



REGIONAL UN SYSTEM MEETING FOR EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA



Note for Record and Conclusions
(final version 13 July 2018)

8-9 May 2018 – UNICEF, Geneva

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Ms. Hana Singer, Associate Regional Director at the UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, welcomed the participants. The meeting was opened by Ms. Cihan Sultanoglu, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Europe and the CIS/R-UNDG Chair, and Ms. Olga Algayerova, UNECE Executive Secretary/RCM Chair.

Item 1: Dialogue on UNDS Reform at the regional level

The Deputy Secretary-General (DSG) and RCM Chair, Ms. Amina Mohammed, provided a keynote address via Skype on the status and prospects of the ongoing reform of the UN Development System (UNDS). She stressed the following points:

- The draft resolution on UNDS repositioning dated 30 April was circulated to Member States, and the silence procedure was not broken, hence the formal GA session for its approval will take place on 31 May 2018.
- There is strong commitment to the reform from Member States as it provides renewed space to ensure greater transparency and increased accountability, and this ultimately gives the political mandate to the Secretary-General (SG) to continue with its implementation.
- The reform aims at a clear division of labour and proper co-location of expertise. Moreover, it provides an opportunity to leverage scale and foster collaboration with external partners including civil society, academia, and private sector amongst others.
- Its operationalization will kick start in January 2019.
- Priority areas of the SG's report on UNDS repositioning are a new generation of UN Country Teams (UNCTs) and empowered RCs, a reinvigorated role of the Resident Coordinator system, and a revamped regional approach to support work on the ground.
- Structures at the regional level will be revamped in a two-step, region-by-region approach, as laid out in the draft resolution. In the first phase, existing arrangements will be optimized by the end of 2018. In the second phase, options will be provided for longer-term reprofiling and restructuring of the regional assets of the UN, to be considered at the 2019 ECOSOC Segment on Operational Activities for Development.
- Strengthening linkages between Regional Economic Commissions (RECs), Resident Coordinators (RCs), regional offices and departments of UN entities, and also UN DESA in the Europe and Central Asia region will require careful thinking, given the specificities of the region. Regional support to countries should not be provided in silos.
- Cooperation within the regional UN system is recognized as a model of good cooperation, which has resulted in joint knowledge and advocacy work, inter-agency MAPS missions and a number of issue-based coalitions.
- In general, UNDAFs will be redesigned, as they do not fully respond to SDGs and country priorities as they currently stand.
- The UN Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) and its four Strategic Results Groups will be responsive to the changes required to implement the SDGs. A global Implementation Plan is being prepared in the next six weeks or so. The implementation plan will include priority actions including new generation of UNCTs, empowered RCs and regional support to the work on the ground.
- The regional UN system is invited to consult with its various constituencies and to come up with innovative ideas and proposals for this transition.

The following key points were raised during the ensuing discussion of the DSG with Regional Directors:

- The humanitarian-development nexus is also key within the SG's prevention strategy. OCHA and UNDP will service a Joint Steering Committee to advance humanitarian and development collaboration.
- There is no prescription on how UN entities at the regional level can come together more efficiently. Clients – people and countries the UN is working for – should be involved in improving structures. More systematic cooperation is possible at the regional level, e.g. through induction visits of newly-appointed Resident Coordinators at non-resident agencies.
- Issue-based coalitions (IBCs) are a good approach to pool expertise and achieve concrete results. The approach could be shared with other regions.
- It is important to understand and maximize the individual and collective impact of the UN's work on the ground. It might be useful to have a collection of concrete examples from the regional UN system to better communicate the impact of UN activities.
- Twelve+1 UNDAFs will be rolled out in the region in 2019.
- The SG will present a global implementation plan to provide strategic guidance to the transition team in charge of operationalizing the UNDS resolution. Member States are closely following the process and expect actions that respond to the resolution. Some challenges exist and modalities still need to be worked out, for instance with regard to funding the new RC system or establishing multi-country offices.
- The new generation of UNCTs should respond to country needs and be less donor-driven.

DECISIONS AND AGREED FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

- UNECE proposed to prepare a consolidated document which highlights concrete and measurable impact. Agencies will be invited to share further examples of individual or joint work to be compiled and used for various communications on the contribution of the regional level of the UNDS.
- Regional Directors will consult their constituencies and provide collective feedback to the DSG on options to improve regional arrangements in the short and longer term.
- UNDOCO will share information with regard to the guidance on the new generation of UNDAFs. Regional UNDGs will have strengthened oversight role in new UNDAFs to ensure reflection of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with the SDGs at their core and positioning them to provide quality support at the country level in their aspiration to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

Item 2: SDG MAPS Missions- Results, Lessons Learnt, Plans

The UNDP Deputy Regional Director, Mr. Rastislav Vrbensky, provided an overview of the MAPS missions, with a specific focus on lessons learned.

