CEB
Chief Executives Board
for Coordination

High-Level Committee on Management (HLCM)

41st Session, 25-26 March 2021

Virtual

HLCM Risk Management Forum

Terms of Reference

Background

1. At its 35th session in April 2018, HLCM examined how United Nations system organisations have been developing and putting in place risk management tools and frameworks to reform management processes, improve efficiency and bring greater value in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Committee agreed on the need for joint, cross-functional engagement towards the system-wide harmonisation of risk management practices and endorsed the establishment of a Task Force (TF), to be co-chaired by WIPO and WFP.

2. The TF addressed some identified objectives, it developed and issued a (i) Reference Maturity Model for Risk Management; guidance papers on (ii) risk appetite; (iii) embedding risk management; (iv) managing fraud risk; and (v) managing risk in the field and decentralized organizations. It has further established (vi) a risk management information sharing mechanism and provided proposals on the sharing of risk information, both between organizations, and with donors, member states and partners.

3. Risk management remains a discipline in development in many organizations, and opportunities continue to exist with respect to sharing of risk management successful approaches. The TF has worked effectively owing to the dedication and considerable contributions of its Co-Chairs and members.

Work Modalities

4. The Risk Management (RM) Forum is a UN-system wide forum established by the HLCM at its 41st session in March 2021. It was formed at the time the Task Force was concluded.

5. It is chaired jointly by two Co-Chairs, representatives from UN entities, who undertake two year terms. Resource person(s) as agreed with the Co-Chairs, ensure that the Forum operates effectively, although workload is limited. The Co-Chairs rotate out on alternate years to provide continuity, and when the Forum selects Co-Chairs and resource persons, consideration is given to providing a balance from larger field- or smaller HQ-based organizations. The CEB Secretariat provides support, including for the organization of meetings and communications.

6. The RM Forum's membership is open to all UN-related entities who wish to participate. As an un-resourced body, membership in the RM Forum carries some expectation to contribute to its smooth running and/or substantial matters, and over time, members should be willing to take part in the organization of meetings, and any specific deliverables agreed upon.

7. The membership of the TF continued to expand through 2020 with the same organizations expected to continue their association with the RM Forum. Furthermore, other UN related organizations are invited to contact the co-chairs to join. Currently, the membership includes representation from FAO, IAEA, ICAO, IFAD, ILO, IMF, IOM, OCHA, OECD, UN Secretariat, UN DSS, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNOPS, UNRWA, UN WOMEN, WFP, WHO, WIPO and WMO. The RM Forum is also committed to continue to interact and consult with UN Representatives of Internal Audit Services (UN-RIAS).

8. The RM Forum generally holds virtual meetings quarterly; the Co-Chairs may convene meetings more frequently if considered beneficial. A physical or hybrid meeting may occasionally be organized, at each participant organization's own cost.

Purpose

9. The RM Forum serves as a multidisciplinary UN-system wide guidance body with the objectives:

    a) to promote the mainstreaming of RM and the Reference Maturity Model on Risk Management, and other guidance, developed by the Cross-functional Task Force on Risk Management;

    b) to further develop non-prescriptive RM guidance and methodologies as agreed within the Forum and within capacity;

    c) to promote the holistic integration of RM across all relevant fora, such as networks, special interest groups, forums, etc., in relevant domains, such as (HR, Finance and Budget, Information Security, etc.);

    d) to encourage collaboration between organizations on certain initiatives, which could include, for example, training/certification, risk competencies, risk indicator libraries;

    e) to foster improved risk sharing, including with donors and partners as well as support for inter-agency cooperation at field level; and,

    f) to monitor and evaluate the Reference Maturity Model on Risk Management and to update as necessary.

10. The RM Forum offers participating organizations an opportunity:

    a) to share and respect differences between UN related entities: experiences, approaches, information, policy documents, best practices, training materials relating to RM;

    b) to share case studies and lessons learned on risk matters such as mitigation and continuous improvement;

    c) learn from guest speakers and/or subject matter experts to encourage expanding the RM knowledge base;

    d) for members to network with each other.

11. The RM Forum may carry out specific activities through working groups or similar led by members of the RM Forum, the composition and the terms of reference of which are specified when established by the RM Forum.

12. Through its Co-Chairs, it brings issues to HLCM's attention and reports to it periodically