



Economic and Social Council

Operational Activities for Development Segment

22-24 February 2016

UN Headquarters, New York, ECOSOC Chamber

Draft Programme

UN Development System:

Getting ready for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

The next General Assembly resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the UN system will be negotiated and adopted a few months from the present ECOSOC Operational Activities Segment.

An important objective of the segment will be to review progress and lessons learned in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/226 (2012) on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the UN system since its adoption.

Following the recent adoption of the 2030 Agenda, another key objective of the 2016 Operational Activities for Development Segment will be to discuss its implications for the UN development system, and contribute to the ongoing ECOSOC Dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the UN development system.

The 2030 Agenda will require entities of the UN development system to strengthen the delivery of shared development results through the adoption of multi-sector approaches at all levels. This will require greater horizontal cooperation in planning, programming and operations in the UN development system. Another important implication of the 2030 Agenda will be the need to strengthen horizontal cooperation in the work of the humanitarian, peace and development pillars of the Organization in programme countries. These changes will present policy, operational and institutional challenges and opportunities for the UN development system.

Day 1 - Monday, 22 February

10.00 – 10.45 a.m.

Opening

H.E. Mr. Alejandro Palma Cerna, Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council

H.E. Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, President of the General Assembly

Mr. Wu Hongbo, Under Secretary-General, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Keynote speaker

“UN development system: Vision for Post-2015 Era”

H.E. Mr. Claver Gatete, Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Rwanda

Discussions in the segment will begin with a forward-looking analysis provided by a keynote speaker on the implications of the 2030 Agenda and other drivers of change for the work of the Organization in the post-2015 era. This presentation is expected to identify important pointers that would inform discussions in subsequent sessions of the segment.

10.45 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.

Panel discussion

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: What are the implications for policy, programming and operational cooperation and coordination in the UN development system?

The shared delivery of development results in the UN development system will have implications for how entities cooperate in policy development, programming and operations at country and global levels. This session will particularly examine whether existing country-level coordination, programming and operations instruments, including the standard operating procedures for delivering-as-one countries, resident coordinator system and UNDAF are adequately equipped to advance the objective of shared delivery of development results.

Moderator: Ms. Sarah Cliffe, Director, Center on International Cooperation, New York University, former Assistant Secretary-General to the United Nations

Panellists: H.E. Ms. Zhanar Aitzhanova, Minister for Economic Integration, Kazakhstan
H.E. Mr. Macharia Kamau, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations
Mr. Joan Clos, Executive Director, UN-Habitat
Mr. Alain Noudehou, UN Resident Coordinator, China

Possible discussion questions:

1. What changes may be required in the resident coordinator system and UNDAF process if the UN development system is to be able to deliver integrated support to programme countries in the post-2015 era?
2. Building on the experience of the standard operating procedures, what changes will be needed in terms of planning, programming and business practices' policies and instruments in support of delivery of shared results at country level?
3. What other changes may be required to support shared delivery of results at country level?

3:00 – 3:15 p.m.

Introduction of Secretary-General's report

Mr. Thomas Gass, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy
Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, Department of Economic and
Social Affairs

3:15 – 6:00 p.m.

Dialogue with Heads of UN Funds and Programmes:

The dialogue with the Heads of the Fs/Ps will focus on two main themes:

- (a) Lessons learned from the implementation of GA resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review
- (b) Requirements of 2030 Agenda for greater coherence in the UN development system with particular focus on funding practices, governance structures, organizational arrangements, capacity and impact and partnerships approaches

Moderator:

H.E. Mr. Alejandro Palma Cerna, Vice-President of the Economic and
Social Council

Panellists:

Ms. Helen Clark, Administrator, UNDP
Mr. Anthony Lake, Executive Director, UNICEF
Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director, UN Women
Ms. Laura Londen, Deputy Executive Director, UNFPA
Mr. Amir Abdulla, Deputy Executive Director, WFP

Discussants:

H.E. Ms. Nguyen Phuong Nga, Permanent Representative of Vietnam
to the United Nations
H.E. Mr. Geir O. Pedersen, Permanent Representative of Norway to
the United Nations

Possible discussion questions:

1. Which QCPR mandates require accelerated and/or scaled-up implementation in order to help ensure that the UN development system remains fit-for-purpose in the post-2015 era?
2. What changes are needed in the funding architecture of the UN development system at country and global levels if the Organization is to be able to deliver shared development results in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda? Is there need for a fundamental rethink of the funding architecture of UN development system?
3. How can current models of delivering operational activities at country level evolve to take into account the need for differentiated responses based on different countries needs and capacities, and requirements for integrated responses by the UN development system?
4. What kind of planning and coordination mechanisms and instruments can best enable the UN development system to balance specialization and integration in supporting Member States in realizing the 2030 Agenda?

Day 2 - Tuesday, 23 February

10:00 – 10:15 a.m.

Special briefing

Update on the ECOSOC Dialogue on longer-term positioning of UN development system in context of 2030 Agenda

H.E. Mr. Alejandro Palma Cerna, Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council

The Vice-President of ECOSOC will provide a short briefing on the ECOSOC Dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the UN development system in the context of the 2030 Agenda.

10:15 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Panel discussion

How to strengthen coordination and integration of development, humanitarian and peace pillars in the work of the UN system?

The 2030 Agenda embodies the long-standing dictum that “there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development”. The realization of the new development agenda will require significant strengthening of horizontal cooperation between the humanitarian, peace and development pillars of the Organization. Two recent reviews of high-level panels of experts have strongly echoed this view. These reviews have also highlighted that UN Secretariat departments as well as the funds, programmes and agencies have yet to arrive at clear division of labour in countries in complex development situations and struggle to integrate their efforts in the face of competing pressures, contradictory messages and different funding sources. The high-level expert panels have also pointed out the need to strengthen UN-wide strategic planning, coordination and integration among the various parts of the Organization. This panel discussion will focus on the structural, operational and institutional changes required in the UN system if such horizontal coordination across the three pillars is to be effectively realized.

Keynote speaker: Baroness Verma, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development, United Kingdom

Special speaker: Ms. Ameerah Haq, Bangladesh, former United Nation Under Secretary-General for Field Support

Moderator: Mr. Alex Aleinikoff, Huo Global Policy Initiative Research Fellow, Columbia Global Policy Initiative and Visiting Professor of Law, Columbia Law School

Panellists: H.E. Ms. Stephanie Hochstetter Skinner-Klée, Ambassador of Guatemala and President of the WFP Executive Board
Ms. Helen Clark, Chair, UNDG
Mr. Stephen O’Brien, Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, OCHA
Mr. Parfait Onanga-Anyanga, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Central African Republic (via VTC)
Mr. Mourad Wahba, Deputy Special Representative for the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) (via VTC)

Possible discussion questions:

1. How to institutionalize integrated UN-wide strategic programme planning in countries in complex development situations, with a view to forging greater coherence in the work of the humanitarian, peace and development pillars of the Organization? What are the challenges in this regard, particularly considering different accountability lines?
2. What are the main challenges facing inter-agency coordination mechanisms with regard to forging strategic cooperation among different parts of the UN system in programming and operations in countries in complex development situations? How can these challenges best be addressed?
3. What measures are critical to ensure that funding, governance and organizational arrangements of the humanitarian, peace and development pillars of the Organization best support the realization of common strategic objectives?

3:00 – 5:00 p.m.**Panel discussion*****Organizational arrangements: How to strengthen inter-agency collaboration in organizational presence at country, sub-regional and regional levels?***

The field office structures of UN entities are diverse and complex. It is estimated that the UN development system as a whole has some 1500 country, regional, sub-regional, multi-country offices and technical centres. This session will discuss how to enhance effectiveness and efficiency in organizational presence of UN entities at country and regional levels, including through improved inter-agency cooperation and coordination. The session could focus, in particular, on organizational arrangements in programme countries where the UN development system has smaller presence in development cooperation from a funding perspective.

