

UN System Joint Crisis Initiatives Note

This note consolidates the support offered by the UN system under each of the nine Joint Crisis Initiatives, proposed by HLCP and endorsed by CEB on 5 April 2009, and provides contact details of focal points making the available resources easily accessible for UNCTs.

Initiative I: ADDITIONAL FINANCING FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE (lead agencies: UNDP, World Bank)

“Advocating and devising a joint World Bank – UN system mechanism for the common articulation and implementation of additional financing, including through the World Bank proposed Vulnerability Fund”

<p>Summary of the initiative</p>	<p>It is essential that the UN System brings together its funding and operational capacities in a coherent and concrete implementation approach, so as to support the implementation of an ambitious and effective framework of action as proposed by the CEB. This Initiative, “Additional Financing for the Most Vulnerable” will use the following 3 characteristics into a successful approach:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comprehensive country-based crisis response: The process will be country-driven, country-owned, and the UN and the BWIs support the country-initiative as one. The Comprehensive Country-level Crisis Response (CCCR) focuses on the issue of social protection for vulnerable countries and populations. It also integrates the CCCR in relevant national and UN strategies and frameworks. 2. Funding: The CCCR identifies existing and new sources of funding and will look closely at how to make more effective and efficient use of those resources. Overall budgetary needs will be identified, a budgetary framework will be prepared, as well as a resource mobilization strategy. 3. Technical Assistance: Attention will be given to vulnerable countries so that they are appropriately supported with technical assistance, which could strengthen national institutions and capacities to implement policies. Longer term technical assistance and capacity development programmes through the UN Country Teams will be provided.
<p>Examples of sub areas: Support and resources available at global, regional and country level</p>	<p>Consideration will be given to utilizing existing mechanisms, such as funding for food security. It will also identify remaining financial gaps and the interest of countries to establish country-level Multi Donor Trust Funds (MDTFs). There will be a review over time, for the possibility of a mechanism to provide additional funding to country-level programmes centrally.</p> <p>Possibility of accessing the Vulnerability Fund and matching this with supplementary UN funding to support technical assistance.</p> <p>The UN inter-agency technical assistance to countries will also be strengthened, especially to assess the existing social protection ‘floor’, design sustainable protection systems and monitor and manage resource flows and expenditure in countries susceptible to large revenue shocks.</p>

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<p>Initiative II: FOOD SECURITY (lead agencies: FAO, IFAD, UN, WFP)</p> <p><i>“Strengthening programmes to feed the hungry and expanding support to farmers in developing countries”</i></p>			
Summary of the initiative	<p>Last year, the major spike in food prices exacerbated already difficult conditions being experienced by hundreds of millions of poor people. Reports of their hardship brought the crisis to life. Today, the crisis has been exacerbated by increasing food price volatility and the collapse of the financial, credit and housing markets, leading to a severe global economic downturn, which has thrown many more millions into poverty.</p> <p>Food, energy and other sectors in the global economy have become increasingly interlinked, and food prices are often influenced by events outside the food sector. This will pose major challenges for food security in poor developing countries, where one billion people are presently chronically undernourished - roughly 100 million more than in 2008. A resumption of growth in the global economy is likely to lead to new pressures on commodity prices, as already evidenced in petroleum markets.</p> <p>The UN System Joint Crisis Initiative on Food Security has seven components which reflect the on-going work undertaken by UN system agencies (including the international financial institutions) coordinated through the Secretary-General’s High Level Task Force on the Global Food Crisis (HLTF) working for the realization of outcomes spelt out in the Comprehensive Framework for Action (CFA). The HLTF is all about ensuring coordination between efforts of its members and their partners, and working to support country-owned and country-driven action. Emphasis is given to synergy of policies, action and the delivery of results:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Food assistance, including safety nets; 2. Nutrition programmes for children, mothers and vulnerable populations; 3. Social protection systems for vulnerable populations; 4. Smallholder farmer food productivity, with a special focus on women farmers; 5. Agricultural sector development; infrastructure and trade and tax policies; 6. Information and monitoring systems; 7. Advocacy for sufficient, sustained and predictable funding and sustained investments. 		
Examples of sub areas: Support and resources available at global, regional and country level	Information available on www.un-foodsecurity.org		

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Initiative III: TRADE
(lead agencies: UNCTAD, WTO)

“Fighting protectionism, including through the conclusion of the Doha round and strengthening aid for trade initiatives and finance for trade”

Summary of the initiative

The UN CEB Joint Crisis Initiative on "Trade" focuses on efforts to fight protectionism, including through the conclusion of the Doha round and strengthening aid for trade initiatives and finance for trade.

