



### **Item 1: Opening**

The meeting was opened by the Co-Chairs, **Ms. Olga Algayerova**, RCM Chair, and **Ms. Mirjana Spoljaric Egger**, R-UNSDG Chair. Opening remarks were also provided by **Ms. Argentina Szabados**, IOM Regional Director for South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, as host of this Regional UN System Meeting, as well as **Ms. Irena Vojackova Sollorano**, Regional Director a.i., R-DCO for ECA. Main messages of the speakers:

- Expressed commitment to continue the close collaboration between the Co-Chairs, DCO and all UN entities in the region in the operationalization of the UNDS reform;
- Underlined the highly integrated nature of the UN system in the region, with RCM and R-UNSDG working closely together for the past 5 years. In this context, the ECA R-UN System is well placed to quickly adapt, lead and serve as a model to follow in the current regional reform;
- Reform is supported as an opportunity to also work together more closely at the country level and with Resident Coordinators;
- Acknowledged the contribution of all UN entities in the region in the design of the regional review roll out plan;
- Welcomed the first participation of the R-DCO in such meetings.

### **Item 2: Repositioning the UN Development System at the Regional Level – Operationalizing the SG’s Recommendations in Europe and Central Asia**

The **Co-Chairs** briefed participants on the status of regional UNDS reform and the expected next steps:

- The implementation plan for Europe and Central Asia as agreed by the Regional Task Team was submitted to New York.
- Further work on the Secretary-General’s recommendations will be required to advance on the implementation. More global guidance and interregional coordination and harmonization of efforts will also be instrumental in some areas.
- An intergovernmental consultation took place in the UNECE Executive Committee on 14 October, with strong participation by the regional UN system.
- The meeting of the Internal Review Team (IRT) on 16 December is expected to discuss the regional implementation plans and agree upon the pending questions regarding the RCP governance structure and functions.
- Consultations with Member States may be needed to finalize the UNDS repositioning, including a renewed ECOSOC resolution on regional coordination.
- Questions around the supervision of RCs and the UNSDCFs will also need to be decided upon.
- On the regional knowledge management hub ([SG recommendation 2](#)), the implementation plan foresees a phased approach, starting out by better displaying the expertise of the Issue-based Coalitions and assessing the needs of users, in particular Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams. A networked system based on agencies’ existing knowledge hubs and digital repositories is preferred. A number of questions will need to be discussed following these initial steps and possible further global guidance, including on the scope of information included in the hub, the roster of experts, which most agencies found difficult to implement both at regional and country level, and the funding and administration of the system.
- On the regional results-based report ([SG recommendation 3](#)), the group of focal points identified a number of options regarding the scope, content and format of the report. It could be based on reports of the IBCs and other inputs, such as the sub-regional and transboundary aspects of the UNSDCFs and collaboration on regional intergovernmental processes. It should also be aligned

with the annual regional SDG progress report. The first regional results-based report could be submitted to the Regional Forum in 2021.

- Regarding the consolidation of data and statistical capacities at the regional level (SG recommendation 4), the proposal from the region is to establish a Regional UN Coordination Group on Data and Statistics, based on the existing IBC on SDG Data and Monitoring. The Coordination Group would work closely with the intergovernmental Conference of European Statisticians (CES) as well as Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams to improve data and capacities for policy monitoring.
- On common back offices at the regional level (SG recommendation 5), participants heard a briefing by **Mr. Robert Turner**, Project Team Leader, Business Innovation Group (BIG). The focus is currently on the country level in the framework of the Business Operations Strategy (BOS), as the evidence gathered so far through the BIG process does not support the consolidation of back office functions at the regional level that are location-independent. Moreover, Regional Offices of UN entities throughout the region have already institutional administrative arrangements in place (e.g. UNECE being serviced by UNOG in Geneva). Mr. Turner also noted that in relation to country level consolidation larger offices were a better target in terms of efficiency gains than smaller ones.