- In 2018, there were 4 full MAPS missions and 3 are in the pipeline. MAPS missions have elevated the interest of governments and acted as a catalyst to focus their attention on SDGs.
- Participation of the UN agencies has increased, e.g. in Uzbekistan there were 11 UN agencies participating.

- There is an increased engagement of IBCs in the MAPS missions. This has emphasized the predominantly social agenda of the IBCs, therefore leading to the need to balance prosperity and planet goals.
- Governments are interested to see what the UN system can offer, using SDGs as a framework to help reform policy and development approaches.
- There are a number of challenges: SDGs are complex, and implementation has to correspond to needs. There are often weak capacities within governments and buy-in of government officials varies. Lack of data and limited data sharing restrict evidence-based policy making. There are weak incentives at UNCT level for integrated SDG engagement.
- Opportunities include aligning SDGs with EU aspirations and initiatives and introducing new funding modalities to drive integrated approaches i.e. Global SDG fund, establishment of SDG funds at country level (Albania).

The following key points emerged in the discussion:

- The upcoming MAPS 2.0 should carefully link to the next generation of UNDAFs and offer enablers as drivers of progress.
- In all MAPS countries there is a clear identification of accelerators. Grouping of repeated accelerators (i.e. leave no one behind, economic development, governance and resilience) can serve as a good guidance for future expertise deployment from UN agencies.
- Data gaps and monitoring is recognized as a critical element which requires additional support and expertise. In addition to the IBC-SDG Monitoring, UNECE can contribute expertise from its statistical work.
- Based on the good examples coming from recent MAPS missions, it is important to prepare some pre-deliverables ahead of the in-country missions.
- Stronger emphasis should be put on SDG financing as an important element to increase domestic resource mobilization.
- A common platform for all MAPS reports should be established and made available to regional UN system and all IBCs.
- The lead work of UNDP is highly appreciated and encouraged to continue further.
- It was suggested to share the MAPS ToRs with all UN agencies ahead of the in-country missions.
- WFP expressed interest to participate in the MAPS mission in Kyrgyzstan.
- Agencies that due to limited human resources do not participate in a specific IBC can still provide expertise to the MAPS mission.
- Dialogue should continue after the MAPS mission, especially in engaging further with the Government to address recommendations and take the acceleration areas forward in national planning and financing processes.
- When preparing the MAPS report all UN agencies' views and inputs should be sought and taken into consideration, regardless of their representation in the MAPS team.

DECISIONS AND AGREED FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

- The PSG will ensure the inclusion of MAPS recommendations, the acceleration areas in particular, in the new cycle of UNDAFs.
- UNDP IRH will prepare a paper that highlights the lessons learned and common issues from MAPS to be discussed in the next Regional UN System Meeting.

- More emphasis will be placed in the future MAPS missions to involve additional expertise from IFIs including WB, EBRD, EIB, amongst others, to provide expertise in the area of financing for development.
- Feasibility of sending SDG follow-up missions in the areas that lack most i.e. SDG monitoring will be explored.
- The possibility to establish a common depository platform will be explored by UNDP IRH.
- UN agencies to engage more with their agencies at country level to ensure integration of critical areas in the MAPS ToRs at the onset of the process.
- R-UNDG Secretariat will share the current SOPs, which describe roles and responsibilities in the MAPS. UN Agencies had an opportunity to add inputs, if any, to the current SOPs.

Item 3: Outreach to EU Institutions and Member States

The Director of the UN/UNDP Office in Brussels, Ms. Barbara Pesce-Monteiro, provided an overview of UN representation in Brussels and the significance of the SDG agenda for the EU institutions. She stressed the following points:

- Some 25 UN entities are present in Brussels. The office engages in political and substantive issues as well as in fundraising. The UN presence should be used as a strategic interface with the EU. Engagement takes place through high-level visits of the SG and DSG and on specific themes, such as migration or gender.
- The European Development Days (EDD), organized by the European Commission, are an important event to reach out to EU institutions and build partnerships. The theme of the 2018 EDD (Brussels, 5-6 June) is on women and girls at the forefront of sustainable development. The DSG will participate in the opening, which will be partly about the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls.
- For the EU, the SDGs have a strong external component, which is under the purview of the Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO). Regarding the status of internal implementation of SDGs, a [monitoring report](#) was published by Eurostat. A reflection paper by First Vice-President Timmermans is expected towards the end of 2018.
- A multi-stakeholder platform on SDGs was set up by the European Commission in 2017. The platform will also provide input into the EU budget.

