



The Deputy Secretary-General

Remarks on the Independent Evaluation of the “Delivering as One” pilot countries

New York, 10 March 2010

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a pleasure to join you.

Before I talk about our proposal for the Independent Evaluation of Delivering as One, let me take a moment to clarify the three different discussions that are currently ongoing, concerning Evaluations and System-wide Coherence, as it can be quite confusing.

Firstly, the individual Governments in each of the Delivering as One pilot countries are doing their own evaluations of the experience in their country, as was foreseen in the 2007 Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review.

We will hear from the Permanent representative of the Mission of Rwanda in a short while about the meeting held last October in Kigali where those officials working on these in-country evaluations, met to exchange experiences, and learn from each other. A second meeting of this group will be held in Hanoi in June this year.

Secondly, member states will work together under an ad hoc arrangement proposed by the Secretary-General to undertake an Independent Evaluation of the overall Delivering as One initiative, as requested in resolution 62/208. I will brief you on this arrangement later in this statement.

Thirdly, member states have again asked through res 63/311 the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Chief Executive Board, to propose modalities for the establishment of a mechanism that could be used in future, instead of ad hoc arrangements.

This mechanism is intended to carry out independent system-wide evaluations, bearing in mind the evaluation capacities of respective UN organizations, the JIU, and the UN Evaluation Group (UNEG).

The co-facilitators have arranged for a session on this topic to be held on 6th May, with participation from CEB secretariat, JIU, OIOS, and UNEG.

Now, as regards the independent evaluation of Delivering as One, you will recall that in resolution 63/311, the General Assembly emphasized that the independent evaluation of the “delivering as one” effort should be guided by the principles contained in the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review.

Among those principles is national ownership and leadership. Indeed, national ownership forms the bedrock of the delivering as one initiative and of all our operational activities for development.

The Assembly also stipulated that the evaluation should be conducted in the context of system-wide evaluation norms and standards, and should be based on an inclusive,

transparent, objective and independent approach.

The Secretary-General is closely following this guidance as he makes arrangements for the independent evaluation process and as he supports the “programme country pilots” in exchanging their experiences and performing their own, country-led evaluations.

The ongoing country-led evaluations are an integral part of the overall evaluation process. They are being carried out in seven of the eight pilot countries, with the support of a framework developed by the United Nations Evaluation Group. The Secretary-General will continue to support these efforts.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As for the modalities of the independent evaluation, the Secretary-General has presented a proposal in his report. I would now like to elaborate on his plan.

The United Nations lacks an independent, system-wide evaluation mechanism to examine operational activities for development. Pending agreement on this mechanism, an ad hoc arrangement is required for managing the independent evaluation of Delivering as One.

Therefore, the Secretary-General has decided to establish an Evaluation Management Group for this purpose. It is proposed that the group include evaluation professionals from each of the five regional groups and two from pilot countries. The Chairs of the Joint Inspection Unit and UNEG will also serve as ex officio members.

The Evaluation Management Group (EMG) would design, lead and manage the evaluation, and would commission an independent team to conduct it. The Group will need to put in place a quality assurance process that will ensure that the independent evaluation is conducted in accordance with system-wide norms and standards.

While the EMG will have the authority to design the evaluation as they see fit, we would certainly ensure that they have access to all the country evaluations, as a possible foundation for their work.

The Secretary-General will soon send a letter to the regional groups and pilot countries both asking them to nominate candidates for the EMG and outlining the key criteria for membership.

These criteria will stipulate that members should be drawn from established evaluation institutions, and have experience in managing independent evaluations.

Once the group has been established, they will draft Terms of Reference for the evaluation and budget estimates will be finalized. Additional resources will have to be mobilized.

It would be advisable to have a professional evaluation body provide support to the Group. With that in mind, the Secretary-General has asked OIOS to serve as Secretary to the Group.

OIOS is well placed to carry out this function given its independent mandate and technical expertise, as well as its endorsement of the UNEG norms and standards.

Our hope is that the evaluation will be completed by mid-2011 so that it can feed into the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review process the following year.

To meet this deadline, the evaluation will need to begin in September 2010 and be completed by the end of 2011.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is an important exercise. The Secretary-General and I welcome your comments and support.

Thank you.

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