

Item 1: Opening

The meeting was opened by the Co-Chairs, Ms. Olga Algayerova, RCM Chair, and Ms. Mirjana Spoljaric Egger, R-UNSDG Chair, as well as by Ms. Zsuzsanna Jakab, WHO Regional Director, who had acted as R-UNSDG Chair ad interim.

Item 2: 2019 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

Ms. Monika Linn, Director of the UNECE Sustainable Development and Gender Unit and Secretary to the Regional Forum, [presented](#) the status of preparations for the 2019 Regional Forum and briefed the meeting on opportunities for the regional UN system to contribute:

- The Regional Forum is a growing multi-stakeholder platform for practical peer learning on SDGs. It provides the region's official input to the HLPF.
- The 2019 Regional Forum will take place from 21-22 March 2019 in Geneva. The main parts of the meeting will be a High-level Policy Segment, focus events on technology and data, peer learning round tables on the SDGs under in-depth review (4, 8, 10, 13 and 16), and a session on interlinkages. The draft programme and the themes of the round tables have been endorsed by member States.
- Upon request by member States, a brief background document on regional SDG progress will be prepared, along the lines of the UN's global SDG progress report, focusing on the 5 SDGs under review and based on official SDG data.
- A number of preparatory and associated events are planned around the Regional Forum: a civil society consultation, a youth consultation, a regional consultation on volunteerism, and a regional workshop for VNR countries. A possible event on SDG financing will be discussed with member States. There will also be a number of side events and an SDG exhibition.
- As per the usual practice, the entities of the regional UN system are the primary partners in organizing the Regional Forum. There are multiple opportunities to engage in and contribute to focus events, round tables, the background document, preparatory meetings, side events and otherwise. Concrete arrangements will be discussed with the focal points nominated by most agencies.

The ensuing discussion evolved around the following points:

- A number of agencies expressed interest to contribute to the 2019 Regional Forum, including ILO (with a focus on the future of work), IOM (on inequalities), WHO (on the health and well-being dimension), ITU (on digitalization and artificial intelligence), UNFPA (on civil society and youth involvement, also through the IBC on Youth and Adolescents, and ICPD), UNICEF (on data through the IBC on SDG Data and Monitoring and on inequalities, among others), UNHCR (side event on statelessness), UNDP (supporting a possible event on SDG financing), UNEP (on Education for Sustainable Development, decoupling of growth and climate change), UNV (bringing in the volunteerism component), WMO (on forecasting and climate change resilience), UN Women (also through the IBC on Gender Equality to ensure a gender dimension), ITC (on trade and sustainable growth) and WFP (on food security and climate change).
- It was considered important that the preparatory events have a channel for feedback into the Regional Forum.

DECISIONS AND AGREED FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

- UNECE will cooperate closely with the regional UN system and the network of focal points in the preparations of the 2019 Regional Forum. Agencies who wish to come in will communicate a focal point to the UNECE secretariat.
- UNECE will establish a list of lead organizers and contributors for the focus events and round tables.

Item 3: SDG MAPS Missions- Results, Lessons Learnt, Plans

Mr. George Bouma, Team Leader for the Sustainable Development Cluster in the UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub, [presented](#) key lessons learnt and results of 14 MAPS Missions that were undertaken in the ECA region. Key points of his presentation included:

- Lessons learnt in mainstreaming of the SDGs in national development strategies;
- Definition of acceleration for a broad agenda and related conceptual challenges;
- The need for an upgrade on integrated policy support;
- Significant needs on data and monitoring in the region;
- Gender perspectives;
- Bigger-picture opportunities in mainstreaming, financing and regional approaches.

It was highlighted that in this region, the UN system is well prepared to develop a MAPS 2.0 approach, with the RCs in the driver's seat.

