

ECOSOC LTP Amr Nour TPs 1 July 2016

Ref to recognition of regional dimension in phase 1 including relating to functions, capacity and impact and organizational arrangements (convening power, thought leadership, forging policy coherence and coordination, leveraging normative, policy and analytical capacity).

Further recognition in the 2030 Agenda (critical link and nexus between global and national; platform for peer learning, innovation and partnerships; FUR; addressing transboundary issues and promoting regional coop and SSC). Role of Regional Commissions cuts across all areas.

Focus at this session on specific proposals at three levels with strong bearing at the regional level setting and operation:

Principles; strategies and framework of engagement and; practical low hanging measures to better link RegComs with UNCTs through the RCS and support country development work.

While many are applied, the application is either uneven or non-systemic within the UNS and in the regions. Hence, a stronger and explicit recognition to such suggestions and elements through this process of LTP may be useful.

Principles:

1. Subsidiarity: systemic adherence to subsidiarity as principle could contribute to a more productive, effective and efficient UNS at all levels.
2. Decentralization: other face of and complements subsidiarity. More empowerment, flexibility, timely and more tailored actions to regional and country specificities. Better delivery on the ground. Collaboration spirit and pace of actions and delivery often faster in the field than at HQ level.

Coordination and Policy Coherence: Strategies and Frameworks of Engagement in the regions and linkage to country level

1. Need to bridge and align, as warranted and appropriate, with non UN partners organizations' regional and subregional visions and agenda - I mentioned before Africa 2063 agenda and ASEAN vision 2025, just as illustrative examples.
2. That brings me to the RCM - R/UNDG interaction, addressed before in general terms in prior SG reports and QCPR. **The distinction b/w RCM and R/UNDG in the Regions is not necessarily artificial or duplicative, but it actually has a value added if better leveraged in a collaborative mind set and systemic framework.**
3. To elaborate, ongoing collaboration between UNECE/RCM and R/UNDG/Europe and CIS welcomed and should be encouraged and positive elements drawn from it as applicable in other regions. Yet, there is an important distinction to bear in mind

between other regions and the UNECE or Europe/CIS region where the RCM and R/UNDG members are mainly the UNS organizations (the EUC is not a member of RCM Europe for example). In Africa and the ESCWA Arab region, for example, the AUC and the LAS are main partners and co-chairs of the respective RCMs. ASEAN, PIF, and other subregional organizations are also members and participants in RCM/AP. Similarly, in LAC regional and subregional organizations participate. The MDBs also often participate in the respective RCMs. Hence, RCM is well placed to play this bridging and alignment efforts and for streamlining the regional programming of the UNS in that context and as appropriate. **Such alignment and bridging not only recognizes regional and sub-regional realities and specificity – allowing differentiation within universality, but it also empowers the UNS through stronger partnerships and ownership by MS of their strategies and action plans, further supports regional cooperation and integration efforts and addresses transboundary issues.**

4. The impact of such bridging and partnerships can only go however so far unless the **linkage b/w R/UNDGs and the RCM becomes more systemic**, namely in translating agreed regional strategies of engagement, alignment and programming into concrete operational actions at the country level, including through mainstreaming into country frameworks and leveraging the regional capacities and resources to that purpose. That was partly behind the statement of collaboration of the heads of the RegComs and the UNDP Administrator, in their capacity as chairs of RCM and UNDG, respectively. We trust we will be moving in that direction, but certainly an endorsement by MS to such direction in the regions is always welcomed.

Further practical measures for a more systemic interaction b/w the RegComs and UNCTs through the RCS and in support of country development work:

1. Induction of newly appointed RCs in the RegComs
2. The heads of the RegComs to address the annual meetings of the RCS in their respective regions and interact with the RCs in that context.
3. Deepening the policy and analytical collaboration between the RegComs and the specialized agencies in the regions to further leverage their respective multi-sectorial and sectorial assets and capacities, including for capacity development and policy advice at country level, where appropriate. As stated, a key emerging trend in a new generation of UNDAF for 2030 Agenda is that normative and policy agenda is at the centre of operational activities. The SA and the Regional Commissions are custodians of much of this normative and policy agendas with associated capacity.