



Economic and Social Council
Operational Activities for Development Segment
ECOSOC Chamber
New York, 24-26 February 2014
Draft Programme

Day 1 - Monday, 24 February

Morning Session

10.00 – 10.30 a.m.

Opening

H.E. Carlos Enrique García González, Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council

Keynote address

Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations

10:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. **High-level dialogue**

The changing development landscape: what does it mean for the UN system?

The global context for development cooperation has changed significantly in the last decade. There have been food, fuel and economic shocks and social upheavals that shaped the international agenda and preoccupied policymakers. There have been multiple natural disasters and humanitarian crises. There is an increased number of countries in political transitions and special situations, requiring concurrent and complex operational activities in multiple spheres. There are also the imperatives to accelerate progress on the MDGs, and to address anew the global challenges that threaten the sustainability of the planet.

At the same time, there are trends that are potentially beneficial for development cooperation. Programme countries are more vigorous in aligning aid with national development plans and strategies, with greater involvement of stakeholders. They also have deeper and stronger economic cooperation with each other. For example, South-South cooperation partners are assuming increasingly important role in complementing North-South cooperation.

In a survey of programme countries conducted for the 2012 QCPR, almost all governments ranked sustainable development as the highest priority of the UN development system in the next four years. The Secretary-General has also made sustainable development a priority for his Action Agenda for the next five years.

This session will particularly discuss the likely implications of a post-2015 agenda focused on sustainable development for UN operational activities for development and the changes required at different levels of the UN system for the Organization to continue to remain a major actor in international development cooperation.

Moderator

H.E. Le Hoai Trung, Permanent Representative of Vietnam to the United Nations

Panellists

H.E. Jaime Alfredo Miranda Flamenco, Minister of Foreign Affairs, El Salvador

H.E. Emilia Pires, Minister of Finance, Timor Leste

Erik Solheim, Chair, OECD/DAC

Lead discussant

Helen Clark, Chair, United Nations Development Group, Administrator, UNDP

General discussion questions

1. What are the current and emerging challenges in meeting the MDGs and in sustaining development gains in the future, for low- and middle-income countries respectively?
2. How is a unified and universal agenda focused on sustainable development in a post-2015 era likely to affect the role and relevance of the UN system in global development cooperation?
3. How can the UN development system best serve programme countries and the international community at a time when the role of ODA and the broader environment for development cooperation are rapidly evolving? What are the greatest challenges to the UN system in this regard?
4. How can accountability and funding within the UN system be improved in a post-2015 era?

Introduction of Secretary-General's report

12.45– 1:00 p.m. Hongbo Wu, Under Secretary-General, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations

Afternoon Session

3:00 - 6:00 p.m. **Dialogue with the Executive Heads**

Looking to the future: current and emerging strategic priorities

GA resolution 67/226 on the QCPR focuses largely on 'how' the UN development system should function, particularly at the country level. In this session, the Executive Heads are also invited to discuss the 'what' or the current and emerging substantive priorities of the UN system, particularly in the context of the on-going deliberations on a post-2015 development agenda. More specifically, the Executive Heads would discuss 'how' to make the UN development system 'fit-for-purpose' in a post-2015 era. For example, what would the broadening of the development agenda with greater focus on sustainable development mean for UN entities individually as well as for the system as a whole? How can both the agency-specific and system-wide comparative advantage of the Organization be best exploited in the post-2015 era? Also, would the broadening of the development agenda call for new ways of working in the UN development system, e.g. in terms of partnerships with other development cooperation actors; what staff capacity is required to service

an integrated post-2015 development agenda at the country and headquarters levels; and how can the UN system become more effective in fostering South-South cooperation in a post-2015 era?

The dialogue will focus on three main issues: (a) the changing development landscape: how can the UN development system become 'fit-for-purpose', (b) a review of progress on the annual theme of the 2014 substantive session of ECOSOC "*addressing on-going and emerging challenges for meeting the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 and for sustaining development gains in the future*" and (c) progress by the funds and programmes in the implementation of GA resolution 67/226 on the QCPR, with particular focus on issues related to system-wide coherence and delivering-as-one. The dialogue will also build on the discussions taking place in the first session of the segment.