The following points were raised in the discussion:

- Gender equality is an important entry point for cooperation with the EU institutions. The next meeting of the Issue-based Coalition on Gender Equality will therefore take place in Brussels.
- There is a strong case for moving from a bilateral to an inter-agency approach when communicating messages to and cooperating with EU institutions.

DECISIONS AND AGREED FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

- The regional UN system will explore entry points for joint outreach to the EU institutions.
- The possibility for members of the regional UN system to be on the delegation during high-level visits of the SG and DSG in Brussels will also be explored.

Item 4: The Belt and Road Initiative- Regional implications

The UNDP Regional Director, Asia and the Pacific, Mr. Haoliang Xu provided information via skype on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

- The BRI, launched in 2013 by President Xi Jinping, is a framework of cooperation proposed by the Chinese government that focuses on connectivity and cooperation between China and countries worldwide.
- It presents a vision for enhanced economic cooperation with 5 major pillars: policy coordination, infrastructure connectivity, unimpeded trade, financial integration, and people to people bonds.
- The cooperation is guided by mostly bilateral agreements between China and participating countries (about 70 by now, including 26 countries in ECA region) as well as multilateral agreements with development and other multilateral organizations (20 UN agencies).
- The 1st Belt and Road Forum showcased the economic potential, global interest, paired with high expectations and concerns on the likely impact of the unprecedented scale of investments and finance flows out of China. The amount pledged to date is around US\$113bn in new funding for BRI projects.
- Investments mainly focus in the China-Indochina Peninsula, China-Mongolia- Russia and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Investments flow to Singapore, Vietnam, Malaysia, Laos, Indonesia, Pakistan, Russia, Vietnam, as well as to other countries and regions.
- UN is well- placed to contribute that the investment is in line with SDGs; its serves as the safeguard for this initiative including environment and social issues and can contribute to advancing sustainable development impact of BRI through research, advocacy policy harmonization and project implementation.

The following points were raised in the discussions:

- It's important for the UN agencies in the ECA region to support various aspects of the BRI initiative. Components such as environment and health including building healthy cities, labor and social safeguards should be supported by UN agencies.
- A meeting between Eastern countries and China will be held in Montenegro to discuss on the green economy. Potentials for UN cooperation with China in this context should be explored.
- An agreement was signed with China in support to the UN Volunteers programme which implies that human resources might be considered from China in joint volunteer work. Further engagement should continue to ensure implementation of the agreement.
- The China International Cooperation Agency was established recently. This agency aims to coordinate the decentralized provision of Chinese aid overseas, which at the time remains quite fragmented. There is a fund available at around US\$140 million aimed for disaster risk reduction projects. UN agencies might apply fulfilling certain criteria related to the quality and scalability of projects.

DECISIONS AND AGREED FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

- The regional UN agencies in the ECA region and in Asia and the Pacific should engage around the BRI and exchange experience, views and potentials for joint cooperation.

Item 5: Health as critical component to achieve SDGs- Dialogue with IBC on Health

On behalf of WHO Europe, lead agency of the Issue-based Coalition on Health and Well-being for All at All Ages in Europe and Central Asia, Ms. Piroška Ostlin, Director of the Division of Policy and Governance for Health and Well-being, and Ms. Bettina Menne, Coordinator Sustainable Development and Health, highlighted some major achievements of the IBC:

- Since its first meeting in November 2016, the IBC has improved inter-agency coordination on health, based on existing partnerships.
- Four work streams are being pursued: Health over the life course; communicable diseases; universal health coverage; and migration.
- In the WHO Regional Committee for Europe, Ministers of Health approved a roadmap to implement the 2030 Agenda, building on Health 2020. The Regional Committee also recognized the IBC as a priority for the Regional Office.
- The Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health was held in Ostrava, Czech Republic, in June 2017, in cooperation with UNECE.
- An important Conference on Promoting Intersectoral and Interagency Action on Health and Well-being was held in Paris in December 2016.
- A UN Common Position on ending HIV, Tuberculosis and viral Hepatitis through Intersectoral Collaboration was prepared and is submitted for signature. It should be launched at a high-profile opportunity, such as at the GA.
- As next steps, a second face-to-face meeting of the IBC is planned. The IBC will also attempt to strengthen the health component in MAPS missions and UNDAFs.

The discussion focused on opportunities to launch the UN common position paper, which include the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (New York, 9-18 July 2018); the General Assembly high-level meeting on ending tuberculosis (New York, 26 September 2018); and the Global Conference on Primary Health Care in Almaty (25-26 October 2018). It was also stressed that IBCs could become a useful vehicle to jointly approach donors in the future. Regional Directors also touched upon measures against the rebound of measles in the region.

