



ECOSOC Dialogue on the “longer-term positioning of the UN development system”

UNDG Perspectives on Functions, March 20, 2015

1. Introduction

In the June 2014 ECOSOC session Member States agreed to consider the “longer-term positioning of the UN development system”, with a focus on the functions, funding practices, governance structures, capacity and impact of the UN development system, partnership approaches and organizational arrangements.

Following two informal ECOSOC dialogues in December 2014 and January 2015, and the Operational Activities Segment in February 2015, Member States will engage in a series of workshops and retreats between April 2015 and May 2016. The first of these, to be held on 17 April, will focus on functions of the UN development system.

The UNDG has agreed to provide “UNDG perspectives” as an input to background papers being prepared by UN DESA, and to inform interventions by senior UNDG leadership during the workshops and retreats.

This paper presents initial “UNDG perspectives” developed in advance of a draft paper on functions currently being prepared by UN DESA, in response to the draft outline circulated by UN DESA on 29 February (Annex 1). An earlier draft of this paper was discussed in the UNDG ASG AG on 16 March 2015. This revised draft is provided to DESA as an input to the background paper for the first workshop on functions.

2. Definitions

For the purposes of this background paper, functions are defined as the specific tasks, responsibilities, actions and activities undertaken by the UN development system, including at the global, regional and country level, and in accordance with system-wide and agency mandates – in other words, “what the UN development system does”, as distinct from “how” the UNDS delivers. Mandates are defined as the instructions issued to the UNDS and or/specific agencies by Member States and/or governing bodies that authorize the responsibilities and actions taken.

Functions are fundamental. While they are inter-linked, funding, governance, and organizational arrangements must be fully determined by, and properly support, agreed future functions the UNDS will need to perform. Looking forward, reform of funding and governance structures to enable the UNDS to fully perform its agreed functions will be essential.

3. Evolution of Functions

The functions of the UNDS have evolved with changes in the external development environment, as has been well captured by various reports and analysis over time¹.

As identified in this analysis, key drivers of change in the wider development and global context include (but are not limited to): changing funding – impact of the financial crisis, decline of importance and level of ODA; changing actors – many more organizations providing the services and support previously delivered by the UN, role of emerging economies, among others; changing country context with many more MICS and countries in transition to HIC status, a smaller number of LDCs, and conflict affected countries; rising inequality; huge increase in humanitarian crises and displacement, accelerating impact of climate change and natural disasters; growing engagement and expectations of stakeholders, and so on. *[Note: key drivers of change are not discussed in detail here as this will be presumably elaborated in the UN paper prepared by DESA].*

In addition, the functions of the UNDS have also evolved:

- In response to changing normative standards and mandates – including the adoption of new normative standards and Conventions, outcomes of international conferences, and notably, the MDGs.
- Through mandates conferred by successive TCPR and QCPR resolutions since the seminal resolution of 1977 (A/RES/32/197).
- As a result of evolution across all pillars of the UN system – human rights, peace and security and humanitarian action. Examples include i) much greater emphasis in peace and security and humanitarian action on recovery and resilience building, which are interlinked with development efforts, and efforts to strengthen the integration of development, humanitarian and peace and security efforts including at country level, and ii) growing recognition that human rights are essential for human development and emphasis on integration of human rights in development activities, including evolution of the right to development. The evolution of humanitarian and peace and security mandates, and human rights mandates, over time is outlined in Annexes 2 and 3.
- As a result of internal reform efforts and initiatives. Examples include i) the reforms introduced by former UN SG Kofi Annan when he took office in 1997, which included establishing the CCA/UNDAF as well as efforts to integrate human rights in peacekeeping and development, and strengthen partnerships with civil society and the private sector; and ii) innovations introduced by pilot countries in the “Delivering as One” (DaO) initiative, such as “communicating as one” to better provide joint advocacy

¹ There are many examples – see for example Jenks and Jones 2013, “United Nations Development at a Crossroads”; NYU

and policy advice to governments. These and other experiences have now been codified in the Standard Operating Procedures for DaO.

- In response to specific “perceived” failures. An example is the introduction of the UN SG’s “Human Rights Up Front” initiative in response to the findings of the Internal Review Panel on UN Action in Sri Lanka.

Individual agency mandates and functions have also continually evolved, including in response to evolving normative mandates and commitments. For example, changes in UNFPA’s functions and governing structures have been triggered by changes in funding; in the external environment – including in response to the emergence of HIV/AIDS and the adoption of the MDGs; by normative changes – most notably the 1994 ICPD which established a universal, normative role for the agency; and by major UN reform processes. In response to the increasingly complex health challenges of the 21st century, the WHO is undertaking a major reform process including programmatic, governance and managerial reforms, to improve health outcomes, increase coherence in global health and deliver organizational excellence.