Moderator

H.E. Carlos Enrique García González, Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council

Panellists

Helen Clark, Chair, United Nations Development Group, Administrator, UNDP

Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director, UNFPA

Elisabeth Rasmusson, Assistant Executive Director for Partnerships and Governance Services, WFP

John Hendra, Deputy Executive Director, UN-Women

Yoka Brandt, Deputy Executive Director, UNICEF

Special Speaker

Achim Steiner, Executive Director, UNEP

General discussion questions

1. How will a unified and universal agenda focused on sustainable development in a post-2015 era affect the role of the UN system in global development cooperation? What are the likely implications in terms of how the Organization delivers its mandate at the regional and country level?
2. How can the UN development system become an important player in supporting the objectives of South-South cooperation?
3. How can UN entities sustain the MDGs development gains and contribute to the sustainable development paradigm in a coherent manner while preserving their own mandate?
4. What are the current and emerging challenges in implementing the mandates in General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the QCPR, particularly with regard to enhancing system-wide coherence and successful implementation of the delivering-as-one approach?

Day 2 - Tuesday, 25 February

Morning Session

10.00 a.m. – 1:00p.m. *Policy dialogue: UN system working-as-one: how to make it happen?*

10:00 – 11:30 a.m. Part 1 – Standard operating procedures for delivering-as-one

Moderator

John Hendra, Deputy Executive Director for Policy and Programme, UN-Women

Panellists

Anne-Birgitte Albrechtsen, Deputy Executive Director for Management, UNFPA

Eugene Owusu, UN Resident Coordinator, Ethiopia

Bruno Pouezat, UN Resident Coordinator, Morocco

Florence Bauer, UNICEF Representative, Bosnia & Herzegovina

The General Assembly in resolution 67/226 on the QCPR, requested the UN system to build on the best practices and lessons learned in implementing the “delivering-as-one” by a number of countries and further consolidate the process by clearly outlining the core elements of each of the “ones”, including by formulating standard operating procedures as guidelines for the successful work of the UN country teams in DaO countries, as well as for other countries considering joining the DaO.

The objectives of the standard operating procedures (SOPs) are to:

- a) Provide UN country teams, governments and other national stakeholders and partners in countries that call on the UN to adopt the DaO approach as an integrated package of clear, straightforward and internally consistent guidance on programming, leadership, business operations, funding and communications for country-level development operations, considering UN agencies’ mandates, rules and procedures;
- b) Provide information for programme countries that are considering adopting the DaO approach, presenting it simply and clearly; and
- c) Where appropriate, identify and recommend critically important policy and procedural changes that agency HQs should make in order to reduce transaction costs for Governments, other national stakeholders, development partners and UN country teams, and enable joint focus at the country level.

General discussion questions

1. To what extent do the standard operating procedures meet the above objectives, as well as QCPR mandates?
2. Do the SOPs lead to sufficient simplification and harmonization of business practices and reduction in transaction costs and efficiency gains at the country level as called for in the independent evaluation of the DaO?
3. Are the SOPs sufficiently flexible to be likely to be adopted by other programme countries not applying the DaO approach?

11:30 a.m. – 13:00 Part 2 – How to improve UN effectiveness, efficiency and results in countries in transition from relief to development?

Moderator

Judy Cheng-Hopkins, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, United Nations

Panellists

Ameerah Haq, Under Secretary-General, Department of Field Support, United Nations

T. Alexander Aleinikoff, Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees

Peter de Clercq, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, UN Stabilization Mission, Haiti (MINUSTAH), and UN Resident Coordinator, Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative

Joseph Cornelius Donnelly, Permanent Delegate to the United Nations, Caritas Internationalis

This session will particularly discuss the implementation of mandates in the QCPR resolution dealing with countries in transition from relief to development. It is part of preparations for the special event to be convened immediately preceding the humanitarian affairs segment in June and following the annual sessions of the Executive Boards of the funds and programmes and called for in GA resolution 68/1 on strengthening of ECOSOC.

In 2012, the 19 programme countries/areas where the UN has integrated missions accounted for some 33 per cent of development-related activities and more than 40 per cent of all UN operational activities for development. In these programme countries, it is particularly important that the UN system operates-as-one, with high degree of coherence, effectiveness and efficiency so that opportunities for synergy among the different parts of the Organization are exploited effectively.

This session will particularly discuss recent efforts to strengthen the coherence, effectiveness and efficiency of UN support to countries in transition from relief to development. This will include a review of efforts to strengthen: (a) national ownership of the transition process, (b) the role of the UN resident coordinator/humanitarian coordinator, (c) the capacity of offices of UN resident coordinators for strategic and operational planning and coordination, (d) operational partnerships with other multilateral organizations, (e) coordination between Secretariat entities and members of the UN development system, and (f) the timeliness and predictability of funding for UN support.

General discussion questions

1. How can results-orientation in the work of UN entities in countries in transition from relief to development be improved? What can be done to enhance coherence and cohesion among entities of the UN development system and the Secretariat in such country contexts?
2. How can national ownership of transitional activities be strengthened? What has been the experience with establishing country-led and inclusive mechanisms to coordinate support to national priorities in countries in transition from relief to development? What are the main challenges in this regard?
3. How can cooperation between the UN system and other multilateral organizations in such country contexts be strengthened?

