***Agenda Item:* Update on the UN reform process**
**Background Brief**
**30th UN-Water Meeting – 31 January and 1 February 2019 – Rome, Italy**

**Background Brief prepared by:** UN DESA

**Main Issues of this Agenda Item:**
- Provide basic update on the UN Development System Reform Process

**Introduction / Background / Rationale** (less than 200 words please)**:**

In late 2016 the General Assembly provided guidance for repositioning the UN to enhance its cohesion and maximize its capacities and capabilities to help countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

In responding to the General Assembly, UN Secretary-General has presented an ambitious package of proposals through two consecutive reports in June and December 2017, anchored in three guiding principles: reinforcing national ownership; developing country-contextual responses; and ensuring effective delivery of development results on the ground.

The UN development system is moving forward with the implementation of all mandates of the repositioning of the United Nations development system. The full change process could be completed within two to four years. Critical aspects of the repositioning process—including the establishment of a new generation of UN Country Teams and reinvigorated RC system—will be operational in 2019.

The Secretary-General will report to the Economic and Social Council on the progress at the 2019 ECOSOC Segment on Operational Activities and to the 74th session of the General Assembly. He will also lead on the development of an implementation plan for the new Resident Coordinator system, which will be presented to Member States by mid-September 2018.

**Progress Update** (less than 200 words please)**:**

On 11 September 2018, UN Secretary-General briefed Member States on plans for the inception of the reinvigorated Resident Coordinator (RC) system.

A final draft of the implementation plan was issued on 31 August 2018. The document outlines funding milestones for the RC system, with the first being to reach US$145 million in firm funding commitments by the end of September 2018.

On 28 November the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) has decided to support the UN SG proposal for revitalizing the UN's RC system by approving his request for an appropriation of US$13.57 million for 2019. Furthermore, the Committee noted that the UNGA had decided to double the amount contributed to the RC system, which will amount to US$77.5 million for 2019.

The UN Development Operations Coordination Office (DOCO), which supports the RC system as the secretariat, has been transitioned from UNDP to the UN Secretariat.

The UN system also went through an exercise to determine how many of the current 129 RCs want to remain, and how many want to return to UNDP or their originating agencies. The exercise was completed at the end of September 2018, with 117 of them choosing to remain RCs.

The UN further launched a website providing information, news and resources on the ongoing reform processes.

**Annexes** (if any)**:**

- Backgrounder Development System Repositioning https://outreach.un.org/ngorelations/sites/outreach.un.org/files/development_system_backgrounder_31_may.pdf
- UN Reform Website https://reform.un.org/
- Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on the repositioning of the United Nations development system, May 2018 (A/RES/72/279)