The following key comments were made by the participants:

- MAPS is a useful and comprehensive approach.
- Strong inter-agency cooperation within MAPS should be continued in the follow-up to MAPS Missions. For this, MAPS should directly feed into the VNR processes, clearly connect to the CCA and UNDAF exercises in the region, and feature in 2019 plans of the PSG and IBCs.
- The principle of Leave No One Behind requires a much more systematic approach, when it relates to analysis, data use, and programming.
- Data gaps and monitoring is recognized as a critical element which requires additional support and expertise. The IBC-Data is actively engaged in MAPS missions, both through virtual and physical participation, and will continue to provide the required expertise.

DECISIONS AND AGREED FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

- UNDP will take on board the comments provided and will further engage with the agencies in defining the MAPS 2.0 approach.
- For 2019 UNDAF roll-out exercises, the PSG, in cooperation with respective IBCs, will discuss (i) how to ensure linkages between CCA/UNDAF and MAPS recommendations, (ii) how to integrate LNOB more systematically in country analysis and prioritization, and (iii) how to address other identified needs, including SDG data, and gender mainstreaming.

Item 4: UNDS Reform – Update, Dialogue, Way Forward

Mr. Robert Piper, Head of the UNDS Transition Team, provided an update through remote connection on the status and prospects of the ongoing reform of the UN Development System (UNDS). He stressed the following points:

- The UNDS repositioning at the regional level will aim at strengthening the capacity for providing quality advice on SDGs to countries. This will require intellectual leadership, but also better planning and programming tools. New capacities will become available in the RC offices and from the regional DOCO desk in Istanbul. There is also pressure to achieve efficiency gains through common premises, back offices etc.
- A number of elements are still under consideration, including the new UNDAF/CCA model, the approach to country presence, transboundary issues, and how existing knowledge and expertise is organized and pooled.
- Some UNDS elements at the regional level are not expected to change significantly. Performance appraisal of RCs/UNCTs will remain with the regional Performance Management Team and will be chaired by the DOCO Director. Quality control and backstopping for country teams will also remain regional.

The following key points were raised during the ensuing discussion:

- Due to the advanced cooperation within the regional UN system, many deliverables of the first phase of UNDS reform are already in place in the ECA region.
- Further dialogue and clarification is desirable on additional capacities that will be made available at country and regional levels, new UNDAFs and the revised model of country presence.
- In reforming structures at the regional level, the universality of SDGs, mandates extending to the developed part of the region and the preservation of normative functions should be taken into account.
- There is also a need to consider the humanitarian-development nexus within the UNDS reform process.

In follow-up to the discussion, Regional Directors considered two additional issues:

- The deliverable of UNDS reform (phase 1) to create an online repository of knowledge products in the region.
- The proposal by the UNECE Executive Secretary to compile examples of concrete impact of regional UN activities. Such a compilation will also be useful as an advocacy document regarding UNDS reform and in discussions with member States.

DECISIONS AND AGREED FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

- R-UNSDG will compile the questions and reactions from Regional Directors and provide them to the Transition Team as an input to the reform efforts.
- Once the regional desk is operational, DOCO will be requested to manage a common web space for joint analytical products.
- Agencies, particularly IBCs, will provide examples of collaborative activities with concrete and measurable impact to UNECE by 10 December 2018.

Item 5: Dialogue with RCs – Subregional and Transboundary Issues as Part of New Generation UNDAFs

Three UN Resident Coordinators, namely Ms. Helena Fraser RC in Uzbekistan, Ms. Dafina Gercheva RC in Moldova, and Ms. Sezin Sinanoglu RC in BiH have been requested to engage with the Regional Directors to discuss transboundary and sub-regional issues. The focus was more specifically on issues that (i) have priority importance for the SDG implementation in the sub-region, (ii) are of transboundary nature, and (iii) have the potential to be addressed through multi-agency engagement.

The key points of the three [presentations](#) included:

Central Asia focus areas:

- Youth 2030 roll-out in Central Asia: sub-regional roll-out of Global Youth Strategy
- Green SDGs: sub-regional knowledge exchange, sustainable cities, private sector engagement
- Connectivity and Peer Exchange Platforms: link to MAPS missions, civil society and private sector cooperation on SDGs, women peer support platforms
- Quality Open Data for SDGs: strengthen national statistical capacities, sub-regional network on monitoring SDG targets, sub-regional SDG report.

