

UNDG meeting

Geneva, 25th June 2008, 3:00 - 5:30 PM
Palais des Nations, XXIII Conference Room

Final Report

Item 1 - Opening Remarks and briefing by the UNDG Chair on relevant SG Policy Committee discussions

1. Kemal Dervis, UNDP Administrator/Chair of UNDG, opened the first meeting of the full UNDG after its formal integration into CEB. Annika Soder, FAO, was introduced as the Vice-Chair of the UNDG. Deborah Landey, UNAIDS, was introduced as the next Director of the Development Operations Coordination Office (DOCO), who will take over the functions from Sally Fegan-Wyles, the current Director of DOCO, in July 2008. The UNDG Chair expressed his gratitude and appreciation of results achieved by DOCO under the leadership of Sally Fegan-Wyles.

2. Referring to the discussions being held within the SG Policy Committee, the UNDG Chair mentioned that a summary of 15 Policy Committee meetings exists and or will be made available to the UNDG members. When UNDG members have any issues that need to be raised at and discussed by the Committee, they should be signaled through the Executive Office of the UNDG Chair or DOCO. Attendance at the SG Policy Committee needs further thinking: there is a need to find ways to strengthen the participation of UNDG heads of agencies, possibly on a rotational basis, for certain discussions and agenda items.

3. Action Points:

- a) UNDG members to share their views on strengthening attendance at the SG Policy Committee through the Executive Office of the UNDG Chair or DOCO.

Item 2 – [For discussion] Challenges facing UNCTs regarding the implementation of country-level strategy to address Global Food Crisis

4. David Nabarro, Assistant Secretary-General/Deputy Coordinator of the UN Task Force on Global Food Crisis, briefed the participants on progress achieved and highlighted the key prerequisites for the country-level strategies to address Global Food Crisis. The key issues emphasized by David Nabarro included:

- a) The high-level Task Force has been set up and a global strategy – Comprehensive Framework for Action (CFA), identifying a set of outcomes and concrete actions, is being developed.
- b) The key prerequisite for successful action at country level is that the different pieces of this agenda are implemented with wider support of national authorities and access of national authorities to the existing UN support is ensured.
- c) The key contributor to the global food crisis is considered to be the underinvestment in agriculture and food markets, especially at the international level.
- d) Use of food crops for bio-fuels has exacerbated the problem.
- e) To support the implementation of the agreed global strategy effective and efficient tracking methods, focusing on both current and planned actions, are being set up.
- f) Synergy within the UN, the WB and IMF is of crucial importance.

- g) Political commitment from the international community should be sustained.

5. Based on subsequent discussions, the following preliminary conclusions have been made:

- a) According to predictions, in approximately a year several countries will be severely affected by the global food crisis. The UN needs to seriously analyze the situation and take immediate actions to help countries overcome this problem.
- b) To strengthen the UN's policy work, policy briefs would be needed focusing on the most vulnerable groups, women headed households, people dependent on cash to sustain their households, environmental issues, etc.
- c) The UN needs to maintain the dialogue with both national authorities and international community.
- d) Unfortunately, the UN system is not yet ready to respond to all countries' needs in overcoming the food crisis problem. A one stop-shop should be created in order to be ready to capture necessary resources and support from various UN organizations.
- e) Discussions should be held and decisions made on the nature of actions to be undertaken to resolve the problem of biofuels in its linkage with food production. A stronger UN political message on increase of biofuels production with food production should be developed.

6. Action Points:

- a) UNDG's efforts need to concentrate both on policy level and actions at country level. On the latter, UNDG's voice has to become stronger. Leadership by RCs and UNCTs for the actions at country level has to be strengthened.
- b) With reference to the CFA, actions should be agreed and implemented within the boundaries of mandates of the participating UN organizations and in such a way that does not require the special approval of the respective Governing Bodies.
- c) The role of regional structures, including Regional Commissions, in support of country-level actions is to be clarified. The issue will be discussed by the representatives of Regional Commissions and the high-level Task Force on Global Food Crisis.
- d) The work on food crisis should be undertaken with due consideration of environmental issues. The on-going analytical work on food crisis should take into account the work undertaken by other UN organizations, e.g. the policy brief on linkages between the food crisis and AIDS epidemic developed by the UNAIDS family.

