



**INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION  
OFFICE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS**

**ECOSOC Dialogue on the  
Longer-Term Positioning of the UN Development System**

**15 December 2014**

**Talking Points for  
Ms. Jane Stewart,  
Special Representative of the ILO to the UN and Director  
Vice-Chair of the High Level Committee on Programme (HLCP)**

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Thank you, Madame Chair,

**Excellences, distinguished delegates, dear colleagues,**

I am very honoured to share views of the High Level Committee on Programmes – HLCP on the longer-term positioning of the United Nations Development System (UNDS) taking into account the post-2015 development agenda.

The core function of the HLCP is to assist the UN Chief Executives' Board (CEB) in forging policy coherence and programme coordination in response to inter-governmental mandates and in support of internationally agreed development goals. In the words of our Chair, Achim Steiner, it is the “think tank” for CEB.

The HLCP also serves as a platform for inter-agency dialogue, sharing of best practices and for the development of common strategies, methodologies and tools to address emerging issues and challenges facing the UN system.

Madame Chair,

From the outset, I would like to say that in our discussions together, it is evident that the UN family and its coordination mechanisms are very encouraged by the progress made so far in the shaping of a transformative, universal and integrated sustainable development agenda that puts human rights and equality at its core.

In our HLCP deliberations, as well as in the joint consultations with HLCM and UNDG, the emerging agenda is seen as a key instrument for boosting coherence and coordination within the UN system. We are embracing this challenge with great enthusiasm and fully committed to support Member States in implementing the future framework.

In this respect and taking note of the six areas of interest to Members, let me highlight some of the thinking now going on in the HCLP around elements of Function, Organizational Arrangements, Partnership Approaches, Capacity and Impact, and the interlinkages and alignment among and between them.

**First** and upmost, let's start with **function**. We understand that a critical role of the UN system is the provision of support to Member States for the implementation of the global normative frameworks that are negotiated in this and in other UN-related multilateral fora. From the HLCP perspective we believe these frameworks constitute a unique and comparative advantage of the UN in the field of development. In our view, they should be consciously embedded at the heart of coherent policies and programmes in order to effectively support Member States in "operationalizing" their agreements. This common normative framework applies across the development-humanitarian-peace and security continuum and its more intentional use should help tie our work more productively together.

We anticipate that the emerging sustainable development agenda - itself a normative framework - will guide us in new directions in this regard. As a comprehensive policy framework, this multi-dimensional agenda could not only clarify the "what" of our work but the "how", demanding more integrated policies, strategies and monitoring and reporting platforms across its social, economic and environmental dimensions.

Furthermore, the agenda reminds us that the UN's services will need to be systematically tailored to the differentiated needs of Member States. One size does not fit all. While forging coherence, the UN system is committed to leverage its power of specialization to provide client-oriented solutions in an integrated way.

Madame Chair, we believe the agenda could have the potential to shape the coherent authorizing environment of the UNDS, strengthening and integrating **organizational arrangements** that will drive change and allow the UN system to move as required, from vertical to horizontal integration, encouraging work across sectors and disciplines to deliver in a more integrated and effective manner for Member States; in short, delivering a new agenda in a new way.

**Second**, in terms of **partnerships** and related to **organizational arrangements and capacity**, the HLCP has recognized that issues-based coalitions can be powerful platforms from which to mobilize, leverage and integrate the capacities and resources of multiple stakeholders in support of the post-2015 sustainable development agenda.

The UN needs to be a responsive and agile service provider of both integrated and specialized advice and a multi-stakeholder convener and honest broker. Our responses and partnerships need to encompass the full range of UN activities, including development, humanitarian, peace and security and human rights.

The UN's ability to forge genuine partnerships for decision-making, strategic planning, service delivery, knowledge sharing, and collective monitoring and accountability at all levels – national, regional and global – is critical in the post-2015 world – and it should be very much grounded in the UN's central normative and convening roles.

**Third**, and in the context of this type of organizational arrangement or partnership, we can make a suggestion about leveraging the UN's normative framework for **impact**. Any partners in these coalitions should clearly embrace and reflect in their operations, the normative values underpinning the policy focus of the coalition. The UN system need not be shy in asking for this as a measure of commitment. This requirement for membership becomes the value proposition for our partnerships; leveraging the UN's comparative advantage in the field of development and providing a measure of UN impact.

The UN system has already been moving toward and has examples of effective issue-based coalitions.

The Social Protection Interagency Coordination Board is a good example of an interesting framework that has brought specialized agencies, international financial institutions, donors and civil society together around internationally agreed concepts and norms in the area of social protection, notably the ILO Recommendation 202 on National Floors of Social Protection. The Board serves as a platform to leverage capacity more effectively and can be a platform to support the implementation and monitoring of the target that promotes the implementation of social protection systems and social protection floors to all.

Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) is another great example. In this coalition, the energy issue found a central platform in the UN system and it speaks consistently to the SDG logic of addressing multiple issues. Financiers, governments and energy sector actors are all persuaded that the initiative allows the sum to be more than its parts, with significant and measurable impacts and results.

There are other examples, some more formally created, others more organically generated. Interesting to note, many of these platforms have a **funding** model attached. HLCP is committed to understanding the better practices of these differing models in order to advise on future applications and needs. We have in fact agreed to put the strategy to the test in hopes of better leveraging the UN impact for youth employment and in the area of urbanization.

Perhaps one final area regarding **impact** could be shared. The HLCP fully embraces the need to use data and evidence more effectively and transparently particularly in addressing inequalities, risk and vulnerability. Working with HLCM and UNDG to develop deeper understanding of the concepts of universality and inequality we will generate greater analytical capacity in order to ensure that in our work, we leave no one behind.

Madame Chair, essentially, the new agenda has been perceived as the gravitational pull to bring us all together around a consistent set of goals, targets and means of implementation. Anchoring these in the larger UN global normative framework, placing norms at the heart of our policies, programmes and partnerships will help the UN development system deliver a sustainable future for all.

In conclusion, there is a strong and shared sense of enthusiasm and commitment to change, and a readiness to embrace the actions required to render the UN system competent in contributing to the implementation of a transformative post-2015 sustainable development agenda. We look forward to further guidance from Members States in this regard.

Thank you!