

**Experts' Roundtable on
“National ownership, leadership and capacity development: have they become a reality?”**

**(10:00 am – 5:00 p.m., 8 July 2010
Conference Rm. 6, UN Headquarters, New York)**

On 8th July 2010 (Thursday), an informal Experts' Roundtable organized by UNDESA, will be held prior to the official programme of the ECOSOC's Operational Activities segment, on the theme of “*National ownership, leadership and capacity development: have they become a reality?*” It will be an opportunity to hear first-hand and engage in a discussion with highest national authorities responsible for oversight of cooperation with the UN development system in selected programme countries.

The Experts' Roundtable will explore and share experiences from various country contexts, reflecting on the guidance from General Assembly resolution 62/208 on the comprehensive review of operational activities for development of the UN development system. Experiences will include, those of some programme pilot countries on “Delivering as One” and some that are adopting the approach voluntarily, as well as countries proceeding under existing guidance and arrangements. The discussions will identify factors and practices that promote or hinder the realization of effective national ownership, leadership and capacity development in various country contexts.

The discussions by heads and high-level officials of development cooperation ministries/departments of selected programme countries will greatly enrich the deliberations by the Economic and Social Council in its 2010 review of the implementation of resolution 62/208 and consequently, the Council's decision on further guidance to the UN development system. Countries represented include: Angola, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Maldives, Malawi, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Viet Nam, Tanzania, and Tajikistan.

The Roundtable is open to delegations of Member States and other interested parties.

Objectives

- (i) to draw from country experiences, perspectives, lessons learned and good practices on strengthening national ownership and leadership and national capacities to exercise effective oversight, coordination, and management of UN development cooperation in particular as well as national capacities in aid coordination and development planning more generally;
- (ii) to identify specific factors that promote or hinder effective national ownership and leadership; and
- (iii) to come up with recommendations on policies and specific measures that can be considered by the Council or the UN development system and its organizations to promote and improve the work of the UN development system towards strengthening of national ownership and leadership.

Discussions

The roundtable will be organized in two segments: one in the morning and one in the afternoon. The morning segment will focus on *national ownership and leadership*, while the afternoon session will focus on *national capacity development* in the context of national ownership and leadership.

Morning segment (10.00 am – 1.00pm)

The following questions may guide the discussions:

- (i) To what extent does the functioning of the United Nations in the country promote national ownership and leadership in shaping or directing the role and contribution of the UN development system to national development?
- (ii) What mechanisms and best practices strengthen national ownership and leadership in the United Nations country programming processes (from development, implementation, to monitoring and evaluation)?

Afternoon segment (3.00 – 5.00 pm)

The following questions may guide the discussions:

- (i) How can the United Nations system promote or support further development of national capacities to lead, oversee, coordinate, implement, and assess the United Nations' contribution to national development in particular, and of external assistance in general?
- (ii) To what extent does the UN development system promote the use of national expertise and national systems thereby contribute to national capacity development?
- (iii) Do current arrangements of the United Nations system enable the country to have access to the full range of mandates and resources of the United Nations system including non-resident UN system agencies in response to emerging national needs and priorities? What are the constraints?