The first element of this initiative states that concluding the Doha Development Round, would certainly help Members throughout this crisis and in particular developing countries and LDCs. The reduction in trade barriers stemming from the Doha negotiations could foster recovery and contribute to growth and development.

	<p>The second element is to continue <u>monitoring of trade protectionist measures</u> taken in the framework of this crisis. According to the last report produced by the WTO together with UNCTAD and OECD no high intensity protectionism has been witnessed although slippages in the areas of trade and investment could render the recovery more difficult.</p> <p><u>Ensure rapid delivery of Aid for Trade</u> is another element of this initiative, addressing aid to build productive capacity in developing and least developed countries needed to reap the benefits of trade. It has national, regional and multilateral dimensions. The latest global review of Aid for Trade held in Geneva last July, showed renewed commitment from both donors and recipients to the success of this capacity building exercise.</p> <p><u>Monitoring trade finance</u> markets to ensure availability and affordability of finance for trade, in particular for small and medium companies.</p>
<p>Examples of sub areas: Support and resources available at global, regional and country level</p>	<p>1. Concluding the Doha Development Round</p> <p>Leaders of the G20 have called for the conclusion of the Round in 2010. They have also instructed their ministers to engage in negotiations in Geneva to bridge remaining gaps.</p> <p>Given the importance of trade for the economic recovery, and the higher than average trade dependence by developing countries for their growth, it is important that the UN family sends a collective message of the need to conclude the Round with a strong development content in 2010. Completing the DDA is also the surest way of safeguarding individual trade interests and the multilateral trading system against an outbreak of protectionism. It is important that this message which is quite apparent multilaterally trickles down to the different levels of the UN family nationally and regionally.</p> <p>2. Monitor trade and investment measures to counter protectionism</p> <p>WTO in cooperation with UNCTAD, OECD and the IMF, has been monitoring and reporting publicly on trade and trade related measures taken by Members in the context of the crisis, to help Members resist protectionist pressures at home. WTO and UNCTAD will continue to monitor and report on protectionist measures.</p> <p>The picture emerging from these reports is that there has not been widespread resort to trade or investment restrictions as a reaction to the global financial and economic crisis. Nevertheless, there has been policy slippage since the global crisis began. There have been instances of tariff hikes, introduction of new non-tariff measures, continued to use trade defense mechanisms and even re-introduction of agricultural export subsidies. These measures, along with reports of additional administrative obstacles being applied to imports, are creating "sand in the gears" of international trade that may retard the global recovery. Some of the fiscal and financial packages introduced to tackle the crisis contain elements that favor domestic goods and services at the expenses of imports.</p> <p>Going forward it is important to stress that as the economic situation improves, it is important that governments plan a coordinated exit strategy that will see a rolling back of the trade or investments restrictive policies introduced during the crisis. On this aspect of the trade initiative, UN field presence is key in conveying the importance of resisting protectionism: short-term benefits to a particular country or industry are likely to have long-term implications for recovery and stability on a global scale.</p> <p>3. Rapid delivery of Aid For Trade</p>

The Second Global Review of Aid for trade was held in Geneva on 6 and 7 July 2009. Many members of the UN family, including UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, multilateral development banks, aid agencies as well as donors and partner countries stressed the importance of aid to build the productive capacities of poor countries and prepare them to better exit the crisis.

The meeting reaffirmed that trade is being prioritized by partner countries in national development strategies; donors are offering more and better Aid for Trade and new partners are becoming engaged in South-South cooperation. Furthermore, the increase in allocation to Aid for Trade has been achieved without reducing resources to other development priorities such as health, education or environment.