A number of points were stressed by Regional Directors in the discussion:

- A number of agencies will provide inputs on their involvement in the identified RCP functions to the IRT at the corporate level.
- It is important to balance regional specificities with a centrally driven reform process. UNDS reform should build on the model of successful cooperation in the ECA region and avoid undue disruption.
- A key question of the regional repositioning is who the clients are and what gap is attempted to be filled. Overall, a pragmatic and cost-effective approach is called for.
- More clarity is required on the RC performance appraisal function.
- Recommendation 2: It would be useful to know how many experts are available in which areas and for what kind of cooperation (e.g., research, support for a conference, mission or temporary deployment to a country). Experts cannot be tapped into without consent of the agency and the responsible manager. While IBCs are a good starting point, they should not be the only modality of operation. It is crucial to ask RCs what their needs and requirements are. Plans for research and analysis should be better coordinated between agencies. More global harmonization in terms of the structure of existing information and knowledge is needed. Cutting-edge technology should be used in developing the hub. There is also a potential need for funding to develop and maintain the knowledge hub.
- Recommendation 3: More clarity is needed on what to report on and on the timeline.
- Recommendation 4: Can be implemented quickly by revising the ToRs of the IBC on SDG Data and Monitoring. It would be helpful to know what data agencies are collecting in response to mandates and requests by member States.
- Linkages between the SG recommendations should be taken into account. For example, data and statistics need to become part of the knowledge management hub.

## DECISIONS AND AGREED FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

- Carry out needs assessment of Resident Coordinators, Resident Coordinator Offices and UN Country Teams related to their use of regional UN system expertise and knowledge (Regional Task Team with co-leads UNECE, IOM and UNEP in collaboration with R-DCO)
- Explore technological options to harvest agencies' existing digital repositories (Regional Task Team with co-leads UNECE, IOM and UNEP in cooperation with ITU).
- Compile overview of data collection carried out by agencies in response to mandates and requests from member States (IBC on SDG Data and Monitoring).

### Item 3: Review of the Management and Accountability Framework (MAF)

**Ms. Irena Vojáčková-Sollorano**, DCO Regional Director a.i., introduced the current status of the Management and Accountability Framework (MAF):

- A formal review of MAF country level has not been conducted yet, as it is too early to assess it after only 8 months of implementation;
- Main challenges in MAF implementation:
  - Joint programmes are difficult to implement due to heavy coordination needs. They are also more expensive as the UN entities' bureaucracies (systems, mechanisms, procurement rules, etc.) are different, so it is difficult to maximize impact. In this context, many UN entities opt for *joint programming* (not *joint programmes*) as they agree on a common focus area, but conduct the implementation of work individually;
  - Representation in front of the Government: RCs don't have to be part of UN entities' individual meetings with the Government, but need to be kept informed on the strategic discussions under UNDAF; finding the right balance is the key that the RDs should be advocating for with RRs;
  - Donor relations: DCO does not want RCs to monopolize the relationship, the agencies need to continue to have their individual relations with donors;
  - Non-resident agencies: engaged with the RCs, offering expertise;
  - UN Info: each agency needs to provide regular updates, so information on what UN is doing in a country is available at all times;
  - BOS: the roll out plan will be implemented in the next 2 years in the region, BOS expert already recruited, starting assignment in January.

Several points were highlighted in the discussion:

- UNCTs are interested to know what are the updates at the regional level, so communication top down should be enhanced;
- Common messages from RDs and R-DCO Director should be sent out to RCs and UNCTs on the common understanding/interpretation of MAF;
- Communication from DCO to RCs should be first shared to RDs, whenever relevant, so RDs can facilitate common understanding of matters and enhanced coordination;
- UN entities in the country feel that two-way information exchange to the RCs and back from the RCs would be most beneficial;

- MAF is, in principle, very clear and should not leave much room for interpretation. However, wherever RCs have interpreted MAF in different ways - those will be the focus areas to be clarified by the MAF review. Additionally, a dispute resolution mechanism needs to be created.

#### **DECISIONS AND AGREED FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS**

- Regional UN system entities to signal any differences in MAF interpretation at the country level to R-DCO.