South Caucasus and CIS focus areas:

- Environmental Governance and Integrated Management of Natural Resources: transboundary water governance, freshwater ecosystem, balancing competing water uses
- Climate Change/ Resilience: climate-related policies, low emissions and resilient development, renewables, energy efficiency
- Sustainable Livelihoods, through integrated border management, connectivity, and “trade and transit”: peace and security, confidence building/ people-to-people contacts/ cohesion, migration, trade and tourism, connectivity, area-based development

Western Balkans focus areas:

- Reconciliation, Trust Building and Social Cohesion building on R-DFF: social cohesion, trust building and conflict prevention
- Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: climate change, disaster risk reduction (1. emergency preparedness; 2. the refugee/migrant crisis), air pollution.
- Population Dynamics: requires multi-agency and multi-sectoral responses which should preferably start with a robust analysis of the population dynamics in the region.
- Economic Growth: bring a “human face” to the discussion on connectivity, help the countries build alliances to have better bargaining capacity and use each other’s comparative advantage vis a vis the rest of the world, help ensure that education matches the needs of the economy of the future, help countries invest in green, technologically competitive and inclusive economies that will help the region leapfrog economic growth, support regional competitiveness.

The participants raised the following key points:

- More time is required to review the presentations, consult internally and come back with a consolidated response/ approach.
- Diversified approaches will be required for different sub-regions. While youth development is an important area for all, the topic of aging population is especially critical in Western Balkans. Overall, population dynamics and demography issues need to be integrated in further discussion

and analyses. In addition, migration/ brain drain, decent work/ jobs of the future, green economy were highlighted as key challenges.

- Agreement on sub-regional responses to identified challenges will not be easy, as many of those are nationally anchored. Hence, it will be important to define common focus areas, at the same time ensuring flexibility for contextualization of interventions.
- A common approach on integration of transboundary issues in new CCAs and UNDAFs needs to be agreed upon. The connection with MAPS analyses and recommendations should also be ensured.
- Existing Issue-Based Coalitions (IBCs) and the PSG will need to be brought in for consultation, discussion and analysis.

DECISIONS AND AGREED FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

- The R-UNSDG will put together a note compiling all issues raised by the UN Resident Coordinators.
- Agencies will review internally and will provide feedback on:
 - the recommendations made by the RCs;
 - the proposed next steps, as well as any further proposals in addition; and
 - recommendations on how to take forward the prioritization of the proposed focus areas.

Item 6: Social Protection Floors – Accelerating SDG Implementation

In a shared presentation, the Chairs of the Issue-based Coalition on Social Protection - ILO, UNICEF, UNDP, and WHO - stressed the following points regarding the activities and plans of the IBC:

- A [document](#) with joint advocacy messages on social protection in the region was finalized and published.
- Examples of joint work on social protection include checklists for MAPS and UNDAFs, collaboration on the health equity status report, and support to social protection strategies, policies and legislation at the country and subregional (Western Balkans) level.
- A potential area of continued collaboration is the Joint Fund Window for Social Protection Floors, a pooled financing mechanism to implement social protection floors under the UN Joint Fund for the 2030 Agenda.

In the discussion, Regional Directors stressed the impact of technological and demographic trends on social protection. ICTs can be used to strengthen social protection, e.g. through better databases, registries and e-governance. It is also crucial to factor in population trends.

Other IBCs provided brief updates on recent or planned activities:

IBC on Gender Equality (UN Women): The IBC has focused on support to UNCTs and Gender Theme Groups. An advocacy document is also available.

IBC on Large Movements of People, Displacement and Resilience (UNHCR): The IBC has also elaborated a set of key messages. The IBC participated in a MAPS mission and is planning a side event on Leaving no one behind and statelessness at the 2019 Regional Forum.

IBC on Adolescent and Youth (UNFPA): The IBC has worked around 7 MAPS missions and provided technical assistance to countries. The IBC organized a side event at the 2018 Regional Forum and will also contribute to the next one in 2019. The topic of youth, peace and security is also addressed by the IBC.