New entities have been established as the functions of the UNDS have continued to evolve. Examples include the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), established in 1994 by ECOSOC (by resolution 1994/24), as a Co-sponsored Joint Programme with a governance structure incorporating Member States, co-sponsor organizations and non-state actors, and with co-sponsors expanding from the original 6 UN organizations in 1996 to 11 at the current time; and UN Women, established by the UN General Assembly in 2010 (in resolution 64/289), bringing together four previous entities in one organization, with a normative, coordination and operational mandate across the three pillars of the UN system (development, peace and security and human rights).

4. Implications of the post-2015 development agenda for the functions of the UNDS

The future functions of the UNDS must include what the system needs to do to effectively support the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs². They will set out “what” the UN development system will need to help to implement.

The post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs represent a significant departure from the MDGs. Where the MDGs were largely vertical and somewhat siloed, this agenda has the potential to be much more comprehensive, integrated and horizontal, bringing together the social, environmental and economic dimensions of sustainable development, and combining climate change and development in one framework. Where the MDGs reflected and drove a largely North-South agenda, the post-2015 development agenda is universal and will apply in all countries, regardless of their development status.

² The role of the UNDS in accelerating progress on the MDGs and other Internationally Agreed Development Goals (IADGs) is recognised in the QCPR.

The new development agenda is also much more transformative due to its i) rights-based perspective and focus on tackling inequality and discrimination; ii) focus on leaving no-one behind and eliminating extreme poverty; iii) inclusion of Goal 16 which ensures that governance, rule of law and peace and security are included in the framework – potentially bringing together the development and human rights work of the UN with humanitarian action, and peace and security; iv) focus on linking global norms and standards setting to local development realities in order to best manage and protect public goods for all; and, v) focus on poverty and inequalities at the heart of the new agenda and on taking this to the local level.

An integrated, universal, transformative post-2015 development agenda will require an international community that is also transformative and “fit for purpose” to support its implementation.

5. Current and emerging functions

Discussions in the CEB and its pillars, and in the initial informal ECOSOC dialogues, have identified both a number of current and emerging functions of the UNDS. These are briefly outlined below.

Current core functions of the UNDS, including those that are mandated in the QCPR, and as highlighted in subsequent ECOSOC and GA resolutions³, include the following:

- **Support to poverty eradication, and the unfinished business of the MDGs.** Member States expect the UN Development System to assign the highest priority to poverty eradication and efforts to address the root causes of extreme poverty and hunger, and underscore the importance of achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs
- **Supporting planning, data, and monitoring and evaluation** at the national level including support to development and implementation of national sustainable development and poverty reduction strategies and plans. This also includes support to data collection and analysis, and to evidence-based policy making at the national level.
- **Capacity development** is a core function of the UNDS. The role of the UNDS in capacity development and institution building in support of national priorities and implementation of global commitments has been highlighted by Member States. There is a clear expectation that the UNDS will boost its efforts and investment in capacity development, and make optimal use of available national and regional expertise.
- **South-South and triangular cooperation.** Member States are calling on the UNDS to significantly enhance its support to such cooperation, as well as to knowledge sharing and technology transfer.

³ E/RES/2-14/14, A/RES/69/238

- **Gender equality and women's empowerment.** Member States have asked the UNDS to increase investment in and focus on gender equality and women's empowerment including in UNDAFs, as well as to enhance gender mainstreaming,
- **Transition from humanitarian relief to development** is identified as a key function in the QCPR. In the context of the post-2015 agenda the UN system will need to significantly step up its humanitarian support to countries and maximize synergies between humanitarian action and development. The UN will need to much more rapidly and effectively transition from humanitarian support to development and ensure much greater interaction and integration between the humanitarian and development arms of the UN. Responses to crises must be much more proactive, with protracted crises approached differently, taking full advantage of all humanitarian and development tools. Greater involvement in disaster risk reduction and crisis prevention, protection and building resilience, as well as the need to function across borders will be essential. A repositioning of this function is therefore required.
- **Regional dimensions.** Member States have highlighted the need to ensure greater collaboration at the regional level, including to provide support to UN Country teams and improve access to the technical capacities of the UN system at regional and subnational levels.