DECISIONS AND AGREED FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

- All regional UN Agencies to provide signatures to the UN common position paper.
- WHO will follow up on opportunities to launch the position paper, which could include a launch event in New York.

Item 6: Innovation for Development- Dialogue with RCs

The UN Country Team (UNCT) in Moldova led by the UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Dafina Gercheva, provided an overview on the country political and development context and the work on innovation for development, underlining the following key points:

- Moldova is a low MIC, which has struggled over the past years to establish a liberal democracy and market economy. Some progress is noted in terms of the political stability with the new Government in place since 2016. Still the political discourse is rather volatile. The situation could

further deteriorate as the country approaches the Parliamentary elections scheduled for November.

- The economic situation remains quite unsustainable with the lowest economic growth in the region, lowest employment rate in particular for women and youth in rural areas and worrisome demographic trends.
- The UNCT is well positioned as a trusted partner for innovation and sustainable development.
- The new UNDAF launched in January 2018 is innovation driven and fully aligned with national priorities and SDGs. It provides joint and integrated analysis using analytical tools SCORE, EWS, Risk analysis and big and open data.
- Three innovation labs, namely MiLab, Green City Lab and Business Innovation Lab have been established over the past years, currently under the umbrella of Moldova Innovation Hub. These labs are geared to connect and source solutions to complex development issues and policy changes.
- These three labs are experimenting and pilot testing innovative tools, approaches and methodologies for evidence-based policy development and testing; strategic planning purposes- new national Strategy M2030; new ways of service design and delivery, collective intelligence, behavioural insights, user safari etc; promoting active citizens engagement and support to the private sector to leverage financing for SDGs.
- Under DOCO UN-Wide Innovation Platform, an initiative is being implemented to develop a prototype of the new generation of UNCTs and pilot test it.

The following key points were made during the discussion

- UN regional agencies are looking forward to the increased joint programming and additional engagement with IBCs to add value to the work at the country level. This requires regular exchange and information sharing.
- The innovative work on the business practices should be shared amongst other UNCTs for increased efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of business operations at country level.
- Further to the MAPS, there is need for additional work to ensure integration of accelerators into national policy programmes.
- The lessons learnt from the implementation of the peace and stability confidence building programme to be used as good examples in the region.
- There is need to engage with EU to establish synergies between EU related aspects and Agenda2030, with particular focus on human rights, social and environment areas.
- Explore new partnerships with IFIs and strong partnership with the Government for enabling increased cost-sharing.

The UN Country Team in Armenia led by the UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Shombi Sharp, provided an overview of the current political context, following recent developments and the work on innovation for development, underlining the following key points:

- The opposition leader Mr. Nikol Pashinyan was elected as the Prime Minister in Armenia by the Parliament in May 2018, after weeks of massive protests against the ruling party, transforming the country's political landscape.
- Public pressure led to the resignation of veteran leader Serzh Sargsyan, a week after he took office as prime minister, after having served for 10 years as president.
- The new government has to present its new programme to the Parliament within 40 days.

- During this period, the UN in Armenia has started building partnership with the new Government in terms of security measures and information sharing.
- The UNCT in Armenia has become a model for innovation in development work around the world, having established the first national SDG Innovation Lab and impact accelerator, and was recipient of one of the first UN DOCO seed funding grants for innovative financing.
- The SDG Innovation Lab and other new models were also recognized by UN leadership as well as partners such as Stanford University and Rockefeller Foundation as global best practice to roll out in other developing countries to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs
- The Lab aims to accelerate the SDGs implementation through the creation of an innovative platform and utilizing the global expertise in big data, capacity building and citizen engagement (building on the earlier successful proof-of-concept by the UNDP Kolba Innovations Lab).
- Building on the platform of the UN's first successful social venture incubator, the UNCT founded an impact accelerator managed by UNDP, another first for the UN globally. This accelerator aims to scale up already bankable social ventures, and ensure they have more social impact – and achieve the SDGs.

The discussion after the presentation included the following key points

- Regional UN agencies encourage the use of cutting edge innovation to establish relationship with the new government. The established models and continued work on innovation could be followed by other UN Country Teams in the region.
- Data collection and dissemination is crucial; therefore, the work will continue in support of the development of the National SDG Platform, SDG barometer as well as other initiatives that make use of data.
- The UN should cooperate further with the Government in order to establish linkages with MAPS especially in the context of development of new UNDAFs.
- Development partners ask for integrated and coherent UN agencies efforts at country level and this should be taken into consideration in the development and implementation of new joint programmes.
- OHCHR will engage in a new bilateral agreement with the Government of Armenia. Its representation is considered important in various aspects of the implementation of HR agenda at country level, as well as in forging partnership with the European Union.
- Explore new opportunities for joint programmes on South-South cooperation programmes, including migration programmes in particular.
- SCORE remains a true innovation tool in peace and transition programmes to be used in additional in-country and cross-border programmes.