DECISIONS AND AGREED FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

- IBCs will continue providing coordinated and cross-cutting inputs at regional, subregional and country levels in line with their programmes of work.

Item 7: Regional Intergovernmental Processes and Key Multi-Agency Initiatives for Advancing the 2030 Agenda

- Global Conference on Primary Healthcare, Astana, 25-26 October 2018 (WHO and UNICEF): The conference stressed the importance of primary health care, in the spirit of the milestone 1978 International Conference on Primary Health Care of Alma-Ata. The conference adopted the [Astana Declaration](#).

- ICPD+25 Regional Conference, Geneva, 1-2 October 2018 (UNECE and UNFPA): The Regional Conference showed that countries are committed to the ICPD process. Many partners and stakeholders were involved and the link between population dynamics and SDGs was stressed.

- Beijing+25 Regional Review Meeting, Geneva, 29-30 October 2019 (UN Women and UNECE): Guidance for national reviews of implementation has been dispatched to member States. The Beijing+25 review will stress linkages with the SDGs. It will culminate at the global level at the Commission on the Status of Women in 2020. Engagement of the regional UN system, in particular through the IBC on Gender Equality, will be needed across the different action areas.

- SDG3 Global Action Plan (WHO): The Global Action Plan will strengthen commitments to accelerate progress towards the health-related SDGs and targets. Dialogue within the regional UN system is desirable to anchor the action plan in national realities and to help implement it.

DECISIONS AND AGREED FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

- To follow up on the Astana Global Conference, one more work stream on primary health care is added to the IBC on Health and Well-being.
- The outcomes of the ICPD+25 Regional Conference will feed into the 2019 Regional Forum.
- The regional UN system, in particular through the IBC on Gender Equality, will be involved in the preparations of the Beijing+25 Regional Review Meeting.
- The IBC on Health and Well-being will support the implementation of the SDG3 Global Action Plan.

Item 8: Any Other Business

1. Climate change-related disasters: ISDR stands ready to join forces on climate change-related disasters in the region, e.g. through inputs to CCAs/UNDAFs from the Sendai monitoring framework and guidelines on national DRR strategies.

2. Proposed new IBC: FAO reaffirmed the proposal to establish an IBC on Food Security and Nutrition, which will be further considered.

3. Centenary of ILO: 100 years after the Treaty of Versailles, the ILO will commemorate its centenary with a series of events in 2019, starting in January and culminating at the International Labour Conference in June 2019.
4. World AIDS Day: UN AIDS invited agencies to participate in World AIDS Day on 1 December 2018, e.g. through social media.
5. Multi-partner fund for Uzbekistan/Central Asia: UNDP informed that the fund will be launched at high level in New York at the end of November. It is limited to Uzbekistan, but could extend to the subregion of Central Asia.
6. New website: UNECE informed that the website on regional UN cooperation/RCM is being redesigned. It will soon have more information on IBCs and will be linked more closely with the SDGs. Agencies are invited to review the website through a test link and to provide regular updates for inclusion on the website once it is launched.
7. Next meeting: UNFPA offered to host the next meeting in Istanbul in May 2019 (concrete date to be determined). This will also provide an opportunity to connect to the new regional DOCO desk.

