

Joint Declaration of Intent
by the
coalition for an impactful United Nations Development System
to
achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The multilateral system, with the UN at its centre, is increasingly under pressure due to growing, complex global challenges that require collective and coordinated responses. Uneven progress towards sustainable development, growing inequality, and escalating political polarization are undermining trust in the UN Development System as an effective multilateral player.

We, the signatories, reaffirm our commitment to the integrity and principles of UN multilateralism, underscoring its central role as a forum and actor for global problem-solving and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The United Nations Development System (UNDS) operates on the basis of values, standards and principles agreed upon by all member states, as outlined in the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR), and with the 2030 Agenda at its core.

We advocate for a UNDS that belongs to all and serves all. We see a need for a new UN solidarity: with and within the UNDS. We reaffirm the values, standards, and principles that guide the UNDS as well as the goals of General Assembly resolution 72/279 on the repositioning of the UNDS. We appreciate the important progress achieved so far and see the momentum for a new push towards continuous UNDS reform implementation, guided by the following principles:

A strong and inclusive UNDS to achieve the 2030 Agenda

We commit to the UNDS as a strong, inclusive platform and actor for global cooperation on sustainable development, based on multilaterally agreed standards, global frameworks and national priorities, providing the best solutions for achieving the SDGs in specific contexts.

We emphasize the importance of an inclusive approach to the implementation of the SDGs, ensuring that no one is left behind. We encourage active collaboration and engagement with all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, financial institutions, the private sector, and the academic and scientific community.

Financial sustainability and accountability

We underline that the provision of timely, more predictable, sustainable and adequate financing is essential for the institutions of the UNDS, as well as for the Resident Coordinator system, enabling them to fulfil their mandates, as stipulated in the reinvigorated Funding Compact.

We call on UNDS entities, funds and programmes to clearly align their resource mobilization with their strategic plans and programmes adopted by their respective governing bodies. Increased transparency of earmarked funds is essential to enhance trust and accountability.

We emphasize the value of core contributions, pooled funds and soft earmarking to disincentivize competition, strengthen normative work, and enable flexibility.

We call upon all contributors to aim to minimize tight earmarking where possible and to eliminate practices that promote duplication, competition and fragmentation, while fostering an enhanced spirit of cooperation and efficiency.

Collaboration and coordination

In line with the landmark General Assembly resolution 72/279 on the repositioning of the UNDS, a paradigm of collaboration at all levels of the system is necessary, in accordance with the *UN Delivering as One Approach*. To support a multilateral effort, we must favour joint approaches and prioritize shared goals over individual or institutional interests. We call on all entities to set clear incentives for staff in order to strengthen solidarity between and within UN agencies, and to prevent duplication and competition.

We advocate for a strong ONE-UN identity, based on strategic coordination and reducing overlaps between the different UNDS agencies.

We encourage the UNDS to seek closer and mutually beneficial collaboration with the Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs).

Enhanced partnerships and the principles of the effective development agenda will help maximize impact. By reaffirming these commitments, we aim to reinforce trust in the UNDS and reinvigorate its capacity to serve as a catalyst for sustainable development and global solidarity, recognizing these as essential foundations for lasting peace.