

Economic and Social Council

2010 Operational Activities Segment

New York, Friday, 9 July/ Afternoon Session (3:00-5:00 pm)

Dialogue session: *“Country-level capacity: is the UN system equipped to respond to the needs and priorities of the programme countries?”*

Speaker:

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Dear ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the United Nations Economic and Social Council and personally to His Excellency Mr. Alexandru Cujba for the kind invitation to share our visions, thoughts, and ideas on UN respond to the needs and priorities of the programme countries. We hope this meeting will make useful recommendations for the further strengthening and improvement of cooperation between the United Nations and members-states to ensure sustainable international development and cooperation.

Tajikistan has developed number of key strategic papers including national development strategy and poverty reduction strategy where the needs and priorities of the country have been identified and national economy development goals for long and mid-term periods set up. Tajikistan was one of the first countries in the world defined its national priorities according to the Millennium Development Goals. The UN agencies have been playing an important role in coordination and cooperation towards achieving the goals specified in the national development strategy of the country and enhancing county based capacity.

In its turn, the UN in Tajikistan continuously strengthens its capacity by assessing and addressing increased country needs. Since 2008 UN agencies conducted in Tajikistan number of field project identification missions and enhanced UN capacity and performance through the appointment of experienced staff and employing new policies and strategies. Currently 687 persons have been contracted by UN/Tajikistan, including 42 international specialists. In 2009, the number of UN agencies resident in Tajikistan increased from 15 to 19 resulting in 27 percent increase of new activities.

Since 2008 cooperation within the UN System and between UN agencies and their national and international partners significantly enhanced through the process of development and implementation of the Joint Country Partnership Strategy (JCPS) and development of sector strategies for supporting the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) and National Development Strategy (NDS).

Joint Country Partnership Strategy (JCPS) 2010-2012 was endorsed by the main donors, International Financial Institutions and UN agencies mid-2009. UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2010-2015 signed October 2009.

In 2009 the UN Country Team completed number of effective activities, including but not limited by:

Eighteen exploratory missions launched by UN agencies addressing environment, early recovery, crisis prevention, energy and employment issues, several of which resulted in project concepts/documents for inter-agency implementation or were in advanced stage of formulation by end-year.

Delivery by the UN System in 2009 significantly rose from \$20.1 million to \$47 million, while resource mobilization far exceeded targets reaching \$80.5 million in 2009 versus \$38 million planned.

The UN System supported the Committee of Emergency Situations to launch appeals for humanitarian assistance to communities affected by earthquakes and flooding, responding to the immediate needs of about 1.5 million people including 1 million children under-five in 2009.

During 2009 UNDP assisted nine target districts to complete their planning process and to finalize District Development Plans which are being implemented. All plans were developed based on the new policy of participatory planning approved by the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade.

Under the Communities Programme, implementation of the Improving Local Governance and Localizing MDGs (UNDP) project supported 150 women leaders to be trained on advanced leadership skills and enhanced their capacity to become proactive in decision-making mechanisms. An additional, 150 women leaders were supported with income generating skills and facilities for business entrepreneurship. A further 270 women entrepreneurs were trained in budgeting, marketing, agribusiness development, business planning and management, and fundraising, within the framework of "Rural Women's Empowerment in Central Asia" project.

Under the ILO project 100 women from rural areas were trained on how to start their own businesses and another 100 women were provided marketable skills in beekeeping, handicrafts, horticulture and other small industries.

Sustainable economic development of each country depends on the health of its populations. UNDP has been instrumental in resource mobilization and implementation of the HIV, TB, and Malaria Global Funds grants. In 2009 UNDP mobilized 47.6 mln. USD from GFATM to address acute health needs of the country. About 9 mln. USD delivered in 2009 to combat these diseases. Thanks to these efforts the country for the first time ever started treatment of multi drug resistant tuberculosis; is currently eliminating malaria (over 300 cases in 2005 and 165 in 2009); and scaling up HIV prevention, treatment, and care activities.

Capacity building and strengthening, as well as ensuring gender equality on the country level are among high importance issues. In order to further improve the situation, it would be highly desirable to enhance the county based capacity of the UN agencies based on following priorities: promoting sustainable environment and energy efficiency, promoting regional economy and trade, coherent and effective UN response to gender issues; reforestation, water conservation, alternative energy, appropriate technology; international investment in the social sector, particularly health, education and social welfare; strengthening local government capacities; enhancing Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Preparedness; promoting Human Rights and Social Inclusiveness; encouraging existing agencies to expand programmes commensurate with need etc.

In conclusion, I would like to stress that the UN country agencies play an important role to ensure cooperation for international development and integration of the national economies into the world economy. I sincerely believe Tajikistan will strongly benefit from well designed, thoughtfully implemented, sufficiently funded, and tailored to real country needs programs.

Thank you for your attention.