Going forward, the review highlighted the need to focus on strengthening the regional dimension of Aid for Trade and securing greater role and contribution of the private sector in this initiative. It was also recommended that monitoring and evaluation work should continue with specific focus on evaluating the impact of Aid for Trade.

Over the coming months it is important that emphasis is placed on ensuring that donors keep up to their commitments despite the economic crisis. UN family, through its programmes, specialized agencies but also the regional commissions, is already doing a lot to help Aid for trade. It is important, within these times of crisis, that this team spirit remains and be strengthened through UN presence nationally.

4. Monitor trade finance markets

The WTO, in co-operation with other International Organizations, has kept making the case for taking action to ensure availability and affordability of trade finance. Following the pledge made by G20 Leaders in London in April, we have seen a mobilization of additional capacity (credit and insurance) by export credit agencies and through trade finance facilitation programs of multilateral agencies, in particular the Global Trade Liquidity Program of the World Bank/IFC which is becoming operational and attracting support from several global banks.

The WTO is monitoring the situation, in particular that of small and medium-scale exporters from developing countries. While market conditions seem to have eased somewhat during the summer and expectations for the rest of 2009 are also better than they were in the Spring, accessibility and affordability of trade finance has not yet returned to normal. Small and Medium companies continue to face difficulties. The UN family could send the message that the situation on the ground needs to continue to be monitored closely to ensure that the recovery of world trade growth is not constrained by shortages of trade finance.

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Initiative IV: A GREEN ECONOMY INITIATIVE

(lead agency: UNEP)

“Building on mutually beneficial synergies in the international community’s Response to the challenges of climate change and the global financial and economic crisis, with a focus on green growth and green job creation”

<p>Summary of the initiative</p>	<p>The Green Economy Initiative (GEI) responds to the development challenges and imbalances in growth strategies that underlie the global financial and economic crisis by motivating policymakers in all countries to give green investments sufficient space in their counter-cyclical policies and thus reduce the threat of further food, water, energy, ecosystem and climate crises, which have disproportionate impacts on the poor. The Initiative aims to demonstrate that investing in green sectors has a better chance to bring about recovery and sustainable growth, increase competitiveness, save and create jobs, improve the quality and decency of jobs, and reduce poverty, while tackling acute environmental problems. It also aims to identify the policy and institutional framework that is needed to support rather than undermine such investments and the greening of economic growth in all countries, taking into account national and regional conditions, special characteristics, capacities and needs.</p>
<p>Examples of sub areas: Support and resources available at global, regional and country level</p>	<p><u>Global level:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Economy Report • Green Jobs/Green Economy Best Practices Publication • Green Urban Publication • Green urban training • Infrastructure Recovery and Assets (INFRA) Platform & its Greening Note • A training manual on green businesses • Report on Skills Development for Green Jobs • An online tool for green businesses • Green Trade and Financial Crisis Report • Tourism and Travel in the Green Economy • Virtual international symposium on climate change • Expert Meeting on Green and Renewable Technologies as Energy Solutions for Rural Development • International Conference on Green Industry • ITU Telecom World 2009's Forum on "ICTs for Economic Growth and Sustainable Development" <p><u>Regional level:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on Low Carbon Green Growth Strategy for East Asia • Green Growth series publication, focusing on green growth for social livelihoods and green jobs • State of Regional Sustainability 2010 • Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and Pacific • Green Growth Initiatives for Central Asia and the Pacific Islands • A report on green economy for the Arab region • A report on green economy for East Africa • African Ministerial Conference for Ministers responsible for Meteorological Services (with associated workshop on climate for African media) <p><u>Country level:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country Projects on Green Science, Technology, and Innovation Policies • 11 Country Projects on Financing for Climate Policies • Country projects on green economy/green jobs/green growth (potentially Burkina Faso, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Korea, and Uruguay)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNESCO Future Forum in Guiyang, China: Green Economy - Our Common Responsibility • 5th China International Forum on Environment Development • Integrated local renewable energy packages for sustainable rural and agricultural development in India and Tanzania 		
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<p>Initiative V: A GLOBAL JOBS PACT (lead agency: ILO)</p> <p><i>“Boosting employment, production, investment and aggregate demand, and promoting decent work for all”</i></p>			
Summary of the initiative	<p>The Global Jobs Pact Initiative aims at assisting countries in implementing stronger and more coherent policies to stimulate economic recovery, generate jobs and provide protection to working people and their families. The Initiative calls for greater centrality being given to employment creation and decent work measures in fiscal policies and crisis response programmes. It also calls for stronger and more coordinated multilateral support. The Global Jobs Pact provides a portfolio of crisis-response measures, built around the Decent Work Agenda, which countries can adapt to their specific needs and situation.</p>		
Examples of sub areas: Support and resources available at global, regional and country level	<p><u>Global level</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on country employment and social protection policy responses to the global economic crisis, G20 Pittsburgh Summit • Policy dialogue on addressing gaps in financing countercyclical policies in low-income countries • Development of training strategy for next G20 Summit • Reports on trends in labour market indicators, wages, social security measures • Research on social and labour market impacts of the crisis, gender dimensions, assessment of policy responses and good practice • ILO’s Global Jobs crisis Observatory website (www.ilo.org/jobcrisis) • Guide for Country level Rapid Impact Assessment of the Crisis on Employment • Booklets on good practice in assisting SMEs • Guide for public employment services on reducing the impact of worker displacement • Capacity building programmes on the economic crisis and the global jobs pact • Capacity building programmes on labour statistics and monitoring decent work • Capacity building programmes on public employment programmes • ILO/IFC handbook on “Managing transition” • Interagency work on crisis response under the Global Task Force on Child Labour and Education for All 		

