PERMANENT MISSION OF BELIZE
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Belize Statement to the Second Committee on Agenda Item 22: Operational Activities for Development

Madam Chair,

For Belize, the United Nations development system is an essential partner in translating international commitments into tangible results for our people. Its effectiveness depends on its responsiveness to national priorities and the particular circumstances of small island developing States.

Belize wishes to emphasize three central priorities.

First, United Nations support must deliver on our development priorities through the MSDCF.

Belize has endorsed the United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (MSDCF) 2027–2031. This Framework should guide our partnership with the United Nations in meeting our development goals, backed by adequate financing.

It provides a shared basis for translating regional cooperation into practical support for our national priorities, including climate resilience, stronger institutions and access to essential services.

Second, reform must strengthen support on the ground through genuine consultation and informed decision-making.

Belize supports a coherent and effective development system, underpinned by a well-resourced Resident Coordinator system. As UN80 and the regional reset advance, changes to multi-country office arrangements must preserve access to expertise, continuity of programmes and timely decision-making.

We stress that reform cannot be reduced to a balance-sheet exercise. Clear, detailed and evidence-based information on proposed changes is fundamental. This must explain the criteria for country team configurations and the implications for programme delivery, country presence, coordination, staffing and financing, enabling informed intergovernmental consideration.

Any reconfiguration must be undertaken in full consultation and agreement with host Governments and the programme countries concerned. For Belize, consultation must provide a meaningful opportunity to shape decisions before changes are finalized.

Third, development commitments must be matched by predictable, sustainable and flexible financing.

Belize is deeply concerned by the decline in funding highlighted in the Secretary-General’s report and its implications for development results. We call for stronger core funding and sustainable financing for the Resident Coordinator system. Efficiency gains should reinforce programme delivery; they cannot substitute for adequate resources.

Madam Chair,

Belize seeks a United Nations development system that remains accessible, responsive and accountable to the countries it serves. We reaffirm our commitment to multilateralism and cooperation in advancing sustainable development, and stand ready to work with partners to deliver on the 2030 Agenda and the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS.

I thank you.