

Economic and Social Council
Operational Activities for Development Segment
New York, 25 February 2014, 8h30 – 10h00

Informal side event¹

Opportunities for increasing the use of pooled funding mechanisms to enhance the UN's joint results in development.

Moderator

Ferit Hoxha, Ambassador, Albania Permanent Mission to the UN

Panelists

Berit Fladby, Policy Director, MFA, Norway

Yannick Glemarec, Executive Coordinator, Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office

Gwi-Yeop Son, Director Corporate Programmes, UN-OCHA

Kanni Wignaraja, Director, DOCO

Over the past ten years the UN has set up a large number of inter-agency pooled funds to support UN interventions in the humanitarian, transition, development and climate change areas. The emergence of such a pooled funding mechanism represented a major innovation to the traditional UN approach to address complex, multi-faceted situations: for the first time, a common framework was available to access in a cost-effective manner a wide range of UN agencies' expertise in development, humanitarian assistance, recovery, reconstruction and climate change.

Still, this new funding trend has not been without challenges. As the Secretary General's 2012 report shows, UN inter-agency pooled funds including One Funds make up only a relatively small portion (5 per cent) of the total non-core funding for UN development-related activities. This contrasts with the funding pattern for UN humanitarian-related activities, with 12 per cent of funding being provided as non-earmarked resources through UN pooled financing mechanisms.

The QCPR recognizes that the pooled funding mechanisms are important tools in advancing "Delivering as One" and calls on Member States and the UN to contribute financially to assure the extension of these mechanisms in "Delivering as One" countries. In the light of the QCPR's strong support for "Delivering as One" and the potential of pooled, thematic and joint funding mechanisms to support this objective, the side event will explore options for increasing the use of pooled funding mechanisms for development-related activities.

General discussion questions

1. What have been the key factors underpinning the success of some well-capitalized UN pooled funds? What factors negatively impacted the successful capitalization of other UN pooled funds?
2. What are benefits and advantages of using pooled funding mechanisms for development work from the perspectives of programme countries and donors?
3. What opportunities and options does the UN system have to increase the share of the non-core resources received through inter-agency pooled funds, to support UN development-related interventions, and overall development effectiveness?

¹ Please note that breakfast will be provided. To confirm participation, please e-mail to Hai Dzung Tran (tran.thi.hai.dung@undg.org).