	<p><u>Regional level</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional meetings in Africa, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Central Asia • ESCWA-ILO report • AfDB-ILO forum • ADB- ILO forum • ILO-AMSEP (Association Africaine des Services d’Emploi Publics) workshop • ILO-OECD expert meeting on « Routes out of the crisis in Asia » • ILO-UN meeting in the Pacific • ILO-UNICEF-UNDP-FAO conference in Eastern Europe, central Asia and Turkey • ECLAC-ILO Bulletin on the crisis <p><u>National level</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapid employment impact assessments (Armenia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Liberia, Pakistan, Philippines Uganda and Vietnam) • Decent work country profiles (Austria, Brazil, Ukraine, Tanzania) • Infrastructure related crisis response programmes (Azerbaijan, Cambodia, El Salvador, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Liberia, Mozambique, Nepal, Pakistan, Paraguay and Zimbabwe) • National action plans on youth employment (Egypt, Serbia) • Support to ministries of labour, labour administration and labour inspection (Albania, El Salvador, Guatemala, Jordan, Haiti, Lebanon, Moldova, Nepal, the Philippines, South Africa, Swaziland and Tanzania) • Development of an employment guarantee scheme (Pakistan) • Support to tripartite joint action programme (Ukraine) • Action plan on regulating migration and employment in conditions of crisis (Kyrgyzstan) • Monitoring sectoral impact (Chile) • Work-sharing scheme (Uruguay) • Employment constraints diagnostics (Indonesia) • Policy advice on fiscal and employment policies (Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia) • National tripartite meetings 		
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Initiative VI: SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOOR INITIATIVE
 (lead agencies: ILO, WHO)

*“Ensuring access to basic social services, shelter,
 and empowerment and protection of the poor and vulnerable”*

