

Resolution

2011/7

Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 62/208 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 62/208 of 19 December 2007 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, 63/232 of 19 December 2008, 64/220 of 21 December 2009 and 65/177 of 20 December 2010 on operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and 64/289 of 2 July 2010 on system-wide coherence and Economic and Social Council resolutions 2008/2 of 18 July 2008, 2009/1 of 22 July 2009 and 2010/22 of 23 July 2010 on progress in the implementation of Assembly resolution 62/208,

Reaffirming the importance of the comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development, through which the General Assembly establishes key system-wide policy orientations for the development cooperation and country-level modalities of the United Nations system,

Acknowledging the importance of delivering assistance in order to overcome the challenges to improving human life by implementing General Assembly resolution 62/208,

Recalling the role of the Economic and Social Council in providing coordination and guidance to the United Nations system so as to ensure that policy orientations established by the General Assembly are implemented on a system-wide basis in accordance with Assembly resolutions 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 61/16 of 20 November 2006, 62/208 and other relevant resolutions,

Taking note with appreciation of the reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the Economic and Social Council at the operational activities segment of its substantive session of 2011,¹

Funding of operational activities for development of the United Nations development system

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the analysis of the funding of operational activities for development of the United Nations system for 2009,² and recalls the section of General Assembly resolution 64/289 on improving the funding system of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and looks forward to its implementation;

Results achieved and measures and processes implemented in follow-up to General Assembly resolution 62/208

2. *Notes* the steps taken by the United Nations development system to implement General Assembly resolution 62/208;

3. *Welcomes* the establishment of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), invites the United Nations country teams, in that context, to elaborate the division of labour among themselves in order to better address the needs of countries in improving gender equality and the empowerment of women, and calls upon the United Nations Development Group to support efforts to evaluate more systematically, including through joint evaluations, the impact of the growing number of joint initiatives, such as joint programming and programmes, on bringing agencies together to contribute to gender equality and the empowerment of women, in accordance with their respective mandates;

4. *Invites* the United Nations system and the relevant international financial institutions, including the Bretton Woods institutions, to explore further ways to enhance cooperation, collaboration and coordination, including in countries in transition from relief to development, including through the greater

¹ Report of the Secretary-General on the results achieved and measures and processes implemented in follow-up to General Assembly resolution 62/208 (E/2011/112); report of the Secretary-General on the analysis of the funding of operational activities for development of the United Nations system for 2009 (A/66/79-E/2011/107); report of the Secretary-General on the functioning of the resident coordinator system, including costs and benefits (E/2011/86); report of the Secretary-General on simplification and harmonization of the United Nations development system (E/2011/88).

² A/66/79-E/2011/107.

harmonization of strategic frameworks, instruments, modalities and partnership arrangements, in full accordance with the priorities of the recipient Governments, and in that regard emphasizes the importance of ensuring, under the leadership of national authorities, greater consistency between the strategic frameworks developed by the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and the relevant international financial institutions, including the Bretton Woods institutions, while maintaining the institutional integrity and organizational mandates of each organization and the national poverty reduction strategies, including poverty reduction strategy papers, where they exist;

5. *Welcomes* the intergovernmental meetings of programme pilot countries, held in Maputo in May 2008, in Kigali in October 2009 and in Hanoi in June 2010, takes note with appreciation of the Maputo, Kigali and Hanoi declarations, and looks forward to the outcome of the intergovernmental conference on “delivering as one” in Montevideo in November 2011, taking into account the principle of national ownership and “no one size fits all”;

Functioning of the resident coordinator system, including costs and benefits

6. *Invites* United Nations system organizations to redouble their efforts to implement the management and accountability system of the United Nations development and resident coordinator system, including the functional firewall for the resident coordinator system, so as to ensure that the resident coordinator system is functioning in an optimal way that reflects the inputs of the United Nations system as a whole and reinforces the implementation of the principle of mutual accountability within the United Nations country team;