As identified in UN and Member State discussions, the following functions, which specifically impact **'what' the UNDS will need to deliver**, will require greater focus in the post-2015 era:

- **Normative standards and human rights**, including support to setting global norms, supporting rights-based approaches, providing capacity support to implement the normative agenda and to translate the global normative framework into adaptive regional and national frameworks, and strengthening normative and operational linkages.
- **Inequality**, specifically tackling the high and increasing levels of inequality and exclusion that limit sustainable development progress. This includes squarely addressing inequalities alongside poverty eradication, including in emerging and middle-income countries where the fight against poverty has advanced but inequalities remain. Gender inequality has been identified as a specific priority, and the UNDS will need to enhance efforts to collectively address gender inequality and gender-based discrimination including at the country level.
- **Integration** is a key emerging function on a number of levels. This includes enhancing the integration of the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development, as well as ensuring coherence and coordination between the human rights, peace and security and development mandates of the UN system. Also critical will be the need to support policy coherence and provide thought leadership and integrated policy support, across disciplines and functions, to better address complex multi-sectoral

challenges, moving away from the siloed, single-sector approaches of the past. A much more integrated approach to direct service delivery will remain a priority in LDCs, and conflict affected and humanitarian settings, as will capacity building and operational support for implementation.

Further, the following functions identified in UN and Member State discussions have implications both for “what” the UNDS does, and also “**how**” **the system delivers support to countries**, and will therefore have implications for discussions on organizational arrangements going forward:

- The UNDS will need to provide **differentiated support tailored to country circumstances**. The UNDS will need to be responsive to the differentiated needs of countries, continuing to engage with countries left behind in order to eradicate poverty, while at the same time better balancing support for service delivery and implementation,, and institutional strengthening and provision of integrated policy support and policy coherence in middle-income countries.
- A key function of the UNDS is supporting data collection and analysis and this will need to expand significantly in the context of the **data revolution** required for the post-2015 development agenda. This will include more integrated capacity development support to National Statistical bodies, use of disaggregated data, developing greater analytical capacity for measuring and understanding inequalities, risks and vulnerabilities, and using data and evidence more effectively and transparently. Linked to this, the knowledge and expertise that the UNDS can mobilize and leverage in support of evidence-based policy making will be key.
- **Partnerships, engagement and convening role.** There is broad consensus that more broad-based partnerships will be critical to deliver the new post-2015 development agenda. The UNDS will need to convene multi-sectoral, issue-based partnerships, aligned to normative values and standards, and facilitating collective responses to global challenges. Also critical will be fostering much greater inclusiveness, and increasing and facilitating the engagement and participation of a broad range of stakeholders, including from the private sector and civil society.

Finally, there is as yet no consensus on **the role of the UNDS** in relation to once crucial new additional function that will impact on both “what” and “how” the UNDS delivers:

- The shift to a universal and transformative development agenda calls on the UN development system to identify means of engagement and implementation that allow for **a universal response**. Global targets and selected indicators will apply to all countries, with additional indicators to be set at the national level, taking into account country circumstances and progress. All countries will need to monitor and report on progress. While to date consideration of the implications of **universality** for high-income and developed countries has been limited, already some developed countries are requesting

the UNDS to provide advice and support in nationalizing the goals and monitoring and reporting on progress. Further, the UNDS is already engaged in a number of ways in high income and developed countries, including providing normative support, advocacy and awareness raising, support to global public goods, and analytical work. Some form of UN engagement will clearly be required in all countries. The future functions of the UNDS should be based on the UN's universal mandate and how the agenda of sustainable development plays out in each country. However, universal support does not necessarily imply universal presence for all agencies. Further thinking on what it will mean for the UN to support delivery of a universal agenda including in high-income and developed countries is needed.

6. Prioritization of future functions

As this discussion shows, the range of functions provided by the UNDS is growing in response to the changing development environment and differentiated demands of countries, requiring considerable capacity, flexibility and expertise. The diversity of the UN development system and its ability to provide support in complex contexts is a key strength in this regard: as the QCPR recognizes, coordination efforts must effectively utilize the resources and unique expertise of all UNDS entities, including funds and programmes and specialized agencies. However, as the functions of the UNDS have continued to evolve, it is also evident that proliferation of functions can lead to greater fragmentation and complexity. Coherence and integration are key.

In addition, there is a need to balance different functions of the UNDS. Examples include balancing the UN's normative role and support to national priorities and ownership; the UN's direct service delivery role and provision of upstream policy advice; providing comprehensive support across a variety of functions and the need to prioritize and focus in particular in the context of resource constraints. These dilemmas must be understood and proactively managed.

Looking forward, it will be important to prioritize what is already a long list of current and potential functions of the UNDS, if the UNDS is to be more "fit for purpose". Based on **lessons learned**, possible principles for prioritization could include the following:

- First, as discussed above, the substantive agenda that will replace the MDGs must determine the future functions of the UNDS.
- Second, functions must be based on the comparative advantages of the UNDS, which are generally agreed to include its universal mandate, normative role, impartiality and neutrality, intergovernmental role and convening power, global reach, and experience drawn from diverse agency mandates and expertise. They must also be demand driven and promote national ownership.