#### **Item 4: Adapting the Issue-based Coalitions (IBCs) in response to the regional UNDS review**

*Updates on the current work and results of the IBCs*

##### **IBC for Large Movements of People, Displacement and Resilience: Angela Li Rosi, Deputy Director, Bureau for Europe, UNHCR, Geneva.**

- Organized a side event at the UNECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (Geneva, March 2019) on: *Leaving no one behind: Addressing statelessness and enhancing the resilience of vulnerable groups through the Sustainable Development Goals.*
- UNHCR made a presentation to the RCs on the IBC activities, as well as on the Global Compact on Refugees, with the main objective of increasing awareness on the IBC offer to the RCs and UNCTs, primarily guiding them on thematic/IBC issues in formulation of UNSDCF.
- The IBC provided technical/advisory services in the development of the CCAs for Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Reminded that while VNRs are owned by States, and SDG monitoring involves the respective custodian agencies, the IBC advocates for inclusion of all persons of concern in the respective VNRs and SDG processes.
- Conveyed the regional agreement that the IBC, currently co-chaired by UNHCR and UNDP, will invite IOM as the third co-Chair, in order to make use of this framework for the Regional Network on Migration for Europe. This also with the aim to avoid duplication and make use of existing regional coordination mechanisms in support of GCM implementation.

##### **IBC on Data and Monitoring: Philippe Cori, UNICEF Deputy Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia**

- The IBC carried out extensive consultation and negotiation around regional UNDS Reform, mainly related to SG Recommendation 4. This was followed by an ECA region implementation plan which should inform the 2020 workplan.
- UNDP and UN Women developed a synthesis report on the main data-related findings emerging from MAPS missions which was presented at the RFSD 2019.
- UNICEF (Chair) maintained an IBC Data DropBox throughout the year, which was recently migrated to One Drive – the link is [here](#).
- UN statistical activities for 2019 were mapped.
- On coordinated support to National Governments and UNCTs, the IBC drafted the guidance note for UNCTs on mainstreaming SDG 17.18 into CCAs and UNSDCF.

### **IBC Gender Equality: Alia El-Yassir, UN Women Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia**

The IBC-gender, co-chaired by UN Women and UNFPA, ensured results across all the result areas of the workplan on both policy and operational issues. Specifically:

- On policy:
  - Result 2 - Intergovernmental process: The IBC had a substantive engagement in the Beijing+25 review process, including through coordinating and reviewing thematic background documents. IBC-gender also engaged with IBC youth; youth was featured strongly in the Beijing+25 process.
  - Result 4 – Joint Advocacy- IBC was instrumental in pursuing joint advocacy, with a targeted focus on violence against women (VAW). Broad partnerships were established on VAW, such as: a) EU: Spotlight Investment Plan; b) OSCE: safety & Well-Being of Women & Girls (focusing on conflict & post-conflict countries) and c) European Institute for Gender Equality: Data & Statistics on EVAW. The IBC also undertook joint advocacy efforts on eliminating gender-based violence (GBV) through the Central Asia conference in Bishkek, discussing legal and policy responses to GBV, measures to address harmful practices and innovative solutions and partnerships.
- On Operations:
  - Result 1 – Gender integrated in new CCA/UNSCDF.
  - Result 3 – Gender integrated in SDGs. IBCs supported furthering integration of gender dimensions in the SDG plans and frameworks, in particular at the country level.
- However, some activities did not take place. For example, no MAP missions were planned in 2019. No Webinars which were planned through the IBC workplans were held. These point some lessons learnt with regards to assessing the effectiveness of IBC, including criteria for such effectiveness and the contribution of all the agencies. Hence, the workplan and the structure and the contribution of various agencies need to be assessed accordingly.

