QCPR? What is it...

April 24, 2020, UNITAR training

Marion Barthélemy
Director
Office for intergovernmental Support and coordination
UN DESA

Markus Reisle
Counsellor
Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the UN
QCP R (A/RES/71/243)
(of operational activities for development of the United Nations system)

• Q = quadrennial = 4 years
  Resolution discussed every four years in the second committee of the General Assembly (2012, 2016, 2020, before 2012 it was TCPR (3 yr)), but the follow-up of its implementation is done yearly in the ECOSOC OAS (operational activities segment) resolution. The Second committee also has a yearly resolution on the QCPR, mostly procedural or to bring the ECOSOC updates into the GA.

• C = comprehensive = all UN development, but...
  Should cover all aspects of operational activities for development of the United Nation system. More than 30 UN entities (funds and programs, specialized agencies) are active in development. UNSDG (United Nations Sustainable Development Group) or UNDS (United Nations development system, generic name, no official list of members) are usually considered as the operational activities for development of the United Nation system.

• P = policy = strategic, but...
  The resolution focuses on the policy level. It gives guidance on how the UNDS should work and includes some normative elements that are valid for all (Agenda 2030). The resolution gives also practical guidance that are more specific than a policy! It has become a mix of strategic and policy level and more operational aspects.

• R = review = accountable
  The resolution builds over the years and is based on thorough reviews made by UN DESA (SG reports). It has a review mechanism (ECOSOC annual resolutions) that is based on annual SG implementation reports.
Role and responsibilities

• Mandatory for Funds and Programmes and other entities that depend on the GA (UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women, UNFPA, UNOPS, UNEP, WFP, ITC, UNCTAD, UN Habitat, UNHCR, UNRWA)
• Specialized agencies are strongly encouraged to follow it as well (FAO, WHO, ILO...)
• DESA does the follow-up reports (monitoring and reporting framework)
• Each fund and programme should include in their yearly report to their boards the progress on the implementation of QCPR.
• The role and behavior of Member States in the different organs and bodies of the UNDS should be consistent with the QCPR.
Why is QCPR important?

• QCPR asks the UNDS to function as a system (collaboration, coordination, efficiency, division of labor...), and not independent actions.

• QCPR helps government to have a unique UN interlocutor (RC) to implement the Agenda 2030 through a united framework (UNSDCF) and system-wide guidance and knowledge sharing.

• QCPR gives guidance for the strategic plans of the funds and programs and is in line with the High Level political Forum (HLPF).

• 4 years cycle and cascade
  – 2015: Agenda 2030, every 4 years HLPF GA (2019, 2023)
  – 2016 2020 2024: QCPR
  – 2017, 2021: approval strategic plans 2018-2021/ 2022-25 of Funds/Programs
The QCPR cycle and cascade
Main topics covered by the QCPR

Structure of the resolution A/RES/71/243 (84 operational paragraphs, 19 pages)

Preamble paragraphs (17 OP) (Agenda 2030, AAAA, Paris, Sendai …)

1. General Guidelines (15 OP) (Art 1 national ownership; Art 6 Leave no one behind; Art 14 Whole of System response)

2. Contribution of UN operational activities for development (9 OP)
   - Mainstreaming the Agenda 2030
   - Develop a system-wide strategic document and funding modalities
   - Improve support to national capacities
   - Mainstream and enhance South South and Triangular Cooperation
   - Enhance coordination with humanitarian assistance and peace building

3. Funding of operational activities for development of the UN system (19 OP)
   - Critical mass of core funding
   - Full cost recovery
   - Mobilize multiple funding sources
   - Urges entities to align integrated budgets with QCPR resolution

4. Strengthening the governance of the UN operational activities for development (3 OP)
   - More efficient governance architecture
   - Enhance system wide coherence

5. Improving the functioning of the UN development system (28 OP)
   - Adapt the system to the Agenda 2030
   - Leadership of the RC
   - Improve efficiency of the RC system (incl. approp. Funding)
   - Review Multi country offices
   - Introduce Knowledge management strategies and policies
   - System wide evaluation mechanisms

6. Follow-up. Monitoring and review (9 OP)
   - Agenda 2030: UNDS to work coordinated while preserving mandates
   - All entities to align planning and action with QCPR
   - Comprehensive monitoring of system-wide and individual-entity activities
   - biannual Survey and SG reporting to ECOSOC

Some references

System Wide Strategic Document & Funding Compact
Executive Boards
Res 72/279
MCO Review
Regional Collaborative Platforms
Resolution 72/279 (May 2018)

Starting Point: Elaboration of the Agenda 2030 (2014) and make the UNDS fit for purpose

1. Step ECOSOC dialogue with analysis, expert papers
2. Step SG Progress Report
3. Step QCPR 2016
4. Step Res 72/279
Implementation of QCPR

QCPR: SG to present a comprehensive proposal to strengthen Resident Coordinator system at the GA72 (OP 58)

Res 72/279:
→ Delinking of the RC system from UNDP (OP 08) → Implementation Plan
→ Predictable Funding (OP10)
→ Creating DCO (OP 17)

QCPR: Introduce or strengthen knowledge Management strategies and policies (OP 70)

Res 72/279:
→ Address gaps and overlaps at the regional level, Options for reprofiling and restructuring the regional assets (OP 19) → Regional Review

QCPR: The Agenda 2030 requires a more sustainable funding approach (OP 25-43)

Res 72/279:
→ Elaborate Funding Compact (OP 25) → Funding Compact

QCPR: SG to present a system-wide strategic document ... to support the implementation of the Agenda 2030

Res 72/279:
→ Elaborate a System-wide strategic Document (OP 30) → System-wide Strategic Document
Some challenges of UNDS

• Fulfilling the Agenda 2030 is beyond development activities
• Implementing the Agenda 2030 - which trade-offs between the SDGs
• Implementation of the UNDS Reform
• Implementation of the System –wide Strategic Document
• Further improve the governance structure
• Live up to the agreed Funding Compact
• Response to the COVID 19 crisis
• Nexus - work between development, humanitarian and peace building?

Can the QCPR alone address all those challenges?

10-15 year vision: Interesting role of the ongoing ECOSOC dialogue on the longer term positioning of the UNDS and its influence on the next 3 or 4 QCPR (each 4 yr).
Some personal inputs

• Topics of intense discussions in the last years:
  – Climate Change ?
  – Repositioning of the RC System (cont.)
  – Critical mass of core resources (structured financing dialogue)
  – Impact of COVID 19
  – Partnerships within and outside the UN
Let’s don’t make it too complicated...