DECISIONS AND AGREED FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

- The regional UN system will support and promote the cutting-edge innovation models established both in Armenia and Moldova and encourage their application by other UNCTs.
- The UNCTs in Armenia and Moldova will work in close cooperation with the regional UN system agencies to support the host governments in fulfilment of national priorities in line with the 2030 Agenda.

Item 7: United Nations Volunteers- in support of Peace and Development

The UNV Executive Coordinator Olivier Adam presented the UNV work with a focus on Europe and CIS Regional Office work.

- Designated by the UN General Assembly, UNV is to support the implementation of the Plan of Action to integrate volunteering into peace and development.
- This year, UNV launched its new four-year Strategic Framework (2018-2021), the first since the adoption of Agenda 2030. It is an ambitious fit-for-purpose programme with two linked areas of work: 1) supporting national capacity through volunteerism and b) support UN agencies in their work towards achievement of the SDGs.
- Currently, 312 UN Volunteers are deployed in Europe and CIS region; of these, 178 are national volunteers and 134 international.
- Internally, UNV has been working over the past 12 months to transform as an effective service to the whole UN system, including through establishing regional offices.
- Looking at the labour contribution of volunteers shows that in this region alone there are 27.3 million full-time equivalent volunteers. More than 70% of volunteering work in Europe and CIS is carried out informally and directly between individuals.
- UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA and UN Women committed in a common Strategic Plan chapter to “build on recent progress in engaging citizens through volunteerism, empowerment, participation and other means to strengthen national ownership and capacity, and delivery of the sustainable development agenda.”
- Some of the areas where UN Volunteers can provide support including: evidence-based measurements of progress on SDGs, volunteers can help promote the inclusion of marginalized groups, innovative volunteerism; and how to measure its impact and contribution as a vital resource for peace and development
- The recent Regional Forums on Sustainable Development also highlighted that there is still a need to strengthen structures and mechanisms for SDGs monitoring and reporting that incorporate citizens. A recent proposal at the ECLAC forum was to build cascading structures that might include one volunteer per national SDG indicator for example.

Then, discussions were focused on the following:

- A report which measures the impact of volunteerism is being prepared in cooperation with ILO and will be launched soon.
- UNV will explore further opportunities on how to align and establish a leaner structure.
- UNECE encouraged strengthened UNV cooperation with RECs.
- UNHCR raised administrative issues related to retaining of UNVs beyond termination of contracts.
- Regarding the involvement of migrant UNVs in various programmes with focus on migrants, it's important to clarify all related administrative procedures including registration procedures for refugees and migrants to be hired as UNVs.
- Give that youth remain the dominant capacity of UNV programmes, it was suggested to organize a youth fellowship programme in the region. In addition, there was also a suggestion to facilitate volunteering for elderly people/retirees.

DECISIONS AND AGREED FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

- UN Regional Agencies will coordinate with UNV to harmonize practices with regard to the recruitment procedures of UNVs.
- UNV will consider organizing regional meetings on volunteering including exposure of UNV work in the margins of HLPF 2020.
- UNV will cooperate with UNECE to organize a regional consultation on the Plan of Action and will support the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development 2019.

Item 8: Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

The UNECE Deputy Executive Secretary, Mr. Andrey Vasilyev, stressed that the 2018 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE Region (Geneva, 1-2 March 2018) attracted over 600 participants and received positive feedback from member States. Very importantly, the Regional Forum was also perceived as being owned by the agencies of the regional UN system, which contributed to the event in various ways.

In her presentation, Ms. Monika Linn, Director of the UNECE Sustainable Development and Gender Unit and Secretary to the Regional Forum, highlighted the following key points related to the event:

- Over 50-member States participated, some with large delegations. More than 100 NGOs as well as international organizations and other stakeholders also took part.
- The event was structured in a High-level Policy Segment, peer learning round tables on the SDGs under in-depth review (6, 7, 11, 12 and 15), and a session on interlinkages. A compilation of case studies presented at the round tables as well as the report of the Regional Forum are available on the [meeting website](#).
- The event was accompanied by a rich programme of side events and an SDG exhibition.
- Being fully aligned with the theme and the SDGs under in-depth review at the HLPF (New York, 9-18 July 2018), the outcomes of the Regional Forum will be reported at the HLPF.
- Looking ahead, the 2019 Regional Forum (tentative dates 21-22 March 2019) will focus on SDGs 4, 8, 10, 13 and 16. The concrete format will be decided by member States. Again, there will be multiple opportunities for the regional UN system to engage and contribute to background documents, round tables, side events and otherwise.
- In 2019, there will also be two HLPFs – one in July under ECOSOC and one in September under the GA at the level of Heads of State and Government. One idea is therefore to prepare a regional SDG progress report for autumn 2019 to take stock of progress, challenges and policy responses.