Item 3 – [For information] Update on Delivering as One initiatives

7. *Mozambique Seminar:* Antonio Macheve on behalf of the Mozambique Permanent Mission to the UN and Thomas Stelzer, UN DESA, provided a brief update on the Seminar "Exchanges of experiences and lessons learned among the eight delivering as one pilot countries" undertaken in Maputo, March 2008. The findings and recommendations of the Seminar are contained in the Final Summary Statement shared with the participants prior to the UNDG meeting.

8. *Capacity Assessment:* Cecilio Adorna, DOCO, briefed the participants on capacity assessment initiative being undertaken in Delivering as One pilot countries. Key features of the underlying approach and progress achieved so far were highlighted. Detailed information is contained in the briefing note on Capacity Assessment circulated prior to the UNDG meeting.

9. Action Points:

Mozambique Seminar:

- a) The outcome of the Seminar will be included in the list of official documents for ECOSOC and will be made the topic for discussions at one of the panels, whose focus will be the UN system's flexibility and adaptation to various countries' situations.

Capacity Assessment:

- a) The exercise is to be again brought to the attention of the undg at the next meeting in September when more information on capacity assessments in various countries is available.

Item 4 – [For decision] undg Statement of Purpose

10. Sally Fegan-Wyles, DOCO, presented the revised undg Statement of Purpose prepared at the request of undg, which went through a number of changes becoming the third pillar of the CEB. The document has been developed in close cooperation with CEB Secretariat, and went through two rounds of consultations with the undg members.

11. Action Points:

- a) The draft undg Statement of Purpose is to be shortened, excluding reference to governance and focusing only on the nature and purpose of undg work, i.e. ending at "...to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication".
- b) The sentence "The secretariats of the undg, HLCM and HLCP will regularly meet to review their respective workplans, making adjustments as necessary to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication." is to be revised to read as following: *"The Chairs and the secretariats of the undg, HLCM and HLCP will regularly meet to review their respective workplans, making adjustments as necessary to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication."*

12. Decisions:

- a) The undg Statement of Purpose is approved with the understanding that the above-mentioned comments are incorporated.
- b) The undg Statement of Purpose will be a live document that will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Item 5 – [For decision] undg Working Groups – Priorities for 2008

13. The undg Prioritized Workplan for 2008 has been developed based on the inputs received from the five undg Working Groups. The priorities included in the workplan were decided upon based on the actions determined by the TCPR Implementation Plan and issues raised by the Delivering as One pilot countries.

14. Action Points:

undg Prioritized Workplan for 2008:

- a) As agreed by the undg members, one of the key priorities for 2008 should be to resolve business process harmonization needs identified by the UNCTs from the eight pilot countries. The respective undg Working Groups should deal with such issues in partnership with HLCM.
- b) DOCO with the RCs from pilot countries, currently meeting in New York, will review pilot countries' priority needs and ensure those are reflected as priorities in the revised undg workplan for 2008. In the current version of the undg Prioritized Workplan for 2008, DOCO will mark the issues originating at country level.
- c) The undg Working Groups are to revise the priorities included in the undg Prioritized Workplan defining:

- 3-5 (maximum) issue-based key priorities, which will have to be delivered by the end of 2008, and for which the WGs' Chairs will be held accountable and will report in December 2008;
- issues that can be fast-tracked in 2008 and reported in Accra
- issue- and process-based tasks that will be delivered beyond 2008, including gaps that need to be dealt with in 2009;
- concrete actions, which will need to be implemented in order to achieve the agreed results;
- time-frames for the achievement of agreed results.

15. In deciding on 3-5 key priorities, the UNDG WGs' should reflect issues identified by the Delivery as One pilots as priorities, including those identified at the Mozambique Seminar.