### **IBC Social Protection: Loiusa Lippi, Social Policy Specialist, UNICEF, Europe and Central Asia Regional Office (ECARO)**

- The IBC's main output in 2019 was the *Mapping of UN Social Protection Work in the ECA Region*, conducted by UNICEF in preparation for the UNDS reform process. Main recommendations of the mapping were:
  - The IBC should actively engage with the regional PSG for UNSDCF;
  - Main needs expressed by the UNCTs:
    - Providing expertise to guide priority actions, advocacy messages, and joint programming;
    - Guiding positions on big emerging issues with potential impact on social protection systems (e.g. migration, demographics and aging)
  - A link with the IBC on data, as well as other regional IBCs should be made.
  - IBC could formalize ties with think tanks in the Western Balkans to coordinate policy research and advocacy on the future of the welfare state in the region.
- The IBC has also been indirectly involved in various submissions of proposals to the UN Joint Fund (successful ones include Armenia, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Moldova, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan).

**IBC Youth and Adolescents: Ian Mcfarlane, Deputy Regional Director, UNFPA Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Office**

- The IBC co-organized the first-ever youth RFSD pre-meeting. The pre-meeting was led by the UN Major Group on Children and Youth, and the European Youth Forum in partnership with the IBC. The collaboration consolidated youth voices from the region and prepared youth engagement throughout the RFSD with a particular focus on vulnerable youth groups.
- UNESCO, UNFPA organized the sub-regional expert meeting: *Reproductive health and healthy lifestyle education among young people in educational settings in Central Asia and Eastern Europe* in Tajikistan June 2019.
- UNFPA, WHO and UNESCO organized the Eastern Europe CSE Champions workshop in Albania, with the participation of 25 young people.
- Support provided by the IBC to 1 MAPS mission (Georgia).
- Support to Uzbekistan UNCT for the development of Youth Marker.
- Identification and facilitation of inter-agency collaboration under joint projects, including Sub-regional Western Balkans project on peace, reconciliation and social cohesion, Dialogue for the Future Project (DFF), Development and implementation of media campaigns and awareness raising events on SRH education, HIV prevention, HIV-related stigma and discrimination elimination, aimed at youth in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan (UNAIDS, UNESCO).

**IBC Health: Bettina Menne, Coordinator, Sustainable Development and Health (SDG), Division of Policy and Governance for Health and Wellbeing (PCR)/Nedret Emiroglu, Director of the Division of Health Emergencies and Communicable Diseases, WHO Regional Office for Europe**

- Since 2018, IBC Health participated to eight of the MAPS missions, prepared country assessments and cooperation within the Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-being for All (GAP).
- WHO is in the process of developing a guide to support Member States to implement the health and health-related SDGs. An expert meeting was held in June 2019 to provide additional input on the Guide, and an overview of the Guide was presented at the 69th Session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe in September 2019;
- With support from a WHO collaborating centre, a policy brief and assessment tool on gender and long-term care is progressing and is on track to be piloted in Romania in the final quarter of 2019;
- The Second Medicines Procurement Practitioners Forum was held in June 2019. The Forum was jointly organized by the UNICEF's Supply Division and the WHO Regional Office for Europe, and the content of the agenda was developed jointly with other partners and UN agencies, including UNDP, UNFPA, the Global Drug Facility, Médecins Sans Frontières, and The Global Fund;
- In collaboration with the IOM, the EC and the European Public Health Association, the third Summer School on Refugee and Migrant Health was held in July 2019 in Turkey on the theme, 'From emergency response to long-term inclusion policies'.

**IBC Urbanization**

- In its May 2019 meeting, the R-UN System agreed to consider an IBC on Sustainable Urban Development, UN-Habitat being tasked with developing a concept note on this issue.
- To that end, UN-Habitat initiated a survey of demand and supply in the ECA region to:
  - Determine demand for the urbanization-related policy advice
  - Take stock of the expertise available among the UN entities, that they can share in this region

- UN -Habitat will contribute towards bolstering the coherent and coordinated realization of this system-wide strategy. The types of support are as follows:
  - Standardization of urban policy, legislation, planning and financing
  - Provision of advisory support to agencies
  - Application of urban data and diagnostic tools
  - Provision of guidance notes on the New Urban Agenda
  - Harmonized support for Member States to monitor progress in attaining Goal 11
  - Localization of the Sustainable Development Goals
  - Coordinated engagement with city networks
- It was decided to establish an IBC on Sustainable Urban Development, led by UN Habitat. Draft Terms of Reference will be presented at the next meeting in March, also taking into account the results of the survey.
- UNECE expressed interest to be fully engaged in the development of the ToRs and eventually co-lead the IBC.