The ensuing discussion evolved around the following points:

- A number of agencies expressed interest to contribute to the 2019 Regional Forum, including UNHCR (on target 10.7 on migration and SDG 16); WHO (Health Equity Status Report is under preparation); UNICEF (outcomes of Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys); UNFPA (upcoming ICPD review); and UNISDR (on SDG 13).
- Participation of youth, IBCs, and Resident Coordinators could be further strengthened.
- MAPS missions and VNRs should be better integrated in the Regional Forum.

- Regarding a possible regional SDG progress report, Regional Directors expressed a preference for a collection of case studies and success stories for people, using available data, rather than a full-fledged analytical report.

DECISIONS AND AGREED FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

- UNECE will keep the regional UN system involved in the preparations of the 2019 Regional Forum.
- UNECE will explore options to compile people-centered success stories on SDGs in a regional advocacy document.

Item 9: Any Other Business

1. 2019 PSG Co-Chairing

In 2019, there will be twelve+1 UNDAF roll-outs in the region, which will require substantive and strategic support from the PSG. During the meeting, three UN agencies expressed interest to co-chair the PSG in 2019: UNFPA, UNDP and UNICEF. UNESCO requested time to consider the suggestion for co-chairing in view of the evaluation of its internal capacities to carry out this function. The decision on the Agencies to Co-chair will be taken upon receipt of response from UNESCO.

2. Proposal to establish IBC on Food Security and Nutrition (FAO and WFP)

FAO and WFP proposed to establish a new IBC on Sustainable Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition, including to strengthen the food and nutrition component in MAPS missions. Following discussion, FAO and WFP will review whether these issues could be addressed within existing IBCs and prepare a mapping of existing platforms that relate to food security issues. It was reiterated that expertise to MAPS missions can be provided within or outside IBCs.

3. Draft Advocacy Paper by IBC on Social Protection (ILO)

ILO presented a draft advocacy paper that was prepared by the IBC on Social Protection. The paper was developed in the context of the UN Social Protection Floor Initiative and highlights financing of social protection and fiscal space as one important issue. Regional Directors will provide comments on the draft, if any, by 31 May 2018.

4. Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in the UN

Considerable focus is placed on preventing sexual exploitation and abuse and strengthening related tools in the UN Secretariat and in UN agencies, funds and programmes at the global level. Available training and tools kits, e.g. from the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) on the coordination of humanitarian assistance, will be shared. IOM offered to share the toolkit on sexual harassment and existing training opportunities on the subject.

5. *Other items*

The new RCs for the region were announced:

- Ms. Ulrika Richardson, UN Development Coordinator in Kosovo¹;
- Ms. Joanna Kazana, UN Resident Coordinator in Belarus; and
- Ms. Osnat Lubrani, UN Resident Coordinator in Ukraine (to take up post in July 2018)

Following discussions at the RC appraisal meeting, the Regional Directors' team agreed to engage in skype sessions with the UN Development Coordinator in Kosovo² and the RC in Ukraine in early September 2018.

In preparation for the 2020 Biodiversity Summit (Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity in China), UNEP offered to lead the preparation of a regional interagency position paper. UNISDR, UNESCO, WHO, UNDP, UNECE, and FAO expressed interest to engage. The first concept outline of the paper will be discussed at the next Regional UN System Meeting.

It is expected that the next Regional UN System Meeting will be held in autumn 2018 (date tbd). It was proposed to consider holding it in a programme country, hosted by a UNCT.

¹ References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).

² References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).