Annex 1: Agenda

| THURSDAY, 15 NOVEMBER 2018 | | |
|----------------------------|--|--|
| Time | Item | Background documents |
| 9:00-9:30 | <i>Welcome Coffee</i> | |
| 9:30-10:00 | <p>Item 1: OPENING</p> <p>Chair RCM – Ms. Olga Algayerova, UNECE Executive Secretary</p> <p>Chair R-UNSDG – Dr. Zsuzsanna Jakab, WHO Regional Director (ad interim until 14 October 2018) Ms. Mirjana Spoljaric, UNDP Regional Director</p> | |
| 10:00-11:00 | <p>Item 2: 2019 REGIONAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (focus: structure, concept and programme of the RFSD; organization of round tables on focus SDGs; contributions of the regional UN system; associated meetings and side events)</p> <p>Ms. Olga Algayerova, Chair RCM // Ms. Monika Linn, UNECE, Director Sustainable Development and Gender Unit</p> | <p>Regional Forum 2019 Preliminary Programme</p> <p>RFSD 2019 Round Table Themes</p> |
| 11:00-11:30 | <i>Group photo // Tea/coffee break</i> | |
| 11:30-12:30 | <p>Item 3: SDG MAPS MISSIONS – RESULTS, LESSONS LEARNT, PLANS (focus: update on MAPS missions; lessons learned; way forward)</p> <p>Mr. Rastislav Vrbensky, UNDP Deputy Regional Director</p> | <p>MAPS Regional Technical Dialogue</p> <p>MAPS Mission Engagement and SDG Implementation Support</p> |
| 12:30-14:00 | <i>Lunch Break</i> | |
| 14:00-15:30 | <p>Item 4: UNDS REFORM – UPDATE, DIALOGUE, WAY FORWARD (focus: update on status of UNDS reform streams; implementation of regional revamping phase 1 (optimization) and preparations for phase 2)</p> <p>Mr. Robert Piper, Head Transition Team</p> | <p>SG Implementation Plan RC System (shared by e-mail)</p> <p>UNDS Regional Level Optimization Phase – Concept Note (shared by e-mail)</p> |
| 15:30-16:00 | <i>Tea/coffee break</i> | |
| 16:00-18:00 | <p>Item 5: DIALOGUE WITH UN RCs – SUBREGIONAL AND TRANSBOUNDARY ISSUES AS PART OF NEW GENERATION UNDAFS (focus: identification of key transboundary and (sub)regional issues; implications for design of new UNDAFs and for UNDAF roll-out processes; dialogue with UN RCs/UNCTs from the subregions of Central Asia, Western CIS and Western Balkans; UN support on transboundary issues and joint impact of regional UN system)</p> <p>UN RCs: – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ms. Sezin Sinanoglu; Moldova, Ms. Dafina Gercheva; Uzbekistan, Ms. Helena Fraser</p> | <p>UNDAF Design Team Submission to UNSDG Core Group (shared by e-mail)</p> |
| 19:00 | <p><i>Joint dinner</i></p> <p>Hotel Eden Restaurant, 135 Rue de Lausanne 1202 Geneva</p> | |

FRIDAY, 16 NOVEMBER 2018

| | | |
|-------------|--|---|
| 9:30-10:50 | <p><u>Item 6: SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOORS – ACCELERATING SDG IMPLEMENTATION</u> <i>(focus: IBC on Social Protection to lead on this substantive discussion; present latest trends, key regional and country challenges, implications on the SDG implementation; desired outcome: 2-3 key areas for collaborative inter-agency approaches or programming, also linking to new UNDAF roll-outs)</i></p> <p><i>IBC on Social Protection: Ms. Afshan Khan, UNICEF Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia</i></p> <p><i>Followed by interventions from other IBCs or participants with related updates or issues for decision (15 minutes)</i></p> | <p><u>IBC Social Protection Joint Advocacy Messages</u></p> <p><u>Joint Fund Window for Social Protection Floors</u></p> |
| 10:50-12:20 | <p><u>Item 7: REGIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL PROCESSES AND KEY MULTI-AGENCY INITIATIVES FOR ADVANCING 2030 AGENDA</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Astana Conference on Primary Health Care: Ms. Zsuzsanna Jakab, WHO Regional Director for Europe, and Ms. Afshan Khan, UNICEF Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia</i> - <i>ICPD+25 Regional Conference: Ms. Olga Algayerova, UNECE Executive Secretary, and Ms. Alanna Armitage, UNFPA Regional Director for Eastern Europe and Central Asia</i> - <i>Beijing+25 Regional Review Meeting: Ms. Alia El-Yassir, UN Women Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, and Ms. Monika Linn, UNECE, Director Sustainable Development and Gender Unit</i> - <i>SDG3 Global Action Plan: Ms. Zsuzsanna Jakab, WHO Regional Director for Europe</i> | <p><u>Overview SDG 3 Global Action Plan</u></p> <p><u>ICPD+25 Regional Conference Report</u></p> <p><u>Beijing+25 Regional Review meeting</u></p> |
| 12:20-12:45 | <p><u>Item 8: ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></p> | |
| 12:45-13:00 | <p><u>NEXT STEPS AND CLOSING REMARKS</u> <i>Ms. Mirjana Spoljaric, Chair Regional UNSDG Team</i> <i>Ms. Olga Algayerova, Chair Regional Coordination Mechanism</i></p> | |