<p>Summary of the initiative</p>	<p>The Social Protection Floor aims at promoting and supporting the implementation of a basic set of essential social transfers and the availability, continuity and access to essential services (such as water and sanitation, adequate nutrition, health, education and family-focused social work support) as a means to alleviate the social impact of the crisis. The concept encapsulates the Universal Human rights to social security and essential services (Articles 22 and 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights). On a national level the social floor approach would be based on a legislative framework and the empowerment and protection of the poor and vulnerable.</p> <p>A <i>social protection floor</i> is important to all people and all countries at all times, but particularly for the most vulnerable segments of the population and the least developed countries. It is even more important now that the global economic and financial crisis threatens to roll back decades of investment in favour of health and human development. It risks compromising progress towards internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs - the recent gains of ensuring access to treatment of millions of people suffering from AIDS could be reversed, for example. In the long term, it could lead to significant challenges to peace and security in various parts of the world.</p> <p>1. A major concern is that the coverage of basic social protection programmes is very low in many developing countries. Furthermore, with the economic downturn and expected layoffs, it is foreseen that many migrant workers, especially those in manufacturing or construction sector will be among those severely affected.</p> <p>The UN system should support countries to protect those fundamental elements of society – education, nutrition, health, social protection, protection against natural disasters, the sciences, culture and communication – that make human development possible but which are often the first to be hit in a recession. The system has to react coherently based on the “Delivering as One Concept” drawing on the respective strengths and competencies of the different agencies in a complementary fashion. The UN system will support countries in the framework of existing national and UN planning instruments (such as UNDAFS).</p>
<p>Examples of sub areas: Support and resources available at global, regional and country level</p>	<p>The Initiative will provide support through:</p> <p>(1) On the Global level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A joint global advocacy effort to emphasize that the global crisis is not only financial, but that it affects the whole spectrum of human development and all social sectors, and in particular the well-being most vulnerable groups, including women and children. There is also a need to recall that powerful evidence exists on the benefits of education, income security and access to health services. b. Setting up of a Global SPF Advisory Network composed by focal points in the UN agencies and IFIs, to provide support to the country representatives and to monitor progress at global and regional levels. c. Developing a compendium of technical tools of all UN agencies that can be used at a country level to establish the feasibility of national social protection floor concepts. <p>(2) On the national level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Supporting a national dialogue-based country-by-country assessment to move towards the implementation of a social protection floor, including

	<p>the impact of the financial crisis on the capacity to finance the floor ;</p> <p>b. Develop a strategy for a concerted and complementary support action of all participating agencies), as well as with Regional Commissions and Regional Director Teams, to align and support common planning framework (e.g. UNDAF);</p> <p>c. Assess the role of the financial crisis on health, education, food security and social protection systems, as well as the financing or essential social services and examine responses that enhance the sustainability of strategies to improve access to health care over 2010-2011;</p> <p>d. Appoint joint technical task teams under the leadership of the UN Country representatives for all countries requesting such assistance;</p>
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Initiative VII: HUMANITARIAN, SECURITY AND SOCIAL STABILITY
(lead agency: WFP)

“Emergency action to protect lives and livelihoods, meeting hunger and humanitarian needs, protecting displaced people and shoring up security and social stability”

Summary of the initiative	<p>The global financial and economic crisis poses a particular threat to individuals, households and communities in the least developed countries and fragile states, and those dependent on international aid that are highly vulnerable to external shocks. The crisis is likely to have a compounding effect, including: involuntary migration flows; rising xenophobic sentiments, discriminatory practise, organized crime, and challenges to legitimacy of fragile states and loss of confidence in essential institutions.</p> <p>The Humanitarian Security and Social Stability initiative aims at drawing the attention of decision-makers to the short, medium and long-term impact of the ongoing crisis on the world’s humanitarian security and social stability through a holistic approach that requires concerted action. Priority will be given to preparing for and responding to humanitarian crises to mitigate threats to human security, while promoting efforts to build resilience, self-reliance and recovery.</p>
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Examples of sub areas: Support and resources available at global, regional and country level	<p><u>Global level</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Action Plan being developed under the leadership of WFP with cooperating agencies. It has been broadly agreed that that the plan would be operationalized through the preparation of key messages and initiatives to include the urgent concerns outlined and by supporting existing mechanisms at the global, regional and country levels • Extensive partnerships with humanitarian organizations, providing operational and advocacy support • Global cluster coordination leads to support humanitarian responses
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handbooks and guidelines on preparing for and responding to humanitarian crises • Core Group on humanitarian space <p><u>Regional level</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional offices in Africa, Asia, Americas, Europe, Middle East • AU special Summit on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Africa , Kampala, Uganda <p><u>National level</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep field presence of operational humanitarian agencies • Joint country level resources through Humanitarian Coordinator system • Resources available through Resident Coordinator system in support of prevention programmes • Country-level cluster and sectoral coordination arrangements • Consolidated Appeals and Flash Appeals • Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) • Country- based Multi-donor Trust Funds (MDTFs) • Incorporation of disaster mitigation and early recovery strategies in UNDAF/CCA planning • Agency-specific standby emergency response mechanisms
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Initiative VIII: TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION
 (lead agencies: ITU, UNIDO, WIPO)