Preparations to Accra High Level Forum:

- a) DOCO is to work with UNICEF and UNDP (Accra TT co-Chairs), discuss with the Accra inter-agency coordination mechanism and come up with 3-4 substantive results that can be fast-tracked and achieved by the end of 2008; these are to be shared with the UNDG members for comments. Reference to the agreed results will be included in the statement by the UNDG Chair at the Accra Forum.

16. Decisions:

- a) DOCO will initiate the review of UNDG Prioritized Workplan for 2008 with the UNDG WGs.
- b) UNDG members will follow-up with their representatives in WGs to ensure effective prioritization of tasks.
- c) Priorities agreed upon by the UNDG WGs will be shared with UNDG for electronic approval

17. AOB

- The next UNDG meeting will be held on 24 September, 2008, in New York.

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ANNEX 1

AGENDA

1. Opening remarks and briefing by the undg Chair on relevant SG Policy Committee discussions

Adoption of the agenda

Background documentation:

Draft Agenda for the undg meeting

2. [For discussion] Challenges facing UNCTs regarding the implementation of country level strategy to address Global Food Crisis

David Nabarro, Assistant Secretary-General, Deputy Coordinator of the UN Task Force on Global Food Crisis

Background:

- *In response to the Global Food Crisis, the UN SG set up a high-level task force to coordinate the efforts of the UN system in addressing the global crisis arising from the surge in food prices. The task force will promote a unified response to the global food price challenge, including by facilitating the development of a strategy and a prioritized plan of action. The implementation of country-specific strategies will be supported and coordinated through undg. The undg discussions will thus focus on key challenges and obstacles faced by country teams in implementation of country-specific activities.*

3. [For information] Update on Delivering as One initiatives

Cecilio Adorna, Senior Adviser 'Delivering as One', DOCO

Marion Barthelemy, Chief, Development Cooperation Policy Branch, UN DESA

Background documentation:

Mozambique Seminar: Final Summary Statement

Tentative agenda for Consultations of RCs from pilot countries

undg will be updated on progress in the Delivering as One pilots, in particular regarding the following issues:

- *Mozambique Seminar highlights: during 21-23 May, the Government of Mozambique hosted a seminar on "Exchanges of experiences and lessons learned among the eight delivering as one pilot countries". The Seminar provided an opportunity for Government representatives from the eight pilots and two other countries with similar processes (Botswana and Malawi), to learn from each other on successes and challenges in implementing the "Delivering as One" experience as well as identify the remaining constraint, bottlenecks and way forward. The undg will be informed on the results and findings of the Seminar.*
- *Capacity Assessment – underlying approach and current status of work.*
- *Progress update on Results Reporting system.*

4. [For decision] undg Statement of Purpose

Sally Fegan-Wyles, Director, Development Operations Coordination Office

Background documentation: Draft undg Statement.

- *In view of the integration of the undg in the Chief Executives Board, after its last meeting, undg has reviewed its mandate contained in a statement of purpose developed in 2002. The purpose of the exercise is to ensure a clear*

division of labor between UNDG, HLCP and HLCM. Both HLCP and HLCM have already decided they will review their mandates in close consultation with the UNDG. UNDG is now requested to approve the UNDG Statement of Purpose 2008.

5. [For decision] UNDG Working Groups – Priorities for 2008

Background documentation: Prioritized consolidated Workplan for 2008
Working Groups' lists of members

- *After the approval of the UNDG streamlined structure of Working Groups, each Group has met to discuss its Terms of Reference and agree on key principles of working together. The Groups have also agreed on the Convening and co-Convening Organizations, as well as decided on their workplans for 2008 building upon the approved 2008 UNDG Provisional Workplan. UNDG is requested to review and approve the WGs' TORs and Workplans.*