### **IBC Environment**

- In its May 2019 meeting, the R-UN System also agreed to consider an IBC on Environment, UNEP and UNESCO being tasked with developing a concept note. UNECE joined the efforts as co-lead.
- The IBC on Environment will provide a regional platform for UN agencies to:
  - Promote coordinated support to all MS in ECA in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda;
  - Support UNCTs in ECA on environmental issues.
- The IBC will address activities dedicated to strengthening environmental governance, improving environmental management and promoting sustainable management of natural resources.
- The IBC's work will be based around three pillars:
  - Strengthening environmental governance and implementing the SDGs
  - Supporting countries in the environmental dimension of UNSDCF and CCA processes
  - Monitoring and reporting on the environmental dimension of SDGs
- UNDP and UNDRR expressed strong interest to join
- The IBC will be active as of January 2020
- Regional Directors decided that climate change is to be included as a main thematic pillar of the IBC. Revised ToRs will be shared by the co-leads.

### **IBC on Population Dynamics**

- Considering the limited number of UN entities concerned with population dynamics, UNFPA suggested that an IBC not be established for the moment, but expressed interest in mainstreaming population issues within the existing IBCs.

### **ICT on digital transformation in SDGs**

- A common response on digital transformation in SDGs at the regional level is currently missing; coordination exists only at the country level.
- To avoid over-institutionalization, considering the specificities of this work, the R-UN System agreed on the establishment of the *ICT inter-agency group on digital transformation for SDGs*. ITU will develop the ToRs and will show the first concrete results supporting UNCTs until the next R-UN System meeting in March.
- The Group will also support the development of the Knowledge Management Hub, as well as the integration of ICT in the work of all other IBCs, upon request.

### **Food security (potential) IBC**

- FAO and WFP explore possibilities of joint efforts regarding food security and sustainable food systems (not only the food production, but also the economic, social and environmental aspects) and report back to the regional coordination meeting in the fall of 2020 on the relevance of a new IBC on Food Systems. This report will stem from the discussions at the FAO Regional Conference in Tashkent (5-7 May), as well as further consultations with potential partners – WFP, WHO, UNICEF etc.
- Based upon this report Regional Directors will be invited to review the issue.

### **DECISIONS AND AGREED FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS**

- In order to adjust the IBCs to the requirements of the regional reform, UN Women and UNDP will lead the development of criteria for the establishment and functioning of IBCs.
- The leads of the IBCs confirmed interest and agreement to support the implementation of the regional review roll-out plan, as per the document submitted to the DSG.
- Contacts of all IBC leads to be shared with all RDs.

### **Item 5: Global and Regional Follow-up to the 2030 Agenda – High-level Political Forum and Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in 2020**

**Mr. Joop Theunissen (UN DESA)** briefed participants remotely on the preparations for the 2020 High-level Political Forum (HLPF) and the ongoing HLPF review:

- The 2020 HLPF will take place in New York from 7-16 July 2020 under the theme “*Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development*”. 50 Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) will be presented, including 11 from countries in the UNECE region. By 2020, 54 of the 56 UNECE member States will have presented VNRs.
- Through a questionnaire, UN DESA identified a number of challenges faced by countries preparing VNRs, such as the tight timeframe, the need to strengthen stakeholder contributions, lack of baseline data, and strain on institutional capacity.
- Going forward, two co-facilitators will be appointed by the President of the General Assembly to lead the HLPF review starting in early 2020. The review will look into the periodicity of SDGs under review and support for regional mechanisms to further strengthen peer learning, inter alia.