“Developing technological infrastructure to facilitate the promotion and access to innovation”

Summary of the initiative	<p>In the present crisis, technology, innovation and creativity will be critical in providing opportunities for recovery, leading to a more dynamic, eco-friendly, sustainable and diversified global economy.</p> <p>Information and communication networks are the new engine of the modern global economy, and need to be consistently strengthened and expanded. Government investment in infrastructure is vital to the creation of knowledge-based societies. At the same time, research, industrial and commercial networks and partnerships are strategic assets that need to be reinforced. A solid and effective intellectual property regime, in this context, can stimulate the development of new technologies and know-how. Technological innovation, investment incentives and strong legal frameworks are essential to sustainable post-crisis growth.</p> <p>History shows that a period of economic recovery can greatly benefit from the presence of entrepreneurial spirit and innovative ideas. Not surprisingly, entrepreneurial companies are well-positioned to take advantage of the cycle of economic crisis and recovery. Furthermore, the diffusion of new products and services into the market can</p>
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	<p>stimulate job creation and economic growth, and the expansion of infrastructure (such as the internet) can be vital for recovery from the current financial and economic crisis.</p> <p>Key challenges in this regard include:</p> <p>(i) Contraction in global finance: the difficult economic environment and accompanying contraction in finance will lead to a reduction in the ability of companies to invest in technology (notably information and communication technology or ICT). This can delay the timely development of important new tools for increasing the quality of life of citizens worldwide, and can endanger efforts to achieve the UN Millenium Development Goals (MDGs);</p> <p>(ii) Growing trade imbalances: the decreasing international demand for natural resources and low-tech manufacturers, falling commodity prices, reduction in remittances and investments from abroad, will increase trade deficits. This will make more difficult for developing countries to compete in the high-tech global marketplace;</p> <p>(iii) Reduced research and development efforts (R&D): in response to the crisis, companies may focus on short-term costs, cut back on R&D investments, and divert resources from innovation and high-tech sectors. This will result in a low-tech/low-productivity trap for countries that may lose out on opportunities offered by new emerging technologies;</p> <p>(iv) Meeting global commitments: despite the challenging economic climate, the realization of global commitments to science, technology and innovation must be realized, in accordance with the outcomes of the <i>Budapest World Conference and Forum on Science</i>, and the <i>World Summit on Information Society</i>.</p>
<p>Examples of sub areas: Support and resources available at global, regional and country level</p>	<p><u>Global Level:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor the impact of the crisis on developments in science and technology (notably in ICT), through reports, conferences, workshops, online tutorials and publications; • Support the needs of industry to help it navigate the crisis, e.g. through investment promotion offices, training in information and communication technologies and networks, and assistance with management of intellectual property rights (IPRs); • Develop Patent Landscaping, which will provide access to patent information and related technological information disclosed in scientific journals, as well as products and technology analysis reports; • Foster IPR training initiatives for the promotion of innovation through a more active and efficient use of patent and technology information; • Promote policies for recovery that consider the development of greater science and technology capabilities as an essential aspect of financial stimulus packages. In this regard, pro-poor science and technology policies and initiatives (both at the institutional and individual level) are desirable; • Expand technology foresight programmes, as critical elements to the technology development process and to a much-needed long term economic vision; • Promote the development of information and communication networks and infrastructure in order to ensure greater access to information and to stimulate knowledge sharing; • Encourage (and facilitate) the use of the IPR system, in order to stimulate innovation and foster sustainable development; • Ensure continued international cooperation and mobilization for the improvement and rational use of ICT infrastructure and for the creation of

