



2026 Operational Activities for Development Segment – Session 9

3 June 2026

Malta statement delivered by H.E. Natasha Meli, Permanent Representative of
Malta to the United Nations

Thank you, Mr. Vice President,
Excellencies, Colleagues,

A warm thanks to ECOSOC Vice President, Ambassador Hernández, for inviting me to address this year's Operational Activities for Development Segment, and, for his acceptance to chair the discussions today.

Firstly, I would like to deliver some remarks in my national capacity, and I align with the statement that the European Union will deliver later.

Colleagues, from Malta's perspective, ECOSOC's oversight role should remain focused on ensuring that the UN development system delivers concrete results for countries and communities, particularly in an increasingly challenging global environment.

Malta values a UN development system that is coordinated, efficient and responsive to national priorities. We believe that oversight should place greater emphasis on measuring impact, reducing fragmentation, and ensuring that resources are used effectively to achieve sustainable development outcomes.

Towards this end, we encourage ECOSOC to continue promoting stronger coordination across the UN system, while ensuring that reporting remains streamlined and focused on results rather than processes. Greater accountability should be accompanied by greater coherence.

In its recommendations to the General Assembly, ECOSOC could highlight the importance of maintaining a strong and well-resourced Resident Coordinator system, improving collaboration across UN entities, and ensuring that the specific needs and vulnerabilities of small states are adequately reflected in development programming.



And now please allow me to deliver some remarks in my capacity as Co-Facilitator of the General Assembly Review of ECOSOC and the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and I thank my fellow Co-Facilitator, Ambassador Jackman, for following by also sharing his valuable insights.

We very much welcome the progress made so far in improving delivery and accountability across the UN development system, in particular since 2018.

The focus of today's discussion, on "Improving UN Development System Governance, oversight and coordination among Governing bodies, including Executive Boards, with ECOSOC at the core", is especially timely as the UN80 Initiative aims to transform the UN system to better coordinate and deliver for countries.

These discussions are also pertinent to the General Assembly Review of ECOSOC and the HLPF. As you know, we began the process in February of this year and moved to a line-by-line negotiation on the revised zero-draft on 18 May.

We are encouraged by the strong support among delegations for a more efficient, effective, impactful and action-oriented ECOSOC and HLPF. A central focus is on strengthening the link between global commitments and policy guidance with implementation at the national level.

On ECOSOC, the draft resolution includes provisions to strengthen the Council's role, leadership and working methods, enhance its segments, forums and meetings for greater impact, and strengthen the Council's coordination and oversight of its subsidiary bodies.

The draft also encourages the Council to strengthen its work on the follow-up to intergovernmentally agreed outcomes of major conferences and summits in the field of sustainable development, such as the Doha Programme of Action for LDCs, the Awaza Programme of Action for LLDCs, and the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States, including by more clearly linking normative guidance to delivery on the ground.

I look forward to continuing to work together towards a more coherent, effective and accountable United Nations development system.

I thank you, Mr. Vice President.