- Third, functions must be driven by “purpose” and not by “fitness alone”. The overall strategic positioning and relevance of the UNDS to support the new development agenda must be pre-eminent in determining its future functions. Efficiency and effectiveness, though very important, must serve strategic positioning and relevance, and not the other way around. As highlighted in the Independent Evaluation of Delivering as One, the “Delivering as One” pilots, which sought to deliver efficiency and effectiveness gains, suffered from a lack of a clearly defined “strategic intent” – overall purpose, which made it more difficult to drive change, to plan and to benchmark measure progress and impact – and to deliver results. The second generation of Delivering as One has already adjusted well for this.
- Fourth, some key functions are better delivered together. The Standard Operating Procedures developed at the request of Member States and approved by the undg, enable this, optimizing and blending capacities, reach and expertise to better allow the UNDS to respond to the SDGs. Experience shows that the UN is more effective when it works in a horizontally integrated and coherent manner, and much less effective when it works in silos. Core functions of the UNDS must be therefore be integrated and mutually reinforcing, rather than siloed.
- Fifth, while funding must follow function, functions must also be both fundable, and adequately resourced.
- Sixth, and finally, the support the UNDS provides must be universal – offered to all countries – differentiated, according to their needs – and integrated – across the three pillars of the UN and the elements of sustainable development.

In light of the above, a possible set of **core critical, universal and integrated functions** the UNDS will need to deliver to effectively support implementation of the new development agenda, could potentially include the following:

1. **Normative support** to countries to establish, implement, monitor and report on normative standards and agreements, and most critically of all, human rights commitments. This includes much greater focus on all forms of inequality and discrimination, including gender inequality, as well as on leaving no-one behind. This role is only becoming more critical including in response to rapidly increasing inequalities within and between countries and regions. Many UNDS entities already have normative and operational mandates and experience to draw on, and as draft case studies on normative and operational linkages in the work of UN Country Teams demonstrate, UNCTs are increasingly using normative frameworks and human rights commitments as an entry point and basis for setting strategic priorities, advocacy and capacity development, and programming in a coordinated manner, across different country context and settings.

2. **Integrated policy advice** including providing “thought leadership” and analysis on critical policy issues, working across governments and societies to address and respond to cross-cutting challenges, and providing support to generating data and evidence to support policy making, implementation and monitoring of national development priorities and the SDGs, drawing on the diversity and expertise available across the UN system, and the tools and analysis utilized by the different pillars of the UN – human rights, humanitarian, peace and security, political, climate change etc. Demand for such integrated, up-stream policy advice will continue to grow, in particular among middle-income and higher-income countries. For example in Malawi, UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA developed a real-time monitoring framework to track UNDAF performance on MDG acceleration, ensuring reliable data availability on focus areas related to health, protection and human rights, including in humanitarian settings.
3. **Capacity development, brokering innovation and learning, and South-South and triangular cooperation.** Capacity development, piloting and operational support to support countries to implement the SDGs will be a critical function of the UNDS going forward, as will ensuring innovation and continuous learning at all levels, including through South-South and triangular cooperation and knowledge and technology transfer. Many examples of innovation were discussed at the recent Joint Meeting of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP – such as using technology to improve registration and access to national identification systems for vulnerable populations – ensuring vulnerable groups can exercise their legal rights, access basic social services, and are able to own land, and access citizenship and legal protection.
4. **Maximizing the UN’s convening role** – bringing together stakeholders across sectors to implement, monitor and report on the new development agenda, ensuring inclusiveness, participation and continuous engagement of and consultation with stakeholders, and convening issues based multi-sectoral partnerships. Examples include the UNDG national and thematic consultations on post-2015 agenda and thematic dialogues on implementation which saw an unprecedented level of engagement worldwide in setting the new development agenda.
5. **Leveraging partnerships and resources** – in support of implementation of the SDGs, to ensure effectiveness and maximize impact. In this regard it will be important to build on the experience of the MDGs, including the MDG Acceleration Framework, in order to leverage support to help countries accelerate the removal of bottlenecks to achieving sustainable development. There are many examples of such partnerships: for example in the Scaling-Up Nutrition Movement, founded in 2010, 54 countries, UNICEF, UNOPS, WFP and WHO together with bilateral and multi-lateral donors, NGOs and the private sector have come together to fight malnutrition – with a common set of indicators, leadership group, and dedicated secretariat that facilitates coordination, communication,

and provision of technical and policy guidance. In 2012 the partnership established a multi-partner trust fund to strengthen NGO capacity and involvement. The Global Plan to eliminate new HIV infections among children and keep their mothers alive is another example. Looking forward, the HLCP is also considering how best to leverage partnerships and resources including in support of youth engagement and the urban agenda.

6. **Integrated development and humanitarian support** – including maximizing synergies, integration of planning cycles, more pooled funding, and investment in development and resilience building in situations of protracted crises. Operational support will continue to be vital in humanitarian, conflict-affected and lower income countries. Informing the political and peace and security arms of the UN's work with experience and lessons learned from country realities will also be key.