	<p>inclusive knowledge societies;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop tools to build confidence in the use of ICTs, in order to encourage use of digital networks and the creation of innovative applications and services. Implement global rural and renewable energy as well as energy efficiency projects; • Support to development of international management system standards for energy; • Carry out study on low carbon technology innovation and diffusion. <p><u>Regional Level:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop technical and vocational education, learning and training in the area of science, technology and innovation, notably in poor and developing regions; • Disseminate critical technical information to businesses, notably through the establishment of centres for the support of technological innovation, and for a better understanding of the IPR system. <p><u>Country level:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of rural and renewable energy projects as well as energy efficiency projects; • Establishment of Centres for South-South Cooperation, technology Centres (Italy, India, Nigeria, China, Russian Federation, Cape Verde), business Information Centres as well as center for the support of technological innovations. <p><u>Communication / advocacy platforms</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WIPO website, www.wipo.int, Patent information database (PatentScope®), with its Member States' Intellectual Property Offices as partners. • UNESCO website – www.unesco.org, Budapest World Conference on Science (1999 and 2003) • ITU website – www.itu.int • Education for All (EFA, 2000-2015) • UNCTAD website – www.unctad.org • ECLAC website – www.eclac.org/ • UNIDO website – www.unido.org • The WSIS platform is available at: http://www.itu.int/wsis/ • The WSIS Forum 2009 is available at: http://www.itu.int/wsis/implementation/2009/forum/index.html • World TELECOM 2009 also featured a strategic dialogue on the impact of the crisis, see: http://www.itu.int/WORLD2009/ • Monitoring and tracking of the impact of the financial crisis on the ICT industry is available at: http://www.itu.int/crisis2009/
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Initiative IX: MONITORING AND ANALYSIS
(lead agencies: IMF, UN-DESA)

“Strengthening macroeconomic and financial surveillance and implementing an effective early warning system; and urgently establishing a UN system-wide vulnerability monitoring and alert mechanism to track developments and report on the political, economic, social and environmental dimensions of the crisis”

Summary of
the initiative

Part I:

The monitoring of economic and financial policies and of key systemic risks is key to preventing a recurrence of the present crisis. IMF surveillance is a key tool of international economic and financial monitoring and a potent platform of global economic policy coordination. The Executive Board established in October 2008 a set of economic and operational priorities to foster multilateral collaboration and guide IMF management and staff in the conduct of surveillance, including the closer integration of the financial sector into the IMF's surveillance activities. The recently revised economic surveillance priorities are: (i) to allow for an orderly unwinding of crisis-related policy interventions to ensure a sustained recovery, in particular, through appropriately design and carefully timed exit strategies; (ii) to strengthen the global financial system; and (iii) to promote a rebalancing of sources of global demand, through both macroeconomic and structural policies, so as to achieve sustained world growth while keeping global imbalances in check.

Part II:

Over the past decade, the international community has put in place a number of sector-specific global early warning mechanisms. However, there are few mechanisms that are able to report across sectors on the immediate impacts that global shocks have on the lives of the poorest and most vulnerable populations. There is an information gap between the point when a global crisis impacts vulnerable populations and when solid quantitative information reaches decision-makers.

Recognizing this gap, the Secretary-General has called on the UN System – drawing on the expertise of outside partners – to establish a global impact and vulnerability alert system (GIVAS) that provides decision makers with real-time information and analysis to ensure that responses to global crises take appropriate account of the needs of the most vulnerable populations.

The GIVAS is currently in its design phase with a first prototype planned for June 2010. It will build on the wealth of existing early warning systems and data bases, and fill real time data gaps where necessary. The added-value of the Alert will be the compilation of quick time data from a variety of reliable sources covering multiple dimensions of vulnerability that will help the international community understand new and changing vulnerabilities and the interaction between different threats and crises. The Alert System will be triggered when a crisis becomes global in scope and there are first subtle signs it will affect the most vulnerable and least well-prepared populations.

While guided by an ambitious vision, the GIVAS will be implemented in a phased approach. It hopes to leverage the expertise of many UN and non-UN organizations – ranging from vulnerability analysis to technology and design – to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable are an integral part of the international community's crisis response.