**Ms. Monika Linn**, Director of the UNECE Sustainable Development and Gender Unit, introduced the proposal on the 2020 Regional Forum that was submitted to UNECE member States:

- In line with the global HLPF, the next Regional Forum will take place on 19 and 20 March 2020 under the theme “*Accelerating action and delivery for sustainable development in the UNECE region*”.

- While the Regional Forum is a multi-stakeholder platform for governments, international organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector, the entities from the regional UN system will again be the primary partners in organizing the event.
- The peer learning round tables will mostly be based on the entry points for transformation identified in the 2019 Global Sustainable Development Report and focus on human well-being and capabilities; sustainable and circular economies; sustainable food and nutrition; energy decarbonization; sustainable cities; sustainable management of natural resources; and SDG data and statistics.
- A Regional SDG Progress Report will be prepared by the UNECE Statistical Division. The report will provide a snapshot of trends of selected SDG indicators in UNECE countries, identify region-specific topics to inform the discussions, and summarize data gaps and challenges in monitoring SDGs.
- A number of preparatory meetings (consultations among civil society, youth, and possibly the business community) as well as thematic side events will take place around the Regional Forum.
- It is also planned to hold the first high-level meeting of the Regional Collaborative Platform (RCP) on 18 March 2020, back-to-back with the Regional Forum.

#### **DECISIONS AND AGREED FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS**

- Regional UN system entities to communicate focal points and preferred sessions to co-organize to UNECE (by **10 January 2020**).
- Agencies to consider contributions to preparatory meetings, side events and booths.

#### **Item 6: Beijing+25 Regional Review Meeting**

**Ms. Alia El-Yassir**, UN Women Regional Director, provided a summary of the recent Beijing+25 Regional Review Meeting and the way forward towards the global review in 2020:

- The regional review meeting, jointly organized by UNECE and UN Women on 29-30 October in Geneva, was exceptionally well attended with over 850 participants. FAO, UNDP, ILO, UNESCO and UNICEF also contributed to the successful event.
- Prior to the meeting, many countries have submitted national reviews (51 out of 56 member States), which have informed the regional synthesis report.
- A civil society consultation took place back-to-back with the review meeting, where diverse views on some issues were voiced.
- Key issues emanating from the regional review include: strong normative standards and conventions coupled with weak implementation; the key role of financing for gender equality; the need for sex-disaggregated data; existing structural inequalities and intersecting forms of discrimination; the continued importance of sexual and reproductive health and rights; shifting social norms and pushback against gender equality; the importance of engaging men and boys; and countering online violence.
- A number of programme countries as well as advanced countries were very active at the meeting, including Kyrgyzstan and Switzerland as co-chairs.

- Next steps will be: The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in March 2020, which will also adopt a declaration. It would also be crucial to link Beijing+25 with the Regional Forum in March 2020. A high-level meeting of the GA on Beijing+25 will take place in September 2020.
- A further idea is to form civil society-led action coalitions to accelerate gender equality, with the involvement of Member States.
- Events will be held in Mexico and France in 2020 in the framework of the Generation Equality Forum.

#### **DECISIONS AND AGREED FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS**

- UN Women to keep regional UN system informed about regional entry points into global events and initiatives.
- Consider options to feed findings of regional Beijing+25 review into the 2020 Regional Forum (UN Women/IBC on Gender Equality and UNECE).

#### **Item 7: Roll-out of the new UNSDCFs**

**Ms. Irena Vojáčková-Sollorano**, DCO Regional Director a.i., briefed participants on the roll-out of the new UNSDCFs:

- An UNSDCF is an external process conducted together with Governments, on a 6 months term; 11 countries and the Kosovo (UNSCR 1244) must finish it until mid-2020;
- Role of PSG is not globally agreed upon and new ToRs must be developed. Based on the new guidance, we must now differentiate between the quality control and support functions, so the PSG can no longer do both. It has been informally decided that PSG will only do quality control until further notice. DCO RD has taken over the chairmanship of the PSG, but is still engaging the previous PSG chairs into the process.
- CCAs are now internally developed documents, not written by consultants, which are reviewed annually. The draft of UNSDCF is based on the CCAs conducted by UNCT. The UN ownership of the process results in better quality analysis. RCOs have economists interacting with FIs to conduct the economic and political-economic analysis of the countries to help UNCTs position.
- IBCs are asked to support the formulation of the CCAs. The challenge is that most of the IBC members are the same as in the PSG which can impact impartiality.

