



UNOPS



**Report of the Joint Meeting of the Executive Boards of
UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP
4 February 2013**

1. Operationalizing the Decisions of the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review

The Acting President of the WFP Executive Board opened the meeting welcoming the Deputy Secretary-General and the Executive Directors of the six United Nations entities.

Introducing the item on behalf of the six entities, the WFP Executive Director welcomed the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) for its focus on delivering and demonstrating results and promoting equitable progress for the most vulnerable, while demonstrating greater value for money. She confirmed the commitment of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) entities to the implementation of the QCPR and highlighted ways in which this has started, including by giving examples of how it is being mainstreamed into the new WFP Strategic Plan.

The Deputy Secretary-General made reference to the key recommendations in the QCPR and stressed that it should guide the United Nations development system (UNDS) on the ground, preparing the system for the post-2015 period. He also reaffirmed the Secretary-General's commitment to its full implementation.

Statements were made by over 20 Member States with the following issues emerging:

- The comparative advantage of the UNDS in post-conflict and transition countries and the need to develop a comprehensive approach to risk management.
- The need to focus on inequalities, promote a human rights-based approach to development and green-growth policies.
- The centrality of national ownership and that United Nations reform must result in greater value-added at country level, rather than being about “how the United Nations can do better business with itself”.
- The number of mandates for action in the QCPR, including time-bound ones, and the need for prioritization and effective monitoring of its implementation.
- A call for improved funding levels and re-balancing of core and non-core resources, including through cost-recovery mechanisms.
- The importance of a continued focus on poverty eradication. Some highlighted the problems of inequality in middle-income countries.
- Support for Delivering as One as the model for implementation.
- Stronger results orientation, and the need to develop a robust approach to reporting, including on the implementation of the QCPR.
- The need to strengthen the Resident Coordinator (RC) system and to burden-share coordination costs.
- A call to accelerate progress in simplification and harmonization of business practices, resolving bottlenecks at Headquarters level.
- The need to retain the decision-making authority of the Executive Boards and the important role of the Regional Commissions.

- The need for greater integration with entities of the United Nations Secretariat.
- The need for a strengthened culture of evaluations including at country level.

The members of the WFP Executive Board spoke as a group and stressed that the eradication of hunger is a priority for its membership and the dual mandate of WFP, active in both emergencies and development. The representative also highlighted the need to integrate lessons learned in the post-2015 agenda.

As first respondent, the UNDP Administrator emphasized the importance of poverty eradication in promoting sustainable development and that internal changes were needed to better deliver results. She referenced efforts made to strengthen and improve the quality of the RC system, but also the system's need for adequate and predictable resources going forward. The UNICEF Executive Director highlighted efforts made to improve results reporting and urged that the post-2015 agenda focus on inequities. The UNFPA Executive Director made reference to his agency's leadership in developing the standard operating procedures and that the agency will consider new business models to deliver more effectively. The UNOPS Executive Director highlighted the importance of capacity-building and sustainability and welcomed the call to accelerate business practices reform. The WFP Executive Director highlighted the need to consider entities' different funding modalities when adopting the RC funding scheme. The UN-Women Deputy Executive Director concluded the meeting by expressing appreciation for the strong emphasis on gender and results in the QCPR. He highlighted the relevance of a rights-based approach going forward and recognized that the QCPR represents a call for change for broader system-wide coherence.

2. Leveraging South–South and triangular cooperation

The President of the UN-Women Executive Board welcomed the representatives of the six United Nations organizations and the two guest speakers. Introducing the background paper on behalf of the six organizations, the UNICEF Executive Director underscored that South–South and triangular cooperation are growing organically, that they are key components of solutions to global problems, and that United Nations organizations have great potential to play a constructive facilitating role.

Presentations were made by two guest speakers: H.E. Mr. Macharia Kamau, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kenya, and Professor John Ohiorhenuan of Columbia University.

Thereafter 12 delegations from Member States raised the following issues:

- South–South cooperation does not replace North–South cooperation and has its own core principles. The QCPR provides key guidance on South–South cooperation and triangular cooperation. These will require different supporting mechanisms, as they are distinct.
- South–South cooperation already accomplishes much, but much more can be done. The United Nations system should step in to provide additional capacity development for countries in the south. The potential of regional arrangements for promoting South–South cooperation should be further applied.

- A comprehensive United Nations blueprint for South–South cooperation is needed to reap the benefits made possible by the United Nations’ comparative advantages. Agency guidance should dovetail with the United Nations guidance, to ensure better coordination at country level.
- All agencies should elaborate further on strategies for encouraging private–sector support for South–South cooperation and on means for improved reporting and evaluation.
- The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation should continue to be strengthened.

Representatives of the six United Nations organizations made the following points:

- As first respondent, the UNFPA Executive Director emphasized that the new development landscape in which developing countries increasingly share development cooperation is based on the principles of solidarity, fairness, equality and national ownership.
- All six United Nations organizations reaffirmed the unique role of the United Nations in leveraging South–South and triangular cooperation.
- South–South and triangular cooperation have been embraced as primary development mechanisms and incorporated into strategic and operational plans by all six organizations. Ongoing efforts are directed towards further mainstreaming.
- There are numerous recent examples of successes in supporting South–South and triangular cooperation from each of the six United Nations organizations. Current achievements still only scratch the surface of what is possible.
- United Nations organizations’ regional involvement continues to evolve in order to better support South–South and triangular cooperation.
- The growth of South–South cooperation raises issues of voice, appropriate representation at Executive Boards, and funding, possibly requiring formal discussion.
- Private–sector involvement can be encouraged by promoting examples of good public-private partnerships benefitting communities, and supporting adherence to international norms and standards.
- Reporting on results should take into account that South–South initiatives are owned by the partner countries, not by United Nations organizations. Emphasis on reporting and evaluation will continue to ensure value is added.

Summing up, the UNOPS Executive Director noted that all organizations have clearly recognized the United Nations role in facilitating South–South and triangular cooperation, and the importance of mainstreaming these efforts. The UN-Women Executive Board President closed the meeting by emphasizing that South–South cooperation represents an efficient, effective and inclusive way to achieve transformational change.