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Second Committee
Agenda item 24 (a)
“Operational activities for development”
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Statement

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Mr. Chairman,

At the outset our delegation would like to extend appreciation to the Secretary-General for the qualitative report prepared for this agenda item, which provides an analysis of the situation with financing for operational activities of the United Nations system over 2009.

The international community is left with only four years to implement the global development agenda built around the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals adopted in the Millennium Declaration.

This task requires to substantially scale up efforts in support of development at country level. This was the main message of the last year's both the high-level meeting of the UN General Assembly as well as the G-20 November Summit that endorsed the “Seoul Development Consensus”. Therefore, in the years to come the international community – states, international organizations, civil society and private sector – will have to much more effectively mastermind their work and pool efforts in this area within the Global Partnership for Development.

The United Nations system, of course, is not the only player in the area of global development. Yet, it is not a minor and insignificant one either, as it stands to account for about a fifth of the overall official development assistance.

In this regard we are pleased to see the growing contribution of UN organizations and agencies to support development as it comes to quantitative figures. At the same time in terms of quality of aid we cannot help but voice certain apprehension. Indeed, the growth of operational activities of the UN system, as the relevant report vividly showcases, takes part mainly due to the growth in non-core resources, whereas the share of core resources in the overall figure has seen a steady decline already for many years.

This trend certainly hampers UN operational activities agencies in complying with mandates assigned to them by Member States, for the simple reason that the non-core resources are neither a reliable nor predictable source of development support.

With this in mind we share the point from the Secretary-General's report that comprehensive strategic and multiyear frameworks for financing failed in general to produce greater predictability and reliability, as well as stability of financial flows for development.

When it comes to viewing the situation with aid through the categories of countries, it seems appropriate that the countries with low income receive the major share of resources from operational activities by the UN system. Yet, let us not forget about the need to support middle-income countries, which account for about two-thirds of all UN Member States and which experience specific problems of development of their own.

We believe that the time is indeed high for relevant UN agencies to develop strategies and mechanisms of co-operation and with the group of middle-income countries. Therefore, we await with interest the first regular session of the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS' Executive Board next year that is scheduled to discuss the issue of co-operation with middle-income countries. Belarus, as a member of the Board, will be ready to contribute to the effort. We are convinced that stability and progress of middle-income countries in their own development will have only a positive impact on the development of low-income countries. Thus, we deem it essential to foster co-operation between these two groups of countries.

UN system's operational activities for development should certainly be based on national strategic documents of those states that receive international assistance. On this occasion I would like to praise co-operation between Belarus and UN agencies in their last year's effort to jointly elaborate the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Belarus for the period of 2011-2015 as well as the UNDP Country Programme for Belarus for the same period and other documents, which in general properly build on national development priorities of Belarus and have acquired a pronounced social and economic bent. We need to continue working together to implement all the above programme documents for Belarus.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, the delegation of Belarus would like to stress the importance of next year's quadrilateral review of operational activities for development of the UN system, which, in our view, should give a new momentum to the latter in its effort to support global development.

Thank you for your kind attention.