Note that because the proposed priority functions are closely interlinked, some of these examples relate to more than one function.

7. Possible discussion questions

The DESA outline includes possible discussion questions and the questions below are included for consideration by Member States:

- Looking forward to the new development agenda, what are the priority core, universal functions for the UNDS?
- What are some of the potential implications of universality for the UN's role including in high-income and developed countries?
- How can funding effectively support the priority functions identified above? Are funding modalities required to support different functions, as some commentators have proposed?

Chronology of inter-governmental and UN milestones for Development		
1945	UN Charter	<p>We the Peoples of the United Nations determined:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>To promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom (preamble);</i> • <i>To achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion (Article 1);</i> • <i>To promote higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development (Article 55).</i> • <i>To take joint and separate action in co-operation with the Organization for the achievement of the purposes set forth in Article 55 (Article 56).</i>
1948	Universal Declaration of Human Rights (GA res. 217 A (111))	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood (Article 1).</i> • <i>Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services (Article 25);</i> • <i>Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized (Article 28).</i>
1960	Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (GA res. 1514 (XV))	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>All peoples have an inalienable right to complete freedom and to the exercise of their sovereignty and territorial integrity;</i> • <i>All peoples have the right to self-determination; by virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.</i>
1961	Programme for the First United Nations Development Decade (GA res. 1710 (XVI))	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All States were called to intensify their efforts to mobilize and to sustain measures to achieve self-sustaining growth of nations and their social advancement. • Appealing for more "equitable" and "mutually acceptable" economic relations between developed and developing countries, the GA reaffirmed the

		duty of States to cooperate internationally and express solidarity to create the conditions necessary to achieve the target set
1964	Establishment of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as an Organ of the General Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At first largest international Conference, UNCTAD 1, a declaration by 77 developing countries - the G77 - signaled a new negotiating body that pooled common concerns, the UN GA Resolution 1995 (XIX) adopted later that year create UNCTAD as the UN system focal point for the integrated treatment of trade and development in support of these developing countries.
1969	Declaration on Social Progress and Development (GA res. 2542 (XXIV))	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Declaration affirmed that the aim of social progress and development is “the continuous raising of the material and spiritual standards of living of all members of society, with respect for and in compliance with human rights and fundamental freedoms” (Part II, Objectives)</i> <i>All peoples and all human beings, without distinction as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, nationality, ethnic origin, family or social status, or political or other conviction, shall have the right to live in dignity and freedom and to enjoy the fruits of social progress and should, on their part, contribute to it (Article 1)</i>
1970	International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade (GA res. 2626 (XXV))	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Strategy recognized the interdependence of development and human rights, including the right of peoples to self-determination and the related concept of popular participation.
1971	Identification of the Least Developed under the developing countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UN GA approves the first list of LDCs in resolution 2768 (XXVI)
1974	Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order (GA res. 3201 (S-VI))	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UN GA Resolutions 3201 and 3202 (S-VI) establishes a New International Economic Order to promote the interests of developing countries by improving their terms of trade, increasing development assistance, developed-country tariff reductions, and other means.
1986	Declaration of the Right to Development (UNGA Resolution 41/128)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The right to development is an inalienable human right by virtue of which every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized.</i>
1992	Rio Declaration on Environment and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The right to development must be fulfilled so as to equitably meet developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations (Principle 3).</i>

	Development	
1993	Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The World Conference on Human Rights (for the first time all UN Member States by consensus) reaffirmed the right to development, as <i>established</i> in the Declaration on the Right to Development, as a universal and inalienable right and an integral part of fundamental human rights; • <i>The international community should promote an effective international cooperation for the realization of the right to development and the elimination of obstacles to development;</i> • <i>Lasting progress towards the implementation of the right to development requires effective development policies at the national level, as well as equitable economic relations and a favourable economic environment at the international level. (para. 10).</i>
1995	World Summit for Social Development Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting the realization of the right to development through strengthening democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and through effective development policies at the national level, as well as equitable economic relations and a favourable economic environment at the international level.
2000	Millennium Declaration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“We (Heads of State and Government) are committed to making the right to development a reality for everyone and to freeing the entire human race from want.”</i>
2002	Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Freedom, peace and security, domestic stability, respect for human rights, including the right to development, and the rule of law, gender equality, market-oriented policies, and an overall commitment to just and democratic societies are also essential and mutually reinforcing.</i>
2005	World Summit Outcome Report of the SG: “In Larger Freedom”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“We resolve further to strengthen the United Nations human rights machinery with the aim of ensuring effective enjoyment by all of all human rights and civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development.”</i>
2008	Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Doha Declaration on Financing for Development reaffirms the Monterrey Consensus. The three key messages of the document are: (i) strong commitment by developed countries to maintain their ODA targets irrespective of the current financial crisis; (ii)</i>