Keynote speaker: H.E. Ms. Rossana Guevara, Vice President of Honduras

Moderator: Mr. David Nabarro, Special Advisor to the Secretary-General on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Panellists: H.E. Ms. Sahar Nasr, Minister of International Cooperation, Arab Republic of Egypt
 Ms. Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary, ECLAC
 Mr. Mike Kelleher, Senior Advisor, UN Relations and Partnerships, World Bank
 Ms. Nardos Bekele-Thomas, Director, Office of the Chef de Cabinet, Executive Office of the Secretary-General, former UN Resident Coordinator, Kenya

Possible discussion questions:

1. Taking into account the changes in the development landscape over the past years, and the new 2030 Agenda, what existing and potential new models of presence and programming arrangements (e.g. joint offices, joint teams, multi-country offices) would enable the UN development system to most effectively and efficiently deliver support to programme countries?
2. What functions are best suited to be delivered at regional level? What are the challenges in this regard?

5:00 – 6:00 p.m.**General debate**

Day 3 - Wednesday, 24 February

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Panel discussion

Partnership approaches: How to ensure accountability, coherence and evaluation of impact?

Partnerships have become an increasingly important part of the work of most UN development system entities. This session will focus on how to ensure that partnerships among UN entities and with other stakeholders will augment the capacity of the Organization to implement the 2030 Agenda, while effectively managing the risks. The session will particularly discuss what kind of inter-agency coordination, inter-governmental oversight and other organizational measures will be necessary to ensure that partnerships involving many UN entities and other stakeholders operate in an effective, efficient and transparent manner, and are fully in line with UN values and norms.

Moderator: Mr. Amir Dossal, Founder & Chairman, Global Partnerships Forum

Panellists: Mr. Ibrahim Mayaki, Chief Executive Officer, New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), African Union
Mr. Sayed Aqa, Vice President Cooperation and Capacity Development, Islamic Development Bank
Ms. Lise Kingo, Executive Director, UN Global Compact

Discussant: Mr. Thomas Gass, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Possible discussion questions:

1. What have been the key lessons learned from the establishment, results and impact of strategic partnerships with the private sector and other non-government stakeholders in the UN development system?
2. Does the increasing number of partnerships in the UN development system, including the projected exponential growth at country, regional and global levels in the context of the 2030 Agenda, make it important to establish common standards and system-wide governance and evaluation in order to ensure that all such initiatives are consistent with the values and norms of the Organization?

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

General debate (cont.)

3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

General debate (cont.)

4.00 – 5.00 p.m.

Summary of key messages from the Operational Activities for Development Segment and concluding remarks

H.E. Mr. Alejandro Palma Cerna, Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council

Annex – Informal side events

Day 1 - Monday, 22 February

- 8:30-9:45am **Briefing on progress in pilot independent system-wide evaluations**
*Organized by Interim Coordination Mechanism (JIU, UNEG, OCHA, OIOS, DESA),
Conference Room 8, breakfast served from 8am
Contact person: Scott Green (email: Green10@un.org)*
- 1:15 -2:45 p.m. **Development Cooperation, lever for integrated SDG implementation – Briefing on the 2016 DCF Preparatory Process**
*Organized by OESC/DESA,
Conference Room 8
Contact person: Caroline Lombardo (lombardoc@un.org)*

Day 2 - Tuesday, 23 February

- 8:30-9:45am. **Pooled funding, coherence and scale: QCPR indicator 11 and the lessons learned for financing Agenda 2030**
*Organized by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office, UNDP
Delegates Dining Room, Private Rooms 1-3
Contact person: Henriette Keijzers (henriette.keijzers@undp.org)*
- 1:15 – 2:45 p.m. **Delivering together on SDGs – the new generation of UNDAFs and SOPs**
*Organized by DOCO/UNDG,
Conference Room 7
Contact person: Helene Remling (helene.remling@undg.org)*