental process leading to a post-2015 development agenda.

We need to make sure that all the relevant ECOSOC resolutions and Executive Board Decisions are taken into account in this exercise, including with regard to the independent system-wide evaluations. On the other hand, it will be important to ensure coherence with the implementation of the recently adopted reform of ECOSOC and the establishment of the High Level Political Forum.

Mr. Chairman,

The continued relevance of the United Nations operational activities for development largely depends on access to predictable, untied and increased funding in order to achieve a healthier balance between core and non-core resources and ensure that agencies, funds and programmes are better equipped to deliver on the high expectations of the international community. In that regard, we note with concern that, as mentioned in the SG's report (68/97) there has been a significant reduction in total contributions in 2011, which has impacted heavily on the funding of core resources.

The contribution of the UN Funds, agencies and programmes to poverty eradication will also depend essentially on their capacity to be present where their assistance is needed. This means being able to address, on the ground, the specific needs of all developing countries, including Middle Income Countries, which, together, concentrate the largest proportion of the global population living under the poverty line. These efforts, as always, need to be underpinned by the principle of national ownership, respecting the priorities of individual programme countries.

Mr. Chairman,
South-South and Triangular Cooperation is an important part of our collective efforts towards poverty eradication and the achievement of all the MDGs. It is not, however, a substitute for Official Development Assistance. In fact, it follows a completely different rationale, with an emphasis on ownership, non-conditionality and demand-driven assistance.

We thank the Secretary-General's report on the state of South-South Cooperation and reiterate our position in favor of mainstreaming this modality of cooperation into the work of the UN Funds, programmes and agencies through, inter alia, the strengthening of the Office of South-South Cooperation.

In concluding, Mr. Chairman, allow me to reiterate our commitment to a constructive engagement in the negotiations on the resolutions regarding operational activities for development and South-South cooperation.

Thank you.