	Monterrey Consensus	<i>recognition that the United Nations has a vital role to play in addressing new challenges and emerging issues in financing for development; and (iii) decision to hold a UN Conference at the highest level on the impact of the current financial and economic crisis on development.</i>
2011	Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Equity at all levels is indispensable for the pursuit of long-term prosperity and the realization of all the internationally recognized human rights, including the right to development by all.</i>
2012	Doha Mandate, 13th United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Development strategies should be inclusive and designed to meet human needs. People have similar needs and aspirations, including freedom, human rights including the right to development, ...</i>
2012	Future We Want, Rio+20 Outcome Document, United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“We (the Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives) also reaffirm the importance of freedom, peace and security, respect for all human rights, including the right to development and the right to an adequate standard of living, ...”</i>
2012	Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (GA res. 67/226)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The QCPR provides policy guidance for the UN operational activities for development. It reaffirmed the importance of freedom, peace and security, respect for all human rights, including the right to development and the right to an adequate standard of living, including the right to food, the rule of law, gender equality, women’s empowerment and the overall commitment to just and democratic societies for development. First intergovernmental recognition of ‘Delivering as One.’
2014	Report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From the Rio+20 outcome document: <i>We resolve to establish an inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process on sustainable development goals that is open to all stakeholders, with a view to developing global sustainable development goals to be agreed by the General Assembly.</i>

Chronology of UN Milestones for Human Rights and Development

Human Rights and Development have been central and indivisible pillars of the International Community of Nations since its inception in 1945 with the adoption of the Charter of the United Nations. This historic event gave birth to a normative era in which the international community, inspired by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, produced an outstanding corpus of international norms and standards for a life of dignity and well-being for all. Despite this monumental achievement, human rights and development practice evolved on different tracks mainly due to the political dynamics that prevailed during the cold war. The World Conference on Human Rights in 1993 was a turning point however, and opened the door to a renewed vision of the indivisibility of human rights - a vision that underscored the hand-in hand partnership of human rights and development for achieving equitable human development and the effective realisation of human rights in the lives of all persons, irrespective of their location, condition, identity or status.

1945-50s Laying our Foundation

1945. The United Nations Charter. The UN Charter sets forth the "inherent dignity" and the "equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family." It affirms the UN's fundamental purpose as being "respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion".



UN Photo/Michos Tzovaras.

1946. The UN Commission on Human Rights is established.



UN Photo

1948. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is adopted, in which "Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in co-operation with the United Nations...a common standard...for all peoples and all nations". It is the first time in history that human rights and fundamental freedoms are set forth in such detail and the UDHR serves as the foundation for international, regional and national human rights law.

1960s-80s Developing UN Norms and Standards

1946 - 1986. Regional human rights regimes are established in the Americas, Africa, and Europe. These systems are complementary to the international human rights framework. In the case of the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights, which came into effect in 1986, article 22 sets out the right to development as both an individual and collective right and notes that States have the duty to ensure the exercise of the right to development.

1965 onwards. UN human rights treaties enter into force. The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights were all adopted during the 1960s. There are now 9 core human rights treaties in force. To monitor implementation of these treaties, treaty bodies composed of independent experts are set up, establishing the first form of dialogue between

1979. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women is adopted.

A vision of substantive equality is articulated in the Convention which defines what constitutes as discrimination against women and sets an agenda for national action to end such discrimination.



UN Photo.

1989. The Convention on the Rights of the Child is adopted. It is the first international treaty to incorporate the complete range of international human rights – including civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights as well as aspects of humanitarian law. It changes the way that children are viewed and treated; i.e. as human beings with a distinct set of rights instead of passive objects of care and charity.

Member States and the UN on human rights.

1980s. The first Special Procedures (SP) are established. With the assigning of the first SPs, the UN established a pool of independent human rights experts with mandates to report and advise on human rights from a thematic or country-specific perspective. There are now 39 thematic and 14 country mandates. The mandate of several SPs has a direct bearing on the link between human rights and development (e.g. Independent Expert on sustainable environment, Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights).

1986. The Declaration on the Right to Development. The UN Declaration on the Right to Development defines development as ‘an inalienable human right by virtue of which every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realised.’ The Declaration establishes that the human person is the central subject of development.

1990s-2015

Delivering Together: Global Summits and UN Reforms on Human Rights and Development

Inter-governmental

1993. The World Conference on Human Rights.

Reaffirmed that all human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent and interrelated, that “women’s rights are human rights” and that “while development facilitates the enjoyment of all human rights, the lack of development may not be invoked to justify the abridgement of internationally recognised human rights”. This understanding would be reiterated by other development related world conferences, such as the Population and Development Conference in Cairo (1994), and the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen and the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing (1995).