Part III:

UN/DESA in collaboration with other UN agencies and country governments is establishing an integrated monitoring and analytical system for crisis responsiveness (IMAS) to continuously assess trends in the global economy and the impacts these trends may have on developing countries and their populations, in particular for the most vulnerable groups amongst them. The system aims to provide member states with a framework to assess these impacts and to strengthen their capacity in collecting and processing information for this purpose. IMAS is to readily into the **GIVAS** through which early warning signals regarding likely impacts on vulnerable countries and

	<p>population groups and possible emerging crises. IMAS is being setup around an analytical framework which identifies and measures <i>global 'shocks' and trends</i> that are likely to affect growth and development in developing countries; channels and vulnerabilities determining how and to what degree countries different sectors and population groups are likely to be affected. The framework is set up to monitor changing patterns of vulnerability at the country level, linking these to the shocks emanating at the global, regional or national level.</p>
<p>Examples of sub areas: Support and resources available at global, regional and country level</p>	<p>Part I: The operational priorities of IMF surveillance are aimed at strengthening the effectiveness of surveillance by emphasizing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>risk assessment</i>- with a particular focus on effective early warning systems and thorough and systematic analysis of systemic risks and their policy implications; • <i>financial sector surveillance and real-financial linkages</i> – improved analysis of financial stability, and deepening understanding of the linkages; • <i>a multilateral perspective</i> – bilateral surveillance systematically informed by analysis of inward and outward spillovers and cross-country knowledge; and • the analysis of exchange rates and external stability risks. <p>Bilateral surveillance is conducted through the annual Article IV consultation process with each member state; supplemented and informed by the semi-annual global reports (the World Economic Outlook and Global Financial Stability Reports), as well as the semi-annual Regional Economic Outlook Reports.</p> <p>The IMF has extended its vulnerability analysis exercise to all systemically important countries; conducts an Early Warning Exercise jointly with the Financial Stability Board (FSB); and has recently reviewed with the World Bank the joint Financial Sector Assessment Program. Finally, at the Istanbul Annual Meetings, the IMFC endorsed the G-20 proposal for the IMF to help with their mutual assessment of policies, a new dimension in IMF surveillance.</p> <p>Part II:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapid Impact and Vulnerability Analysis Fund: The objective of the RIVAF is to meet an immediate need for real time data and analysis of the impacts of the economic crisis on the poor and vulnerable. The analyses produced as a result of funding from the RIVAF will be one source contributing to the GIVAS data platform and global reporting. Calls for proposals will be sent out in late November 2009 to UN agencies, funds and programmes. • Website: voicesofthevulnerable.net • First GIVAS baseline report: The report can be downloaded at www.voicesofthevulnerable.net or contact the GIVAS focal point for hard copies. <p>Part III:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analytical work using the IMAS framework has started up and results are being reported regularly through DESA's <i>Monthly Briefings on the World Economic Situation and Prospects</i> and the related <i>World Economic Vulnerability Monitor</i>. • Special data templates are being developed for the implementation of the framework and for ensuring an adequate flow of information. These templates should also help identify existing data gaps. These templates will be developed and applied through existing mechanisms of inter-agency consultation and official data collection. The data templates are being used to improve data collection through the

	<p>Monthly Statistical Bulletin (MBS) prepared by the UN's Statistical Division (part of UN-DESA).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The data templates and the framework for analysis will be elaborated further at the country level, initially through a number of country studies to ensure greater responsiveness of the system to country needs. • The framework will also incorporate information from the Global Sentiments Survey, which is being setup by UN-DESA with the Conference Board and which will make use of existing business and consumer confidence surveys and expand to a larger group of countries. 		
Overall Focal Point(s)	<p>Part I: Elliott Harris, IMF</p> <p>Part II: Zazie Schafer, Senior Officer, GIVAS Team, Executive Office of the Secretary- General</p> <p>Part III: Rob Vos, UN-DESA Paul Cheung, UN- DESA</p>	<p>EHARRIS2@IMF.ORG</p> <p>schafer@un.org</p> <p>vos@un.org paul.cheung@un.org</p>	<p>+1 212-355-6347 (New York) +1 202-623-6621 (Washington)</p> <p>+1 917 367 3388</p> <p>+1-212-9634838 +1-212-9632563</p>