Annex 1: Agenda

TUESDAY, 8 MAY 2018		
Time	Item	Background documents
15:15-17:00	<p>Item 1: OPENING AND DIALOGUE ON UNDS REFORM AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL (focus: dialogue with the Deputy Secretary-General: state of reform discussions; ways to broaden and optimize the collaborative space for greater impact)</p> <p>15:15-15:30: Welcome: Ms. Afshan Khan, UNICEF, Director of the Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia Opening: Ms. Cihan Sultanoglu, Chair R-UNDG Opening: Ms. Olga Algayerova, UNECE Executive Secretary (hands over to the Deputy Secretary-General)</p> <p>15:30-17:00: Dialogue on UNDS Reform Keynote address: Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General (via Skype)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background note on impact • Draft Resolution on Repositioning of UNDS
17:00-17:10	Group photo & Tea/coffee break	
17:10-17:50	<p>Item 2: SDG MAPS MISSIONS – RESULTS, LESSONS LEARNT, PLANS (focus: MAPS missions undertaken in 2018; plans for future; joint UN policy advice; key challenges identified; accelerators to focus the UN support on; briefing on UNDP technical MAPS meeting; roles and responsibilities for MAPS missions)</p> <p>Mr. Rastislav Vrbensky, UNDP Deputy Regional Director</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAPS Update and Progress • Regional Technical Dialogue Report – MAPS for Country Platforms
17:50-18:30	<p>Item 3: OUTREACH TO EU INSTITUTIONS AND MEMBER STATES (focus: engagement with the European Commission, Council, European Parliament; UN participation in EU multi-stakeholder platform; supporting SDG implementation in EU member states)</p> <p>Ms. Barbara Pesce-Monteiro, Director, UN/UNDP Brussels Representation Office</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Development in the EU – Monitoring report • Council Conclusions – A sustainable European future
19:30-	Joint dinner	
WEDNESDAY, 9 MAY 2018		
8:30-9:00	Welcome coffee	
9:00-9:30	<p>Item 4: THE BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE – REGIONAL IMPLICATIONS (focus: key elements of the Belt and Road Initiative of the Chinese Government; the support that the UN in China is providing; how the UN can build on it for the advancement of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs)</p> <p>Mr. Haoliang Xu, UNDP Regional Director, Asia and the Pacific (via Skype)</p>	
09:30-10:30	<p>Item 5: HEALTH AS CRITICAL COMPONENT TO ACHIEVE SDGS – DIALOGUE WITH IBC ON HEALTH (focus: health as accelerator for development; joint programme initiatives in the region, especially on NCDs; launch of a common UN position paper on HIV, TB and viral hepatitis)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN Joint Position Paper on Ending HIV, • Tuberculosis and viral Hepatitis through • Intersectoral Collaboration

	<p>Ms. Piroška Ostlin, Director, Division of Policy and Governance for Health and Well-being, WHO Europe</p> <p>Ms. Bettina Menne, Coordinator, Sustainable Development and Health, WHO Europe</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IBC Health Briefing Note 2018 • Roadmap to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, building on Health 2020 (2017)
10:30-12:30	<p>Item 6: INNOVATION FOR DEVELOPMENT – DIALOGUE WITH RCs (focus: innovations for the advancement of the SDGs; “new generation” UNCT platforms)</p> <p>Ms. Dafina Gercheva, UN RC in Moldova (via Skype)</p> <p>Mr. Shombi Sharp, UN RC in Armenia (via Skype)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From linear to platform-based work: a ‘new generation’ UNCT organizational model for SDGs promotion • Innovation at UNDP Moldova
12:30-13:30	Lunch Break (WMO / UNICEF cafeterias)	
13:30-14:00	<p>Item 7: UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS – IN SUPPORT OF PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT (focus: UNV support in Europe and Central Asia)</p> <p>Mr. Olivier Adam, Executive Coordinator, UNV</p>	
14:00-15:00	<p>Item 8: REGIONAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (focus: debriefing on RFSD 2018 and plans for 2019; initial discussion on interagency report on SDG progress in the region for the GA 2019; update on HLPF and VNR process)</p> <p>Ms. Monika Linn, Director Sustainable Development and Gender Unit, UNECE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report of Regional Forum • Note on 2019 regional SDG progress report • HLPF Programme 2018
15:00-15:30	Tea/coffee break	
15:30-16:30	<p>Item 9: ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2019 PSG co-chairing - Proposal to establish IBC on Food Security and Nutrition (FAO) - Draft Advocacy Paper by IBC on Social Protection (for information and subsequent approval by e-mail; ILO) - Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in the UN (initial discussion on mechanisms put in place and possible role of regional UN; UNICEF) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Issue Paper for the establishment of an Issue-Based Coalition on Sustainable Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition • IBC on Social Protection: Draft Joint Advocacy Messages
16:30-17:00	NEXT STEPS AND CLOSING REMARKS	