Afternoon session

3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Dialogue with specialized agencies

The changing development landscape: what will it mean for specialized agencies in a post-2015 era with focus on sustainable development?

Moderator

Thomas Gass, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-agency Affairs, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations

Keynote address

Margaret Chan, Director-General, WHO

Panellists

Gilbert Hounbo, Deputy Director-General for Field Operations and Partnerships, ILO

Hans d'Orville, Assistant Director-General for Strategic Planning, UNESCO

Laurent Thomas, Assistant Director-General for Technical Cooperation, FAO

Lead discussant

Amina J. Mohammed, Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Post-2015 Development Planning, United Nations

In his five-year action agenda, the Secretary-General stated the following: the currents of change were transforming human and physical geography; demographic transformation, the emergence of new centres of economic dynamism, accelerating inequality within and across nations, challenges to the existing social contract by a disillusioned, mobilized citizenry, technological and organizational transformation that is linking people directly as never before, and climate change were all placing the foundations of the world and the global system under unprecedented stress and were driving not just incremental, but exponential change.

The past two decades have also seen the intensification of global challenges which require collective action. These include sustainable development, the rising inequality within and among countries; and the increasing number of countries in crisis and transition situations. These challenges illustrate the changing demands on the UN development system. Responding to these and other global challenges may call for a shift away from fragmented projects to a greater emphasis on strengthening the catalytic and normative role of UN entities as well as the ability of the UN system to leverage its resources in a strategic manner.

This session provides an opportunity to discuss how these and other related changes could affect the role and relevance of specialized agencies in a post-2015 era with focus on sustainable development. It is also expected that participants will discuss the relationship between a post-2015 development agenda, with focus on sustainable development, and the need for enhanced system-wide coherence, closer cross-sector cooperation, and stronger normative-operational linkages within the UN system, e.g. through better networking of capacities, and how this will affect the strategic positioning of specialized agencies in development cooperation.

General discussion questions

1. What are the opportunities and challenges facing specialized agencies in the new development landscape? How can the comparative advantage of specialized agencies in norm-setting and development cooperation be exploited more effectively in a post-2015

- era with focus on sustainable development? What are the lessons learned from the work of issue-based alliances within the UN system, and what is their potential?
2. How has the major growth in earmarked non-core funding in the past decade affected the norm-setting role and strategic positioning of specialized agencies? What are the key risks to specialized agencies in this regard?
 3. What are the current and emerging challenges for specialized agencies in implementing the mandates in General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the QCPR, particularly with regard to (a) enhancing system-wide coherence, (b) successful implementation of the delivering-as-one approach, (c) alignment of strategic planning cycles with the QCPR, and (d) annual reporting to governing bodies on QCPR progress?

Day 3 - Wednesday, 26 February

Morning Session

10:00 a.m. – 12:40 p.m.

General debate

12.40 p.m. – 13.00 p.m.

Summary of key messages from the Operational Activities for Development Segment and concluding remarks

H.E. Carlos Enrique García González, Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council

Annex – Informal side events

Monday, 24 February 2014, 8:15-9.30 a.m., Conference Room 5, North Lawn Building

Presentation of the report "United Nations Development at a Crossroads" by the NYU-Center for International Cooperation, organized by the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation (DHF). For further information, please contact Mr. Michael Hjelmåker, DHF (e-mail michael.hjelmaker@dhf.uu.se; tel. (+46-705-120122)

Monday, 24 February, 1:15-2:45 p.m., S-2727 FC, UN Secretariat Building

Pilot independent system-wide evaluations of UN operational activities for development organized by the Interim Coordination Mechanism (UNEG, JIU, OCHA, OIOS, DESA)

Tuesday, 25 February, 8:30-10:00 a.m., Delegates Dining Room

Opportunities and challenges in increasing pooled funding for UN-Operational Activities for Development, organized by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office, UNDP and the UN Development Operations Coordination Office

Tuesday, 25 February, 1:15-2:45 p.m., Conference Room 7, North Lawn Building

Experiences on the Implementation of the Delivery as One in Latin America, organized by the Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the UN

Wednesday, 26 February, 1:15-2:45 p.m., Conference Room 8, North Lawn Building

Promoting better results for sustainable development through evaluation, organized by the United Nations Evaluation Group

[For further information on the 2014 Operational Activities for Development Segment of ECOSOC, please visit the following web site: <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/julyhls/oa2014.shtml>]