



Statement by H.E. Dr. A.K Abdul Momen, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations, New York during the Debate of the Second Committee on Operational Activities for Development on 15 October 2012 at ECOSOC Chamber, NLB, UN Headquarters.

Statement of Bangladesh

Second Committee

67th UNGA

**The Permanent Mission of the
People's Republic of Bangladesh
to the United Nations**

New York

Mr. Chair,

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by Algeria on behalf of the Group of 77 & China.

This is the year of Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review-QCPR. This year, the member states will charter the future activities of all UN funds, programs and specialized agencies for the next four years. I am thankful to the Second Committee Bureau for realizing this fact and bringing the item for debate in the prior half of the schedule. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive reports for the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR).

We understand that, around 63% of the UN developmental activities are conducted under the ambit of the UN Funds and Programs. However, majority of UN political and social phenomena seem to revolve round other organizations. It is high time, we gave due time, space and considerations as to the plan, program, implementation and evaluations of UN operational activities vis-a-vis other UN activities. It may be mentioned here that, many development projects have been taken over years, but the capacity of UN to deliver those have been questioned at times. This is where we place utmost importance because the capacity of the institution is a hallmark to herald its reliability to respond to the development needs of the member states, especially the least developed countries.

In this context, it is our hope that, QCPR should lead to an ambitious outcome that determines the course of the operational activities for the next four years. It should make discernable difference in the way results are delivered for program countries. We would like to see a strengthened role of the UN operational activities for development and its capacity to assist developing countries in achieving their development goals which requires continued improvement in planning, effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and impact, along with a significant increase in resources.

Mr. Chair,

As we know, the UN development activities started to address the pressing needs of the member states that were unable to solve the problem by themselves or by other international financial institutes. Therefore, the operational activities of UN should remain voluntary and grant-based in distinction of the profit based international organizations. It should, in the same context, remain universal and cater to the national need of member states on the basis of national ownership and strategy. We in this regard, record our voice to uphold the agreements enshrined in the Accra Agenda Action to disburse any development assistance by international institutions on the basis of national ownership and country led priorities.

We echo with G-77 and China that, the operational activities should be carried out for the benefit of recipient countries, at the request of those countries and in accordance

with their own policies and priorities for development. The recipient country should be in the driving seat.

With dismay we notice that, despite repeated calls from the General Assembly, the imbalance or gap between core and non-core funding has worsened. This needs to be properly addressed. The increasing shift from core to non-core funding leads to fragmentation and can impair the effectiveness and efficiency of operational activities, as non-core resources are unpredictable, increases transaction costs, inefficiency, incoherence and fragmentation of the UN system, including at the country level, causing duplication among organizations, as well as inviting them to divert from their respective mandates. Efforts and incentive measures should be made for improving the quality of non-core subscriptions. In this regard, the qualitative and quantitative re-arrangement of the organogram of UN funds and programs and special agencies are crucial. To encourage core contributions, we endorse the proposal for increasing the membership from donor and prospective donor countries among non-DAC, non-OECD member states is praiseworthy. However, at the same time, we urge that there should be proper representation from the countries under special situations amongst the program countries.

We also flag our concern that, let alone the least developed countries, developing countries as a whole have discriminatingly discriminated as to the representation in the Chief Executive levels of the UN Funds and Programs and specialized agencies. We are thankful to the Heads of different UN Funds and Programs and Special Agencies who have so far done an outstanding job as to the UN operations are concerned, however, it remains a shaky inquisition that, the United Nations didn't find a single human being from the entire developing world to lead some of its organizations since their inceptions. We want a review of this trend and we want a system in place that promotes inclusiveness, underscore our demand for the proper geographical and gender based distribution of all professional level executives, which again has been painfully ignored or overlooked time and again.

Mr. Chair,

In Bangladesh, the government has taken extensive efforts to foster its development priorities through Public Private Partnership (PPP) in addition to traditional bilateral and multilateral processes. However, PPP is often stalled because of failure of the partners to bolster the ethos of national ownership and leadership of the development projects. I urge the UN to intermediate or mediate to close the deal by bridging the gap to build confidence and trusts amongst the development partners. Instead of just disbursement of grant and project, these systemic coordination help and procedural assistance of mediation between different development activities should be actively thought of in UN, which has so far been overlooked. We believe, if UN comes forward to unleash this new field of operation, most of its core resource problem could also be mitigated while the central and legitimate authorities of UN could be established more fashionably and effectively. We look forward to its reflection in the new QCPR and its implementation in aiding countries like Bangladesh in their PPP projects.

Finally, we urge that, the UN system should encourage and support the new and innovative programs taken by member states, especially the LDCs to address the new and burning issues such as climate vulnerabilities, food, fuel and energy crises, etc. In this regard, the UN operations should not be idiosyncratic; rather it should rise to support the individual need of individual country. We echo with G-77 that "no one size fits all" approach regarding the Delivery as One initiative of the UN. We reaffirm, and reiterate that this initiative can only be implemented upon request of the interested Member States and under their national plan, their strategy and ownership.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.