



UN Country Coordination:
*building greater coherence
for capacity development*



United Nations
Development Group

The United Nations Development Group (UNDG) is an instrument for UN reform, created by the Secretary-General in 1997, to improve the effectiveness of UN development work at the country level. The UNDG brings together the operational agencies working on development. The Group is chaired by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on behalf of the Secretary-General.

The UNDG develops policies and procedures that allow member agencies to work together and analyze country issues, plan support strategies, implement support programmes, monitor results, and advocate for change. These initiatives increase UN impact in helping countries achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), including poverty reduction.

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Synthesis of Resident Coordinator
Annual Reports 2006

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Foreword

Kemal Derviř

Chair, UN Development Group

The release of this year's Synthesis of RC Annual Reports comes at an important time for development: the mid-point towards the 2015 deadline for meeting the Millennium Development Goals, when there should be a great sense of urgency for all of us to mobilise resources and implement the policies that can give us a chance to achieve the MDGs.

The on-going challenge to achieve the MDGs, and other internationally agreed development goals, requires a UN system at its best. We must develop ways of doing business that reduce overlap and duplication between UN agencies and cut back the administrative burden we sometimes impose on national partners, while vigorously supporting national ownership. I am, therefore, pleased to see that the focus of this year's Synthesis Report is building coherence for capacity development. National capacity for owning and managing the development process is essential for achieving the MDGs. The Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review (TCPR) Resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 2004 urged the UN development system to focus on demonstrating results achieved through capacity development and to share good practices and experiences gained. The UN system urgently needs to increase its coherence and improve synergies so that it can be more effective in its delivery of development assistance to the people we serve.

Last year, the preparation of the RC annual reports for 2006 coincided with the release of the report of the High-Level Panel and its recommendations on moving towards "delivering as one" in pilot countries. Today, the UN is in the midst of this effort to test different approaches. Initiated upon explicit request of eight governments, the "delivering as one" pilots takes the on-going efforts to increase system-wide coherence to a new level by bringing together the expertise, experience and capacities of the entire UN family in support of national development strategies.

However, as this Synthesis report makes clear, work on coherence is on-going in almost all countries, and UN Country Teams have been making much progress long before the recommendations of the High-level Panel were released. In fact, the examples from UN country teams across the world show how many recommendations of the High-level Panel are a continuation and reinforcement of the on-going reform efforts in the spirit of the 2005 World Summit, as well as the conclusions and directives of the 2004 TCPR.

Another clear trend evident in the annual reports of resident coordinators that strikes me as having important implications for the design of the "delivering as one" pilots is the increased focus on inclusiveness of reform approaches. The 2006 Synthesis Report provides many examples on how coherence initiatives that started off with a small number of UN agencies have now been taken up by many more agencies. To pick just one example, recent UN Development Assistance Frameworks have been signed by up to 20 resident and non-resident agencies that all come together in support of national partners and priorities. Underlying this trend is the renewed understanding that the richness and diversity of the UN system is one of the UN's greatest comparative advantages, but also one of its most under-utilized assets.

It is my hope that you will enjoy learning about the many good and innovative practices UN country teams have developed to improve coherence to best support national partners and priorities.



New York, June 2007