1993. Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women. A landmark acknowledgement of violence against women as a human rights violation and as an obstacle to the achievement of equality, development and peace, the Declaration addresses violence against women, whether occurring in public or private life.

UN system & Inter-agency



UN Photo/ Tim McKulka.

1993. Establishment of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, with a mandate to mainstream human rights in the work of the UN system.



UN High Commissioners for Human Rights. Top row: Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein (current), Navanethem Pillay, and Louise Arbour. Bottom row: Sergio Vieira de Mello, Mary Robinson, and Jose Ayala-Lasso.

2000. The Millennium Declaration.

At the Millennium Summit in 2000, heads of States made significant commitments to a comprehensive agenda on development, human rights, rule of law and gender equality. The Millennium Declaration recognised the link between human rights, good governance and development.

2002. The Rome Statute enters into force and establishes the International Criminal Court (ICC), the first permanent court with a world-wide reach mandated to investigate, charge, and try those accused of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes, hence providing an avenue for perpetrators of gross violations of international human rights law to be held accountable for their crimes, even when national courts are unwilling or unable to prosecute them.

2005. The World Summit Outcome.

The 2005 World Summit reaffirmed that human rights, development and peace & security, are three interlinked pillars of the UN, and gave explicit support for the further integration of human rights within the UN system. Member States also committed to integrate the promotion and the protection of human rights in their development and cooperation policies.

2006. Establishment of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC). As part of its work promoting and protecting human rights around the world, the HRC has endorsed a number of resolutions and global standards with direct bearing on the human rights and development nexus, including the resolution on Human Rights and Climate Change and the Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights.

2006. The International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is adopted. The

1997. Secretary-General Annan's First UN reform initiative established four Executive Committees (including undg) with human rights to be mainstreamed across them.

2000. The Human Development Report

2000 elaborates how human rights and human development are linked since they "share a common vision and common purpose." It concludes that human development is essential for realising human rights, and human rights are essential for full human development.



Sin Chai, Viet Nam. UN Photo/Kibae.

2002. Secretary-General Annan's Second UN Reform initiative. "Action 2" of the Secretary-General's second report on UN reform calls for strengthened UN actions on human rights at country level and the building of strong human rights institutions as a principal objective of the UN. Stemming from the report, the "Action 2" Global Programme on Human Rights is created (2004-2008) which leads to concrete field actions by the UN system as a whole.

2003. UN Statement of Common Understanding on Human Rights-Based Approach to Development (HRBA). A common understanding of the HRBA is reached across the UN agencies at a undg interagency workshop in Stamford, USA. This statement establishes that human rights should guide all phases and sectors of development, but also that development cooperation and programming should further the realisation of human rights as the ultimate goal of development.

2005. Secretary-General's Report "In Larger Freedom: development, security and human rights for all" sets out a framework for addressing peace, security, development and human rights and reaffirms these as the three and inter-connected pillars of the UN.

first human rights instrument of the 21st century. It gives expression to the civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights of persons with disabilities and the steps Governments must take to promote those rights, including through sustainable development.

2007. UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is adopted. It has become the cornerstone of the UN's efforts to ensure the individual and collective rights of indigenous and tribal peoples are respected. It establishes the need to gain the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples before any development programs that will affect them is put in place.

2008. Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The UPR, as an innovative mechanism established under the HRC, began its first round of reviews, becoming the human rights mechanism to assess all countries on all human rights, ensuring equal treatment for every country when their human rights situations are assessed. The UPR is the only human rights mechanism where the review is carried out by "peers"-Member States.

2010. MDGs Review Summit. The Outcome Document recognises that human rights are essential for achieving the MDGs. The human rights principles of equality, non-discrimination, participation and accountability permeate the Action Agenda.

2012. Rio+20 Outcome Document. Increased recognition by Member States of the centrality of human rights and of the key human rights standards and principles, including the right to an adequate standard of living, the right to food, the right to water and sanitation, the right to health, and the right to education.

2012-2016. The Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review for the first time explicitly calls for a strengthening of normative and operational linkages, and in this regard directing particular efforts to building national capacity for inclusive, equitable, participatory, transparent and accountable national development processes to empower the poor and people in vulnerable situations.

2014. Resolution on Treaty Body strengthening adopted by the General Assembly. While treaty bodies are now a main pillar of the international human rights protection system, their expansion has seen a backlog in State reports, chronic under-resourcing and insufficient compliance by States with reporting obligations. The UNGA resolution addresses these challenges with commitment to additional resources, innovative measures and capacity



UN Photo/Larry Barns



Oaxaca, Mexico. UN Photo/F Keery.Oaxaca, Mexico.