6. AOB, including the date of the next UNDG meeting

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ANNEX 2

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Organization	Participant	Title	Participating from:
CEB Secretariat	Adnan Amin	Director	New York
CEB Secretariat	Mikael Rosengren		New York
DESA	Thomas Stelzer	Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs	Geneva
	Marion Barthelemy	Chief Development Cooperation Policy Branch	New York
FAO	Annika Söder	UNDG vice-chair and Assistant Director General, Office of UN Coordination and MDG Follow-Up	Geneva
	Jenny Collste		Geneva
HLCP Secretariat	Phyllis Lee	Secretary of HLCP	New York
HLCP	Georgios Kostakos	Senior Policy Advisor	New York
HLCM	Remo Lalli	Acting Secretary	Geneva
ILO	Maria Angélica Ducci	Executive Director, Director-General's Office	Geneva
	Alette van Leur	Director of the Department of Partnerships and Development Cooperation	Geneva
	Gerardina González-Marroquin	Chief, Bureau for External Relations, Department for Partnerships and Development Cooperation	Geneva
	Ana Jeannet		Geneva
	Odile Frank	Senior Policy Adviser	Geneva
	Casper N. Edmonds	Development Cooperation Branch	Geneva
Mozambique Mission to the UN	Antonio Macheve		New York
OHCHR	Kyung-wha Kang	Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights	Geneva
	Ngonlarje Mbaidjol	Director, New York office	New York
	Rio Hada	MDGs Unit, Economic and Social	Geneva

		and Development Issues Branch Research and Right to Development Division OHCHR Geneva	
Regional Commissions	Amr Nour	Officer in Charge, RCNYO	
UNAIDS	Deborah Landey	Deputy Executive Director	Geneva
	Emelia Timpo	Senior Advisor	New York
UNCTAD	Manuela Tortora	Chief Technical Cooperation Service	Geneva
UNDG/UNDP	Kermal Derviş	UNDG chair and UNDP Administrator	Geneva
UNDP	Bruce Jenks	Assistant Secretary-General, Bureau for Resources and Strategic Partnerships	Geneva
	Alison Drayton	Director, Division of UN Affairs	Geneva
	Cecile Molinier	Director UNDP Liaison Office in Geneva	Geneva
	Ragnhild Imerslund	Deputy Chief of Staff/Deputy Director, Executive Office	Geneva
UNEP	Angela Cropper	United Nations Assistant Secretary-General, Deputy Executive Director, UNEP	Geneva
	Zehra Aydin	Senior Programme Officer	New York
UNFPA	Subhash Gupta	Director, Division for Management Services	New York
	Klaus Beck	Special Assistant to the DED External Relations, UN Affairs and Management	New York
	Ronny Lindstrom	Adviser, UN Reform	New York
	Marcela Foshay	Special Assistant to the Director of Management Services	New York
UN-HABITAT	Chris Hutton		New York
UN-HABITAT	Yamina Djacta		New York
UNHCR	Judy Cheng-Hopkins	Assistant High Commissioner for Operations	Geneva
	Salvatore Ippolito		Geneva
	Gesche Karrenbrok		Geneva
UNICEF	Hilda Johnson	Deputy Executive Director	Geneva
	Alexander Zouev		Geneva
UNIFEM	S.K. Guha		New York
UNIDO	Wilfried Luetkenhorst	Chief of Cabinet and Director, Bureau for Organizational Strategy	Geneva

		and Learning	
UNOPS	Roswitha Newels	Director, North America Office	Geneva
	Jan Mattsson		Geneva
UNSIC	Marianne Muller		Geneva
WFP	Manuel Aranda Da Silva	Senior Policy Adviser of the Executive Director and the coordinator of the Operating Committee	Geneva
	Peggy Nelson	Deputy Director, Inter-Agency and Inter-Governmental Affairs	New York
WHO	Peter Mertens		New York
UNDOCO	Sally Fegan-Wyles	Director	Geneva
	Lubna Baqi	Associate Director	New York
	Cecilio Adorna	Senior Adviser 'Delivering as One'	New York
	Lisa Orrenius	Special Assistant Director	Geneva
	Liliana Ramirez	Policy Specialist	New York
	Liudmila Barcari	Policy Specialist	Geneva

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