

Knowledge to lead

Preparations for the 2012 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of the General Assembly of UN operational activities for development

Six module course series organized jointly with
the Permanent Mission of Switzerland
and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs

1 February 2012
22 February 2012
13 March 2012
2 May 2012
22 June 2012
28 September 2012

Information Note

Background

Operational activities for development of the UN system are defined as those activities of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies which have the specific objective of promoting economic and social development in programme countries. In 2010, nearly two-thirds of all UN system-wide activities were operational activities for development.

The Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) is the mechanism through which the General Assembly assesses the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and impact of UN operational activities for development and establishes system-wide policy orientations for the development cooperation and country-level modalities of the UN system.

The 2012 QCPR process presents an important opportunity for Member States to engage in a dialogue on how to adapt UN operational activities for development to the changing global development cooperation context. To facilitate the QCPR process, the Secretary-General undertakes in-depth analytical work in a number of areas including: funding, UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) process, UN Resident Coordinator system, harmonization of business practices, results-based strategic planning and management, gender equality and women's empowerment, support to countries in transition from relief to development and emerging issues likely to affect the role of the UN development system in the near future.



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Course objective

The six-module course series, conducted in cooperation with UNDESA, is intended to provide delegates in Permanent Missions of Member States in New York with an opportunity to examine in greater depth a number of technical issues central to the QCPR, as part of the preparations for the upcoming intergovernmental negotiation process.

At the end of the course series, participants will better understand:

- The key policy issues in the area of funding of UN operational activities for development;
- The role of coordination in enhancing country-level performance of the UN development system;
- The emerging issues/global challenges likely to significantly impact the future role of the UN development system in international cooperation for development;
- The perspectives of key stakeholders at the country-level on the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of UN operational activities for development.

Organization

The course will be organized into six half-day sessions, led by experts and practitioners in their respective fields. Participants are encouraged to attend all the sessions.

<u>Module 1 (1 February 2012):</u>	Funding for UN operational activities for development: <i>key trends and issues</i> (UNDESA in cooperation with UNDP and UNICEF)
<u>Module 2 (22 February 2012):</u>	Functioning of the UN development system: (a) UNDAF process, (b) UN Resident Coordinator system and (c) harmonization of business practices: <i>challenges and opportunities</i>
<u>Module 3 (13 March 2012):</u>	Positioning of the UN system in a changing development landscape
<u>Module 4 (27 April 2012):</u>	Perspectives from the field: findings of surveys of programme country governments, UN Resident Coordinators and UN country teams and civil society organizations working with the UN system at the country-level
<u>Module 5 (22 June 2012):</u>	Briefing prior to the Operational Activities Segment of the Economic and Social Council: Designed for diplomats coming to New York for the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council, this intensive module will explain the QCPR process and summarize the key messages of the first four sessions.
<u>Module 6 (28 September 2012):</u>	Briefing prior to General Assembly deliberations on QCPR: Designed for diplomats who arrived during the summer and were unable to attend the other briefings, this last module will present/explain the QCPR process and all the materials produced in the previous sessions.

Logistics

Participants: The Series is open to delegates of permanent missions to the United Nations in New York who are involved or interested in UN operational activities for development, and other representatives of international, intergovernmental, and non-governmental organizations.

Registration: If you wish to participate in the modules, please register online at <http://www.unitar.org/event/new-york>.

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