Making the UN “fit for purpose” for the new sustainable development agenda

John Hendra
December 2014
Post-2015 Development Agenda

- MDGs: Vertical, Siloed, North-South
- SDGs: Horizontal, Integrated, Universal
SDGs as a Transformative Agenda

SDGs are much more of a transformative agenda than MDGs
A UN that is “fit for purpose” is one that is:

- Relevant
- Innovative
- Agile
- Inclusive
- Coordinated
- Results-oriented
- Guided by universal human rights and international norms
- Integrates UN normative frameworks with operational activities
- Responsive to differentiated needs of countries
### UN Fit for Purpose

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialized advice</th>
<th>Integrated approach</th>
<th>Various disciplines with relevant skills sets</th>
<th>Forge Partnerships</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

#### Road to Dignity by 2030: Fit for Purpose

- **Shared goals**
- **Visionary and committed leadership**
- **Global, highly skilled and adaptable international civil service**
Current discussion on “Fit for Purpose”

Among Member States: final intergovernmental post-2015 negotiations, ECOSOC’s dialogues on “Future Positioning of the UN Development System” (first dialogue on 15 December 2014)

In countries: adopting Delivering as One

Within the UN System: CEB and its pillars – UNDG, HLCM, HLCP (joint retreat of HLCP/HLCM; also retreat of UNDG, all held in November 2014).
Delivering as One (DaO) 2.0

Increasing number of governments and country teams adopting the second generation of Delivering as One

73%
Of respondents said DaO made it “much or somewhat easier” to engage with the UN System

66%
Of governments are interested in implementing some or all of the elements of DaO

UN Synthesis Report
UN Country Teams will provide coherent support to national stakeholders while accelerating implementation of the SOPs for DaO for sustainable development to achieve greater results

Source: UN DESA Survey on QCPR
Delivering as One (DaO) 2.0

What is DaO 2.0?

- Moving from process to results
- Operationalizing the “spirit” of working together in a very practical and results-oriented way
- Draws on all the experience and lessons learned from the pilots, incorporates key pillars of the original DaO: One Leader, One Programme, One Budgetary Framework, Operating as One plus Communicating as One.
- Strategic positioning, relevance, results and operational efficiencies
What we need:

- Take an integrated approach in the roll-out of the SOPs
- Take a coherent approach to their adoption
- Headquarters to speed up efforts to implement the UNDG Plan of Action for HQs.
Six additional critical areas

- Integrated policy support at all levels
- Drive forward and help implement data revolution
- Ensure much greater transparency
- Open up the UN to be more consultative
- Take more systemic, system-wide approach to assessing risk and promoting resilience
- Better pooling of resources

These are areas for immediate to medium-term action
Six additional critical areas

Integrated policy support at all levels

• Draw on expertise of different agencies
  • Example: UN’s Technical Support Team (TST) supporting SDG Open Working Group

Drive forward and help implement data revolution

• Ensure that data and evidence are used more effectively, systematically, and transparently
• Disaggregation of data
• Provide more integrated capacity development support to national statistical bodies
• Real-time monitoring for rapid feedback on the impact of interventions
Six additional critical areas

Take more systemic, system-wide approach to assessing risk and promoting resilience

- Encourage and promote more integrated partnerships and collaboration between humanitarian action and development
- Build national and local capacity

Better pooling of resources

- Bring together development and humanitarian financing where it makes sense
- Ensure negotiated, sustained and coherent financing for the long-term support to the post-2015 agenda
Six additional critical areas

Open up the UN to be more consultative

• With civil society, private sector, parliamentarians and other stakeholders
• Ensure greater multi-sector engagement in UN planning and monitoring, knowledge sharing and advocacy efforts in the design of new UN country frameworks
• “Unbundle” current multi-stakeholder partnerships

Ensure much greater transparency

• Both financial and human resources at country, regional and global levels
• Sharing data, analysis, programme and operations information.
Structural Reform of the UN Development System

- Impetus will come from a clear political process led by Member States themselves
- ECOSOC dialogues on the “Future Positioning of the UN Development System”
- Final inter-governmental negotiations of the Post-2015 Development Agenda to include for the UN to be “fit for purpose”
- It will require our efforts, commitment and full engagement of staff at all levels
Thank you.