



# UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination

## Tools for UN Country Teams

*An inter-agency effort, led by the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), to develop tools for the use of UN country teams in support of national responses to climate change.*

**The Initiative is linked to the Common Country Assessment/ UN Development Assistance Framework (CCA/UNDAF) and encompasses three guidance notes:**

- **Guidance Note on Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction**
- **Guidance Note on Mainstreaming Environmental Sustainability**
- **Guidance Note on Integrating Climate Change Considerations**

### Why this Initiative?

Responses to the impacts of climate change will take form invariably and primarily at the country level. UN Country Teams need to be equipped to provide coordinated and effective support to national counterparts in their adaptation and mitigation efforts.

UNDAF is the strategic framework for developing effective responses that are aligned with national needs and priorities. The Initiative also emphasizes the Delivering as One approach for the UN country team in responding to the climate-change needs and priorities of the countries.

### The Tools

#### **Guidance Note on Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction**

Climate change and disasters are integrally linked. Climate change affects physical hazards and the coping capacity of communities to deal with disasters. It is important that national-level efforts to adapt to climate change and reduce disaster risk are effectively harmonized. This is of particular importance in least-developed countries where government capacity is especially strained, and small island developing states, which are extremely vulnerable to climate-related disasters. Risk management approaches are an important component of climate change adaptation. While assisting countries to make a concerted effort towards integrating disaster

risk reduction interventions into broader development approaches, climate change is considered as a cross-cutting theme throughout the Guidance Note.

#### **Guidance Note on Mainstreaming Environmental Sustainability**

Environmental sustainability is integrally linked with climate change. Healthy ecosystems and sustainably-managed natural resources are important in adapting to climate change and for establishing synergies between adaptation and mitigation in such areas as forestry and land management. Likewise, sound environmental practices and resource efficiency can help build the path to a low-carbon future. The Guidance Note outlines 15 entry points and related actions and tools that will enable UN Country Teams and country partners to better mainstream environmental opportunities and concerns during efforts to strengthen country analysis and prepare and implement the UNDAF.

#### **Guidance Note on Integrating Climate Change Considerations**

There is growing evidence that climate change is impeding the sustainability of development efforts, including achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Importantly, efforts to reduce the rate of climate change, or avoid its worst consequences, are usually cost effective. This is especially the case when the necessary actions are undertaken at the design stage, and as part of wider development initiatives.

The cross-cutting nature of climate change calls for collaborative efforts by UN Country Teams to provide collective responses in support of national priorities. The Guidance Note assists the Teams to undertake every relevant and reasonable action to ensure that climate change does not impede economic growth, human development or poverty reduction. The Guidance Note is organized around the main steps for UN country programming, and outlines the entry points, related actions and custom-designed support tools.

## Delivering as One: Best Practices

- To address the coordination issues in climate change and in other aspects of the UN's programmes in the Pacific, 16 UN agencies are now working towards delivering as one under the UN Country Programme for Papua New Guinea and the UNDAF for the Pacific Sub-region (2008-2012). A "Climate Change Scoping Study" was initiated by the Fiji and Samoa UNCTs investigating options to upscale support by the UN system in Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Samoa to Pacific Island Countries and regional organizations in climate change mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction.
- The *China Climate Change Partnership Framework 2008–2010* brings together the work of nine UN agencies in close

coordination and partnership with their government counterparts. The UNCT in China has a Theme Group on Climate Change and Environment and an UNDAF matrix mapping climate-change related activities. The Framework engages both the public and private sectors, and makes use of existing best practices to develop innovative models and pilot projects, with a view to scaling-up in the future. The framework aims at supporting policies needed to achieve climate change goals, and developing and disseminating strategic, innovative and highly cost-effective partnerships and technology transfer models.

## Moving Forward

The package of tools, developed in direct response to demand from national counterparts to the UN country teams, are being integrated into training programmes for UN Country Teams and national counterparts. They will be applied in the development of UNDAFs in approximately 30 countries during 2010.

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## CEB climate change action framework

Five focus areas and four cross-cutting areas have been identified in response to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiation process and in pursuance of the broader mandates and capacities in the United Nations system:

### Focus areas

- Adaptation
- Technology transfer
- Reduction of emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD)
- Financing mitigation and adaptation action
- Capacity-building

### Cross-cutting areas

- Climate knowledge: science, assessment, monitoring and early warning
- ➔ **Supporting global, regional and national action**
- Climate-neutral UN
- Public awareness-raising