In the discussion, Regional Directors stressed:

- Main challenges:
  - The UNSDCF accountability: lack of clarity regarding who signs off.
  - Sequencing of CCA development and CF prioritization:
    - For some 2021 roll-out countries, prioritization has preceded CCA development;
    - Some UN agencies, in line with their own institutional programming cycles, have advanced country programming well ahead of the CF development and even ahead of the CCA finalization.

- Coordination between IBCs and PSG: IBCs are the policy resources, no formal role, PSG has the formal role on quality control (members acting under the PSG hat, not Agency's hats). IBCs should be called upon in the design/input stage, followed by PSG's quality control
- Quality control over UNSDCF's is a key function of the RCP, it should not be left aside;
- IOM requested to be engaged in UNSDCF's in early stages; UNDP and IOM is developing guidelines of including migration into the CCA and UNSDCF's;
- CCAs must provide a robust analysis of the human rights situation on the ground to allow an improved system-wide responses to complex situations and enable timely decision-making at the regional and HQ levels.
- The UN regional platform should give more reflection to the current cross-boundary issues and human rights concerns affecting the region as a whole (such as migration, shrinking civic space, the rise of populism and identity politics) and play a key role in upholding the SG's prevention agenda. This implies a critical shift from crisis driven project implementation to risk identification and preventive action.
- The current MAF does not outline clearly the responsibilities of RCs and country representatives in upholding human rights as they discharge their responsibilities in the context of the UN reform.

#### DECISIONS AND AGREED FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

- Burden sharing on the IBCs and PSG needs to be broadened among more agencies
- Request for delays on the UNSDCF's should go to the R-DCO office and then DCO Regional Director should agree with the RDs.

#### Item 8: Any other Business

- Briefing on the Regional Review of implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration provided by IOM. The IBC on Large Movements of People, Displacement and Resilience, in agreement with IOM, UNDP and UNHCR, will act as the formal coordination framework for the Regional Network on Migration for Europe;
- Briefing on the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25, provided by UNFPA;
- Briefing on the International Labour Conference in Geneva, June 2019, provided by ILO.

#### Next Steps and follow up points:

- R-UN System in ECA expressed commitment and trust that the final decisions on the regional **UNDS reform** will not break, but rather build on the successful ECA-region model of a highly integrated R-UN System that proved its effectiveness and cost-neutrality throughout the past 5 years.
- The leads of the IBCs agreed to provide the core support for the implementation of the regional review roll out plan. UN Women and UNDP will lead on the process of adjusting **the IBCs** to ensure that the IBCs are fit for purpose and better equipped to respond to the regional reform expectations.
- Implementation of the regional review roll-out plan cannot be cost-neutral; actions must be costed and sources of funding must be identified;

- With regard to the implementation of Recommendation 5 on establishment of regional CBOs, the business case conducted by BIG shows that regionalization of such common services does not generate efficiencies.
- Two new IBCs were established: *IBC on Environment and Climate Change*, currently led by UNEP, UNESCO and UNECE; *IBC on Sustainable Urban Development*, led by UN Habitat.
- The *ICT group on digital transformation for SDGs* was also established.
- The next meeting will take place in Geneva on 18 March 2020, tentatively in the framework of the Regional Collaborative Platform (RCP). The possibility to attach a second meeting day on 17 March 2020 will be explored, possibly hosted by WMO. Items to be prioritized on the agenda: human rights and prevention; humanitarian response in the context of UNSDCFs; accountabilities on UNSDCFs; other operational issues.
- The ITU Regional Office for CIS offered to host a regional coordination meeting in Moscow in 2021.