

GUIDELINES FOR RESIDENT CO-ORDINATOR AS UNFIP FOCAL POINT

I. Background

In September 1997, businessman and philanthropist, R.E. Turner announced a generous and historic gift in support of United Nations causes. This gift will support the U.N. in achieving the goals and objectives of the UN Charter and encourage greater understanding of the promise and purpose of international cooperation. Turner's gift is in the form of Time-Warner stock, with a value of up to US\$1 billion, and is to be funded in ten annual installments – valued at \$100 million each – to the United Nations Foundation, Inc. (UNF) and other public charities established to oversee administration of the gift.

To provide a central mechanism to facilitate initiation, execution and reporting of projects financed by UNF, the Secretary-General established a co-ordinating mechanism, the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP) located in New York.

The initial priorities established for project areas to be funded by UNF are, broadly:

1. Population and women.
2. Environment and climate change.
3. Children's health.
4. Institutional strengthening.

Further details of the project/programme screening and selection criteria are contained in the attachment to the Terms of Reference. It should be noted that consistency with the Secretary-General's Programme of Reform, including the utilization of the Resident Co-ordinator system and its related instrumentalities, will be an important determinant in the project/programme review process.

II. Responsibilities

The Resident Coordinator will be the focal point for UNFIP in the country for representational and overall policy information matters. The duties and responsibilities of the Resident Co-ordinator as UNFIP focal points are as follows:

- Serve as UNFIP contact points in recipient countries;
- take on a broad, informational role and be called upon on an ad hoc basis to provide or disseminate information from UNFIP to the members of the UN country team, as well as to local authorities;
- provide general information on the country concerned and the United Nations system activities, as reflected in the Resident Coordinator annual workplan and report, to UNFIP;

- Ensure that information related to UNFIP is shared within the country team and issues related to UNFIP are regularly discussed in the country team meetings;
- Encourage country-based proposals being submitted to UNFIP which reflect an appropriate measure of review and consideration by the RC and her/his country team, promote inter-organizational coordination and cooperation, and are well placed in the context of national priorities and the UN system's development operations in the country concerned. Where available the proposals should be duly consistent with planning/programming mechanisms (e.g. CSN, CCA, UNDAF);
- Ensure that in situations where projects have been approved by a lead agency with collaboration of other United Nations agencies, existing bodies of the Resident Coordinator and the Country Team such as theme groups and working groups be utilized for coordination of project activities;
- sign project documents on behalf of UNFIP for agencies not represented in the country in the event that the implementing partner traditionally delegates signature of project documents to the country level;
- support monitoring visits by UNFIP and/or UNF as appropriate;
- in agreement with implementing partners follow up requests and on behalf of UNFIP and in accordance with established procedures, arrange for ad hoc monitoring visits to projects and report on them accordingly.

Attachment – “Provisional UNFIP Project/Programme Screening and Selection Criteria”