Annex 2: List of Participants

	Organization/Entity	Name	Position
1		Ms. Olga Algayerova	Chair RCM / UNECE Executive Secretary
2		Ms. Cihan Sultanoglu	Chair Regional UNDG / Director, UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS
3		Mr. Andrey Vasilyev	UNECE Deputy Executive Secretary
4	FAO	Ms. Yuriko Shoji	Deputy Regional Representative for Europe and Central Asia, FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia
5	ILO	Mr. Maurizio Bussi	Deputy Director, ILO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia
6	ILO	Ms. Valerie Schmitt	Deputy Director, ILO Social Protection Department
7	ILO	Mr. Daniel Smith	Liaison, Research and Programming Officer, ILO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia
8	IOM	Ms. Argentina Szabados	Director, IOM Regional Office for South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia
9	IOM	Mr. Amr Taha	Senior Regional Liaison and Policy Officer, IOM Regional Office for South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia
10	IOM	Ms. Tamara Keating	Senior Policy and Liaison Officer
11	ITC	Ms. Elena Boutrimova	Chief, ITC Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia
12	OHCHR	Mr. Jose Maria Aranaz	Chief, Americas, Europe and Central Asia Branch
13	OHCHR	Ms. Hulan Tsedev	Chief, Europe and Central Asia Section
14	UN/UNDP Brussels	Ms. Barbara PesceMonteiro	Director, UN/UNDP Brussels Office

15	UNAIDS	Mr. Roman Hailevich	Programme Adviser, UNAIDS Regional Support Team for Eastern Europe and Central Asia
16	UN DOCO	Ms. Dena Assaf	Deputy Director
17	UNDP	Ms. Maria Luisa Silva	Director, UNDP Office in Geneva
18	UNDP	Mr. Rastislav Vrbensky	Deputy Regional Director for Europe and the CIS, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub
19	UNECE	Ms. Monika Linn	Principal Adviser and Director, UNECE Sustainable Development and Gender Unit
20	UNECE	Ms. Lidia Bratanova	Director, Statistical Division
21	UNECE	Ms. Catherine Haswell	Chief, Programme Management Unit
22	UNECE	Mr. Jose Palacin	Senior Economic Affairs Officer, Sustainable Development and Gender Unit
23	UNECE	Ms. Polina Tarshis	Economic Affairs Officer, Programme Management Unit
24	UNEP	Mr. Jan Dusik	Principal Adviser, Strategic Engagement for the Arctic and Antarctic and Acting Director, UNEP Europe Office
25	UNESCO	Ms. Ana Luiza Thompson-Flores	Director, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe
26	UNFPA	Ms. Alanna Armitage	Director, UNFPA Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Office
27	UNFPA	Ms. Marta Diavolova	Programme Adviser, UNFPA Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Office
28	UNHCR	Ms. Pascale Moreau	Director, UNHCR Regional Bureau for Europe
29	UNHCR	Ms. Angela Li Rosi	Deputy Director, UNHCR Regional Bureau for Europe
30	UNICEF	Ms. Hana Singer	Associate Regional Director, UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia

31	UNICEF	Ms. Nina Ferencic	Senior Adviser on HIV/AIDS and Young People's Health and Development, UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia
32	UNICEF	Mr. Basil Rodrigues	Regional Health Adviser, UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia
33	UNICEF	Ms. Joan Howe	Partnership Manager, UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia
34	UNIDO	Mr. Jacek Cukrowski	Chief, Europe and Central Asia Division
35	UNISDR	Ms. Paola Albrito	Chief, UNISDR Regional Office for Europe
36	UNOPS	Mr. Moin Karim	Director, UNOPS Europe and Central Asia Regional Office
37	UNOPS	Mr. Ajay Madiwale	UN Coordination and Strategic Partnerships Adviser, UNOPS Europe and Central Asia Regional Office
38	UNV	Mr. Olivier Adam	Executive Coordinator, United Nations Volunteers
39	UN Women	Ms. Alia El-Yassir	Regional Director and Representative to Turkey a.i., UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia
40	UN Women	Mr. Michele Ribotta	Deputy Director a.i., UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia
41	WFP	Ms. Gordana Jerger	Director, WFP Geneva Office
42	WFP	Ms. Meghan Sullivan	External Partnerships Officer, WFP Geneva Office
43	WHO	Ms. Piroska Ostlin	Director, Division of Policy and Governance for Health and Well-being, WHO Regional Office for Europe
44	WHO	Ms. Bettina Menne	Coordinator Health and Development (SDG), WHO Regional Office for Europe
45	R-UNDG	Ms. Liudmila Barcari	Regional Coordination Specialist, ECA R-UNDG Secretariat
46	R-UNDG	Ms. Fioralba Shkodra	Regional Coordination Specialist, ECA R-UNDG Secretariat

47	UNECE	Mr. Michael Kunz	Economic Affairs Officer, Sustainable Development and Gender Unit, RCM Secretariat
48	UNECE	Ms. Elise Zerrath	Associate Expert, Sustainable Development and Gender Unit, RCM Secretariat