

## Information Note 1

### ***The relationship between the GA resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of UN operational activities for development and the specialized agencies***

1. The General Assembly resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of UN operational activities for development (UN-OAD) is **binding** for those United Nations entities that report to the Assembly; these include *14 funds and programmes*: UNDP (including UNCDF, UNV), UNICEF, UNFPA, WFP, UNHCR, UNODC, UNCTAD (including ITC), UNRWA, UN Women, UNEP, UN Habitat; *six research and training institutions*: UNICRI, UNIDIR, UNITAR, UNRISD, UNSSC, UNU; and *three other entities*: UNAIDS, UNISDR and UNOPS.
2. According to Article 57 of UN Charter, “the various specialized agencies, established by intergovernmental agreement and having wide international responsibilities, as defined in their basic instruments, in economic, social, cultural, educational, health, and related fields, shall be brought into relationship with the UN in accordance with the provisions of Article 63”.
3. According to Article 63 of the UN Charter, ECOSOC may enter into agreements with any of specialized agencies referred to in article 57, defining the terms on which the agency concerned shall be brought into relationship with the UN. Such agreements shall be subject to approval by the GA. The same article also stipulates that ECOSOC may coordinate the activities of the specialized agencies through consultation with and recommendations to such agencies and through recommendations to the GA and to Members of the UN. In Article 64, ECOSOC is authorized to take appropriate action to obtain regular reports from the specialized agencies. The Council may also make arrangements with the Members of the UN and with the specialized agencies to obtain reports on the steps taken to give effect to its own recommendations and to recommendations falling within its competence made by the GA. The Council may communicate its observations on these reports to the GA.
4. For the specialized agencies of the UN system, the QCPR resolution of the GA on UN-OAD therefore provides **recommendations**. Some specialized agencies (e.g. UNESCO and FAO) have decided to abide by the comprehensive policy review resolution of the GA on UN-OAD and annually report on progress in its implementation to their respective governing bodies. The UNESCO Executive Board in 179 EX/Decision 42, for example, requested the Director-General to present to the Board at its 180th session a strategy and a plan for the implementation of the relevant parts of the GA resolution 62/208 (2007) on the triennial comprehensive policy review of UN-OAD.
5. As the result of this legislative framework, the GA, in earlier resolutions on the comprehensive policy review of UN-OAD, has used language such as ‘*invited*’ or ‘*encouraged*’ the specialized agencies, not ‘*requested*’, to implement its decisions. The next version of the draft resolution could be modified to reflect this understanding of the relationship between the QCPR resolution of the GA and the specialized agencies.
6. The GA in the 2012 QCPR resolution could request DESA, in the annual monitoring report of the Secretary-General, to report on which specialized agencies have formally decided to abide by this legislation.