Annex 2: List of Participants

| Organization | Last Name | First Name | Title |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|--|
| | Algayerova | Olga | Chair RCM/UNECE Executive Secretary |
| | Spoljaric Egger | Mirjana | Chair R-UNSDG/ UNDP Regional Director for Europe and the CIS |
| FAO | Shoji | Yuriko | Deputy Regional Representative for Europe and Central Asia |
| ILO | Koller | Heinz | Director, Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia |
| | Bussi | Maurizio | Deputy Director, Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia |
| | Smith | Daniel | Programme and Liaison Officer |
| IOM | Szabados | Argentina | Regional Director |
| | Keserovic | Dejan | Sub-Regional Coordinator for Central Asia |
| ITC | Yerznkyan | Silva | Trade Promotion Officer, Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia |
| ITU | Awotar-Mauree | Rosheen | Programme Officer, Office for Europe |
| OHCHR | Aranaz | Jose Maria | Chief of Branch, Americas, Europe and Central Asia |
| UNAIDS | Saldanha | Vinay | Regional Director for Eastern Europe and Central Asia |
| UNDP | Vrbensky | Rastislav | Deputy Director, Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS |
| UNECE | Linn | Monika | Principal Adviser and Chief, Sustainable Development and Gender Unit |
| UNEP | Leone | Gaetano | Acting Director, Regional Office for Europe |
| | Asnake | Wondwosen | Policy and Partnership Coordinator |
| UNESCO | Baker | Jonathan | Head, Science Unit |
| UNFPA | Armitage | Alanna | Director, Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia |
| | Diavolova | Marta | Regional Adviser, Strategic Partnerships, EECA Regional Office |
| | Brandrup | Rune | Programme Specialist, Youth |
| UNHCR | Li Rosi | Angela | Deputy Director, Bureau for Europe |
| | Medic | Miroslav | Bureau for Europe |
| UNICEF | Khan | Afshan | Director, Regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe and the CIS |

| Organization | Last Name | First Name | Title |
|------------------------|------------------|-------------------|---|
| UNIDO | Cukrowski | Jacek | Chief, Regional Division for Europe and Central Asia |
| UNISDR | Albrito | Paola | Head, UNISDR Regional Office for Europe |
| UNOPS | Karim | Moin | Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia |
| | Madiwale | Ajay | UN Coordination and Strategic Partnerships Adviser |
| UN Women | El-Yassir | Alia | Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia |
| | Mukota | Vimbai | Regional Planning and Coordination Specialist |
| UN Volunteers | Kurbanov | Toily | Deputy Executive Coordinator |
| WFP | Oberlin | Nicolas | Deputy Director, Regional Bureau for Middle East, North Africa, Central Asia and Eastern Europe |
| | Kim | Yein | Special Assistant to the Deputy Regional Director for Emergency Coordination and Supply Chain |
| WHO | Jakab | Zsuzsanna | Director, Regional Office for Europe |
| | Menne | Bettina | Coordinator, Sustainable Development and Health, Regional Office for Europe |
| WIPO | Napolitano | Giovanni | Deputy Director, Department for Transition and Developed Countries |
| WMO | Dacic | Milan | Chief, Regional Office for Europe |
| | Berghi | Natalia | Programme Officer, Regional Office for Europe |
| R-UNSDG Secretariat | Barcari | Liudmila | Regional Coordination Specialist |
| RCM Secretariat/UN ECE | Kunz | Michael | Economic Affairs Officer |
| | Zerrath | Elise | Associate Expert |