7. *Encourages* United Nations system organizations to improve the linkages between the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and their agency-specific programming and project documents, taking into consideration their specialized mandates and business models, and notes in this context the efforts of some programme countries to improve linkages through the development of common country programmes;

8. *Invites* the United Nations Development Group to conduct a review of existing funding modalities in support of the resident coordinator system, including appropriate burden-sharing arrangements among relevant United Nations organizations, and make recommendations to improve the provision of resources and

support to the resident coordinator system at the country level, to be reported by the Secretary-General to the Economic and Social Council;

9. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to ensure that both the Emergency Relief Coordinator and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme enhance their consultations before presenting final recommendations in the selection process for resident coordinators in countries likely to require significant humanitarian response operations;

10. *Urges* the High-level Committee on Management and the United Nations Development Group to review regulations and policies relating to human resources and inter-agency staff mobility to ensure that they are supportive of the careers of United Nations system staff who serve as resident coordinators, and to establish a system-wide policy to support qualified staff from various geographical and agency backgrounds applying for resident coordinator assessment;

Simplification and harmonization of the United Nations system

11. *Urges* United Nations system organizations to identify and accelerate the implementation of those business processes that promise the highest return from simplification and harmonization, in compliance with relevant intergovernmental mandates;

12. *Encourages* United Nations system organizations, within their existing planning, budget and evaluation systems, to report on their cost savings resulting from improvement of their business operations, and in that regard requests the United Nations Development Group to support United Nations country teams in developing their country-level indicators for their efficient business practices as part of the process launched by the United Nations Development Group in 2010;

13. *Urges* United Nations Headquarters to pay renewed attention to the needs of United Nations country teams and to take bold initiatives to remove bottlenecks and create sufficient ground for innovations at the country level;

Guidelines for the quadrennial comprehensive policy review in 2012

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to pay particular attention, in the report for the 2012 quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, to:

(a) The status of implementation of the actions mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/208;

(b) The identification of specific measures, actions and decisions required to further improve the relevance and impact of operational activities for development of the United Nations system at the country, regional and global levels as well as their effectiveness, efficiency and coherence, taking into consideration the findings of the independent evaluation of “delivering as one” as well as the reports of the country-led evaluations;

(c) A review of progress made by the United Nations development system to ensure national ownership and leadership of United Nations operational activities, including through the use of national administrative systems and the identification of further steps needed in that regard;

(d) An assessment of the functioning of the resident coordinator system, including its ability to represent and support the entire United Nations system at the country level, in alignment with national development priorities, and, if needed, recommendations for measures in that regard;

(e) Further proposals to ensure adequate, predictable and stable funding for United Nations operational activities for development;

(f) Reporting on discussions held by the governing bodies of United Nations funds and programmes on attaining a critical mass of core resources;

(g) Agency reviews of the current policies regarding recovery of support costs for non-core funding, including information as to whether core resources have subsidized non-core funding;

(h) A review of progress made by the United Nations development system to improve results-based strategic planning and management in order to improve accountability and transparency, and identification of measures to further improve its long-term delivery and results;

(i) An analysis of how the characteristics, approaches and strategic and programming frameworks of United Nations system operational activities should evolve to respond to various country situations, based on the principles of national ownership and leadership, and to the evolving international development cooperation environment;

(j) A review of progress at the country level in improving coordination on mainstreaming gender equality and the empowerment of women in United Nations system operational activities;

(k) An assessment of the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks to determine, inter alia, their alignment with national priorities, their focus on the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and the effectiveness of their process, building on the review conducted by the United Nations Development Group;

15. *Encourages* the Secretary-General, in preparing the report for the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, to make full use of the outcomes of the survey on the effectiveness, efficiency and relevance of the support of the United Nations system and the comprehensive review of the existing institutional framework for the system-wide evaluation of operational activities for development of the United Nation system;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, a comprehensive report on the analysis of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 62/208 and a report on the analysis of funding of operational activities for development, as well as to submit directly to the Assembly a report with recommendations for the quadrennial comprehensive policy review.

34th plenary meeting

18 July 2011