



UNDG Principals Advisory Group meeting

26 April 2016, 12.00pm-2.00pm, UNODC, Vienna

Meeting summary

Participants:

UNDG Chair	Ms. Helen Clark
ILO	Mr. Guy Ryder
UNDESA	Mr. Wu Hongbo
UNESCO:	Ms. Irina Bokova
UNICEF	Mr. Anthony Lake
UNIDO	Mr. LI Yong
UN REC	Mr. Christian Friis Bach
UNHCR:	Mr. Filippo Grandi
WFP	Ms. Ertharin Cousin
WHO:	Dr. Margaret Chan

DOCO: Ms. Kanni Wignaraja

Excused:

FAO:	Mr. José Graziano da Silva
UNAIDS	Mr. Michel Sidibe
UNCTAD	Mr. Mukhisa Kituyi
UNFPA	Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin
UN OHCHR	Mr. Zeid Raad
UN Women	Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka

Following a briefing by the UNDG Chair on going activities and results achieved by the UNDG, the Principals Advisory Group discussed UNDG engagement in the ECOSOC Dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the UN development system in the lead-up to the 2016 QCPR resolution, including the range of reform proposals, which have been put forward by Member States and the Independent Team of Advisers (ITA) to the ECOSOC Bureau.

Agreements and action points:

1. The UNDG should put forward a compelling vision for how the system can deliver coherently to maximum effect. Proposals on the longer-term reform of the UN development system should be as concrete as possible and firmly results-oriented. Recognizing that the ITA papers were requested by and produced for the ECOSOC Bureau, it is not for the UN system to provide a direct response to them.

2. Any reform of UN governance and organizational arrangements should be guided by what helps the UN development system (UNDS) deliver results. Reform initiatives should be designed from “bottom up”, starting with how UNCTs can deliver best and considering what system will help the UNDS maximize its impact at the country level.
3. Proposals for reform should be guided by what is working well and what has to change in order to adapt fast to the demands of the 2030 Agenda, drawing on the considerable efforts of the UNDS to deliver results at the country level through a series of ongoing reform initiatives. A vision of centralized governance and organizational arrangements for the UN funds, programmes, and specialized agencies is not considered conducive to ensuring the UNDS maximizes its impact.
4. The undg should counter the perception that there is no UN “system” and that one has to be constructed by highlighting how the diversity of the system can be leveraged as a key asset in support of a coherent UN system offer in support of SDG implementation.
5. The UN development system can and must do a lot better within the current structures and arrangements to align its support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including at the regional and global level (e.g. issue-based alliances, full implementation of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for UN Country Teams, UNDAF results groups etc.).
6. Coordination at the regional level can be further improved based on the Statement of Collaboration between the undg and the UN Regional Commissions in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and with strong leadership of the Deputy Secretary-General in convening Regional Co-ordination Mechanisms.
7. The envisioned outcomes for the ECOSOC Dialogue/QCPR should be firmly aligned with the ongoing negotiations and dialogues around the World Humanitarian Summit so as to ensure these are not being pursued on parallel tracks. UN system plans, assessments, capacities and resources should be brought together in order to address the reality of life in complex situations, where the humanitarian, development, human rights, peace and security and stability issues are all along the same path, hardly sequenced and never parallel in reality.
8. The undg should engage proactively with Member States at every opportunity and through the undg ASG Advisory Group, with a positive set of collective messages and by speaking with one voice in the ECOSOC Dialogue and in the lead-up to the preparation of the Secretary-General’s report on the QCPR in July.
9. Member States should be encouraged to be similarly coherent in their messaging across UN governing bodies as well as between their capitals and their representations in New York and Geneva.