

Economic and Social Council
Civil society hearing on the longer-term positioning of the United Nations development system

April 28, 2015

Presentation by Mr. Afolabi Sam-Adeboye, Chief Operating Officer, Gabasawa Women & Children Empowerment Initiative

1. **What are the** key elements to ensure the necessary capacity and sustainable impact?
 - The UNDS should strengthen its capacities to be a champion of evidence-based policy.
 - As a critical function, the UNDS should be structured to build the capacity needed to identify opportunities to leverage solutions. This is the key driver of functional relevance in many emerging economies.
 - The UNDS must as a matter of policy provide the requisite standard setting agenda and stick to its normative and convening role. Hence the UNDS should provide the requisite support to the development of norms and standards in conventions, declarations, regulatory frameworks, agreements, guidelines, codes of practice and other standard setting instruments, at global, regional and national level.
 - Strengthening norms and facilitating the provision of global public goods are critical dimensions of the UNDS contributions to a unified and universal agenda.
 - A key post-2015 priority will be to strengthen capacity in countries for dealing with the new development agenda. UNDS has a critical role to play in facilitating the monitoring of the SDG framework which provides the basis for ensuring accountability for its implementation.
 - In addition to that, the UNDS must set out criteria to provide capacity support where required to implement it.
 - There is a need to give further special focus to the operational requirements of the LDCs.

2. What are the partnership approaches that will ensure the appropriate means of implementation?

Partnerships:

- The achievement of the SDGs requires the full engagement of states, the private sector and civil society.
- Forging and strengthening such partnerships would contribute to broadening the implementation capacity and to bridging the development, security and humanitarian divide.
- UNDS needs to review ways of having a more systemic dialogue and partnership with civil society.
- UNDS to do more in encouraging the international community to rally around different forms of issue-based coalitions. Hence, the UNDS should increase its participation and be more active in many such coalitions at the global, regional and national levels as key partners for the implementation of SDGs.
- UNDS should ensure greater clarity in facilitating the right accountability framework that can underpin and monitor partnerships.

- UNDS should promote partnerships both as instruments of leveraging and as incubators of organizational change.
- UNDS needs to review ways to have a more systemic and broader dialogue and partnership with civil society.

For sustainable implementation

- UNDS must again start by differentiating between the wide variety of circumstances countries find themselves in. There can be no one-size-fits-all approach.
- Over the last decade organizational reforms within UNDS have largely been focused on the Delivering as One (DaO) initiative at the country level, despite limited organizational changes at the headquarters level.
- A practical approach to reforming structure has been through the establishment of a myriad of issue specific task forces. It will be important for these task forces to become real instruments of change that facilitate a better alignment with changing needs.