Statement of the Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the United Nations on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States

Executive Board UNDP-UNFPA-UNOPS
Annual Session 2015
(New York, 8 June 2015)

UNDP Segment

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Mr. President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Member States of the Community of Latin America and the Caribbean States (CELAC).

CELAC countries would like to begin by recognizing the efforts of the UNDP Administrator and her team in preparing the report and relevant documentation to be considered by this Board, in particular the Annual Report of the Administrator on the Strategic Plan, the UNDP report on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in 2014, and the Annual report on the implementation of the UNDP gender equality strategy, 2014-2017.

Mr. President,

We consider that any programmatic activities by the UNDP, and the related indicators, must be demand-driven and adhere to the principle of voluntariness, taking into account the different development needs and objectives of programme countries.

CELAC countries look forward to the further strengthening of transparency, accountability and governance of the United Nations Development System. In that regard, the inclusiveness of its
governance structures, reflecting equitable representation of each region of the world, is of extreme importance. We reiterate our call for an urgent reform in the governance structure of the Executives Boards to make them more democratic and representative of the developing countries. Therefore, we consider that ECOSOC's dialogues on its longer-term positioning of the United Nations' Development System, in the context of the post-2015 Development Agenda, must bear results from the labour we have put in with regards to our requests for a transformed United Nations Development System, including the issue of its governance structures.

In that context, we stress the importance and particularities of south-south cooperation and the critical role of UNDP in that field, and we reaffirm our view of south-south cooperation as a concrete manifestation of solidarity among peoples and countries of the South that could contribute to their national well-being, enhance self-reliance and facilitate the attainment of nationally-set internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. It could also enable developing countries to play a more active role in international policy and decision-making processes, in support of their efforts to achieve sustainable development. South-South cooperation and the agendas that emanate from it have to be set by countries of the South and should continue to be guided by the principles of inclusiveness, respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs, and mutual benefit.

South-South cooperation is a rising and dynamic phenomenon, vital to confront the development challenges faced by developing countries. It is based in developing countries' own capacities, where sharing development experiences and good practices is key. However, it cannot, and should not, replace north-south cooperation. The increasing role of countries of the South in development cooperation shall not be used as an excuse for traditional donors for not honoring their commitments, or diminish the pace of their efforts in order to fulfill them. In order to help developing countries in fulfilling all international agreed development goals, it has to be supported and promoted by the United Nations. Cooperation between developing countries is
different from traditional North-South cooperation, which is accounted as Official Development Assistance (ODA) and must not be analyzed and evaluated using the same standards as those used for north-south cooperation.

We also call on the United Nations Development System to evaluate current challenges and lessons learned concerning its support to south-south cooperation and to intensify its efforts in that regard, including the mainstreaming of South-south cooperation in UN activities. CELAC countries strongly believe that south-south cooperation should be explicitly incorporated into the operational programs of all relevant bodies of the United Nations System and there should be regular consultations among them on the most effective way to support south-south cooperation.

Mr. President,

CELAC countries would like to reiterate that, as a region composed mostly by Middle-Income countries, the role of UNDP in supporting the design of programmes aimed at overcoming their development challenges, while respecting national ownership of development priorities, is critical. In this regard, the full support of the UN system is critical in promoting improvements in public health services, making them more sensitive to age, gender, ethnic and cultural diversity.

Finally, CELAC members call for the work of the Funds and Programmes to follow the new ECOSOC timeline and dynamics. We further call member states to consider the option to hold the future sessions of the Executive Boards, including annual sessions, in the United Nations Headquarters in New York, where the Operational Activities Segment is held, in order to ensure the participation of programme countries in all Board discussions and sessions.

Thank you

I thank you Mr. President.