

Overview of the UNDG Regional Team for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNDG LAC)

1. Overview

The United Nations Development Group for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNDG LAC) brings together the Regional Directors of Programs, Funds, and Specialized Agencies of the United Nations in the region. The **Chair** of the UNDG LAC is the Regional Director of the UNDP for Latin America and the Caribbean. Its **membership** comprises the Regional Directors of the following 20 UN entities: FAO, ILO, IOM, OCHA, OHCHR, PAHO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNEP, UNFPA, UN-HABITAT, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNISDR, UNESCO, UN WOMEN, UNODC, UNOPS, and WFP.

2. UNDG LAC Mission

The UNDG LAC's mission is to enhance UN System-wide coherence at the regional level, and assist UN Country Teams (UNCTs) in delivering effective support to countries in the region for sustainable development through nationally led and owned development processes.

The UNDG LAC works closely with UN Country Teams in the region through the provision of strategic guidance, analysis, and policy support and advice in the areas of strategic planning as well as performance and knowledge management to Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams for the achievement of country level results.

The UNDG LAC work is guided by the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) of the General Assembly of UN operational activities for development, the Management and Accountability System agreed up on by the agencies in 2008, and the UNDG's Strategic Priorities for 2013-2016.

The UNDG LAC core functions include i) the provision of coherent and timely technical support; ii) quality assurance of UNDAFs/UN Programmes; iii) support to the implementation of Delivering as One and other UN Reform related efforts at country and regional level, and iv) "trouble shooting" in challenging country situations.

The UNDG LAC leads in partnership mobilization and defining a UNDG-wide role and presence in the region through increased synergies and cooperation among UN entities supporting programme countries in the region. In that regard, the UNDG LAC plays a key role in strengthening **partnerships** with regional organizations such as CELAC and CARICOM.

The UNDG LAC meets three to four times a year, when it discusses the following topics (among other issues) that constitute the core elements of the Regional UNDG team's **Terms of Reference**:

- Performance Management of the Resident Coordinator (RC) System, including an annual Performance Appraisal of the RCs and UNCTs
- Strategic advice and technical support to UNCTs for:



- Supporting Governments in the implementation of Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Development of United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and One Programme
- Implementation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPS) for Delivering as One, including the Business Operations Strategy
- Strategic advice in Human Rights
- Quality Support and Assurance to UNDAF/One Programme
- Dispute resolution and troubleshooting in difficult country situations
- Strategic discussions on regional challenges and/or priorities
- Initiatives of the Regional Interagency Working Groups in support to RCs/UNCTs

The UNDG LAC is currently implementing the Country Liaison Mechanism, which is a mechanism in which UNDG LAC Regional Directors each serve as a liaison for a designated RC/UNCT, to the end of, facilitating the interaction, improving the value of the support provided to RCs/UNCTs by the UNDG LAC, and enabling a more tailored, focused guidance.

In addition, The UNDG LAC implements a flexible and demand-driven modality for providing support and advice to RCs/UNCTs in **UNDAF roll-out** countries through its Quality Support and Assurance mechanism (QSA) and the **Programme Support Group (PSG)**. The PSG also provides advice on Standard Operating Procedures for Delivering as One implementation. The support to the Business Operations Strategy is provided by the Regional Operations Management Team (ROMT).

Furthermore, the UNDG LAC has been carrying out substantive interagency work through its thematic Interagency Working Groups (IAWGs). These provide substantive and technical advice to UNCTs, while contributing to the coherence of the work done by the UN in the region. Currently, the following IAWGs are officially established:

1. Sustainable Development / SDGs Working Group (including Youth Task Team and SSC Community of Practice)
2. Human Rights Working Group (including Indigenous/Afro-descendant task team and protection task team)
3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
4. UNAIDS Cosponsors Regional Group (UCRG)
5. Programme Support Group (PSG) (Including the M&E Task Team)
6. Regional Operations Management Team (ROMT)

Within the framework of the UNDG LAC work plan, other task teams can be established for specific, time-bound initiatives. In addition, there are networks, which include external partners, that work closely with the UNDG LAC to support the implementation of the UNDG LAC work plan such as RED LAC, Pan-American Alliance on Nutrition, and Maternal Mortality.

3. UNDG Strategic Priorities

Much of the UNDG LAC **mandate** is driven by the **United Nations Development Group, (UNDG)**. Established by the Secretary-General in 1997, the UNDG unites globally 32 UN funds, programmes, agencies, departments and offices that play a role in development. Currently the UNDG has six regional teams, Africa Eastern-Southern, Africa Western-Central, Arab States, Europe and Central Asia, and Latin American and the Caribbean.

The UNDG designs system-wide guidance to coordinate, harmonize, and align UN development activities, ensuring that operations are conducted in accordance with the mandates from UN governing bodies such as the General Assembly.

In order to achieve these goals the UNDG establishes Strategic Priorities globally for a four-year period, which provide a framework to the regional UNDG's work. The aim of these priorities is to provide effective support to the countries seeking to attain internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development goals (SDGs), and support member states in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

| UNDG Strategic Priorities 2013-2016 (Updated January 2015) | |
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| I. | Overarching Goal : Deliver effective support to countries for sustainable development under national ownership and leadership |
| II. | Strategic Priorities |
| | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) MDG achievement and implementation of the post-2015 development agenda 2) Human Rights 3) Crisis/Post-Crisis Transition |
| III. | Strategic Entry Points |
| | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Implementation of the SOPs for Delivering as One 2) Positioning of the UN development system to optimally contribute to the post-2015 development agenda |
| IV. | Strategic Approaches |
| | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Promote coherent development results across the entire UN development system to improve transparency and accountability 2) Functioning of the RC system as participatory, collegial, and mutually accountable 3) Accelerate simplification and harmonization of business practices 4) Develop effective partnerships and multi-stakeholder engagement 5) Strengthen capacity development as a core function of the UN development system 6) Enhance integrated planning, programming and policy |

4. UNDG LAC Secretariat

The UNDG LAC Secretariat consists of a Regional Coordination Advisor (and Head of the UNDG LAC Secretariat) based in New York. Other members of the team are located in Panama, Jamaica, and Guyana. A Regional Coordination Officer, Planning and Coordination Officer, and a UN Coordination Associate are seated in Panama, while a Coordination and Planning Officer is in Jamaica and a Coordination and M&E Specialist is seated in Guyana.



5. Contact

For additional information, please contact the UNDG LAC Secretariat at undglacsec@one.un.org, or contact individual team members at:

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| <p>Maria Guallar Regional Coordination Advisor One UN Plaza, New York maria.guallar@one.un.org +1 212 906 5415</p> | <p>Samuel Shin Regional Coordination Officer UN House 128, City of Knowledge, Panama samuel.shin@one.un.org +507 302 4560</p> |
| <p>Luana Barrozo Planning and Coordination Officer UN House 128, City of Knowledge, Panama luana.barrozo@one.un.org +507 302 4663</p> | <p>Carlotta de Vivanco Coordination and Planning Officer 1-3 Lady Musgrave Road Kingston 5, Jamaica carlotta.devivanco@one.un.org + 876 978-2390-9</p> |
| <p>Issa Conteh Coordination and M&E Specialist 42 Brickdam, Georgetown, Guyana issa.conteh@one.un.org + 592 592 - 226 – 4040</p> | <p>Miriam Nateron UN Coordination Associate UN House 128, City of Knowledge, Panama miriam.nateron@one.un.org +507 302 4725</p> |