2010. The UNDG Human Rights Working Group (HRWG), established at the request of the UN Secretary-General, aims to integrate human rights in the UN's development work and bolster system-wide coherence, collaboration and support for UN Resident Coordinators and Country Teams to strengthen national capacity for the promotion and protection on human rights.

2014. The Human Rights up Front initiative launched by the Secretary General renewed the commitment of the UN Secretariat, funds and programmes to uphold the responsibilities assigned to the UN by the Charter, the Security Council and the General Assembly whenever there is a threat of serious and large-scale violations of international human rights and humanitarian law.

building.

2015 onward. The post-2015 Development Agenda and SDGs. In its preparations for the post-2015 agenda, the UN has underscored its commitment to human rights as both the means and the end of development; central to implementing the new agenda and ensuring a ‘people centred’ development that leaves no one behind and no one out.



Mazar-i-Sharif, Afghanistan. UN Photo/Helena Mulkerne

Chronology of UN Milestones for Peace & Security / Humanitarian

Inter-governmental	UN system & Inter-agency
<p>1945. The United Nations Charter.</p> <p>1966. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.</p> <p>1991. GA Resolution 46/182 creates the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) and the position of Emergency Relief Coordinator. Shortly after, the SG establishes the Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA), which was reorganized into the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in 1998.</p> <p>1999. GA Declaration and Programme of Action for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World.</p> <p>2000. The Millennium Declaration. At the Millennium Summit in 2000, heads of States made significant commitments to a comprehensive agenda on development, human rights, rule of law and gender equality. The Millennium Declaration recognised the link between human rights, good governance and development.</p> <p>2000. Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women and Peace and Security</p> <p>2001. Responsibility to Protect, Report of the International Commission on Intervention and State Responsibility</p> <p>2002. ECOSOC resolution E/2002/32. Calls on the UN system to “address the funding and strategic planning gap between relief and development activities in the context of natural disasters and complex emergencies” and to continue “to strengthen the consolidated appeals process as a coordination and strategic planning tool for the provision of humanitarian assistance and transition from relief to development”.</p> <p>2005. The World Summit Outcome. The 2005 World Summit reaffirmed that human rights, development and peace & security, are three interlinked pillars of the UN.</p>	<p>1992. Secretary-General’s Report ‘An Agenda for Peace’, Preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peace-keeping (A/47/277 – S/24111), introduced the concept of peacebuilding.</p> <p>1994. First DSRSG/RC/HC appointed (Haiti)</p> <p>2000. The ‘Brahimi Report’ (A/55/305 – S/2000/809) on UN Peace Operations which called for renewed political commitment on the part of Member States, significant institutional changes, and increased financial support.</p> <p>2002. Secretary-General’s report on ‘Strengthening the UN: An Agenda for Further Change’ (A/57/387/2002) in which Action Point 14 Calls on UNDG to develop “an implementation plan to strengthen the effectiveness of the organization’s presence in developing countries” and “include such features as... integrated planning, budgeting and resource mobilization tools for countries emerging from conflict”.</p> <p>2004. High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, A more Secure World: Our Shared Responsibility (A/59/565)</p> <p>2005. Secretary-General’s Report “In Larger Freedom: Towards development, security and human rights for all” sets out a framework for addressing peace, security, development and human</p>

2005. GA Resolution 60/180 and SC Resolution 1645(2005). Creates the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) and the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO).

2011. Security Council Resolution 1998 (2011) on Children in Armed Conflict and the related note (Protect Schools and Hospitals – Guidance Note on SC Resolution 1998)

2013. Security Council Resolution 2086 (2013) on multidimensional peacekeeping.

rights and reaffirms these as the three and inter-connected pillars of the UN.

2006. Guidelines on the Integrated Missions Planning Process (IMPP).

2006. Humanitarian reform passed, including the establishment of clusters in field operations, and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF Guidelines on the Integrated Missions Planning Process (IMPP).

2008. Decision of the Secretary-General no. 2008/24 on integration.

2008. UN-WB Partnership Framework for Crisis and Post-Crisis Situations.

2009. IMPP Guidelines on the Role of Headquarters.

2009. IMPP Secretary-General's Report on Peacebuilding in the Immediate Aftermath of Conflict (A/63/881 – S/2009/304).

2010. IMPP Guidelines on the Role of the Field.

2011. IASC Transformative Agenda agreed for strengthening humanitarian action.

2011. Decision of the Secretary-General no. 2011/10 on integration.

2011. Secretary-General's Report on Civilian Capacity in the Aftermath of Conflict (A/66/311 – S/2011/527).

2012. Decision of the Secretary-General no. 2012/01 on Special Circumstances in Non-Mission Settings.

2012. Policy on UN Transition in the Context of Mission Drawdown and Withdrawal.

2013. Policy on Integrated Assessment and Planning (IAP).