



UNDG meeting

6 October 2010, 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Labouisse Hall, UNICEF, Three UN Plaza, New York

Final Report

Item 1 – Opening remarks by the UNDG Chair

1. The UNDG Chair, Helen Clark, opened the meeting by welcoming all the participants and thanking UNICEF for hosting the meeting. She extended a special welcome to UN Women, the newest addition to the UN development system, noting that UN Women's establishment is an important milestone in the UN's ongoing efforts to promote gender equality and women's empowerment around the world.

2. Speaking about the importance of the High Level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals recently held in New York, the UNDG Chair noted that the overall tone of the meeting was very positive, with programme countries keen to showcase their development progress and their plans for the future. Several countries had highlighted the importance of the national MDG progress reports. The UN's over-arching message at the meeting had also been very positive, indicating that the MDGs can be achieved. The UNDG Chair thanked all UNDG members who sent inputs to the remarks she delivered to the plenary session and noted that these inputs reflected the breadth and depth of the UNDG's work across the developing world.

3. Noting that the follow-up to the High Level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs would be discussed later on in the meeting, she mentioned that one of the main next steps would be to submit the MDG Acceleration Framework to the UNDG for electronic endorsement as a document to be further tweaked based on the experiences emerging from the countries where it is currently being piloted. She mentioned that this experience has so far been positive and that all of this work is fully in line with the vision contained in the UNDG strategic priorities and work plan for 2010-2011. With regard to the HLCP session recently held in Geneva, the UNDG Chair asked UNDG members who were present at this session to provide feedback on what had been discussed regarding the follow-up to the High Level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs.

4. On working more efficiently and effectively together, the UNDG Chair provided feedback from the first-ever joint meeting between the HLCM and the UNDG where a discussion was held on the follow-up to the joint mission on addressing country level bottlenecks in business practices harmonization commissioned by the Chair of HLCM and the UNDG Chair earlier this year. The joint meeting approved a HLCM-UNDG implementation plan on how to move this agenda forward. Drawing attention to the high number of reports UN Country Teams are requested to produce and the repeated call from both donors for the UN to demonstrate that we are delivering tangible results which are contributing to development goals, the UNDG Chair noted that she, together with the Chair of the HLCM, during the joint HLCM-UNDG meeting, had indicated that they would commission a review on how the UN development system reports

results with a view to recommending what might be done to standardize results reporting. This review would build on the positive experience of the joint high-level UNDG-HLCM business practice exercise, which could provide a model for this work.

5. The UNDG Chair thanked all UNDG members for their great efforts in developing and approving the UNDG strategic priorities and work plan for 2010-2011, which have been shared with all Regional UNDG Teams and Country Teams, and noted that the third part of this package, the new UNDG working methods, which will drive and oversee the implementation of the UNDG work plan, were to be discussed later on in the meeting. She mentioned that there had been a good consultative process to develop the new UNDG working mechanisms, and noted that as soon as the new working mechanisms are approved, the new UNDG working groups and networks will need to convene as soon as possible to plan for how to drive the UNDG strategic priorities and work plan forward. She further noted that these groups and networks must continue to be open and inclusive, bringing together all the normative and operational assets of the UNDG and that DOCO will continue its support to most of the new working mechanisms as reflected in the proposal before the meeting.

6. On the review of the implementation of the Management & Accountability System, the UNDG Chair thanked everyone for the comments they had provided on the ToRs for the review. She mentioned that an interagency panel of eight members had been established under the leadership of the UNDG Vice Chair, which will review proposals and recommend suitable candidates to conduct the review. She informed the UNDG that the request for proposals had to be re-advertised as no bids were received in the first round and the new deadline has now been set for 11 October. The UNDG Chair had also established a group of Principals to oversee the review, a concept she noted had worked well for the CEB review which was initiated at the end of 2006. Under the leadership of the UNDG Chair, the Principals of UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNESCO and WFP will lead and oversee the review. In summing up, she asked UNDG members to bring to her attention any challenges or issues of concern in their organizations about the implementation of the Management and Accountability System so that the issues can be reviewed and addressed as needed. With these opening remarks, the floor was opened for comments.

7. Responding to the UNDG Chair's opening remarks about the High Level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs, Mr. Nikhil Seth from DESA noted that there had been a clear sense of engagement in the process of preparing the outcome document, not only from Governments but also through the involvement of civil society. Referring to some of the most important aspects of the outcome document, he noted that: i) it is optimistic about the achievability of the MDGs; ii) it has a strong focus on the need to tackle inequalities; iii) it has a clear prioritization for countries and targets most off track; iv) it has a strong emphasis on the need for inclusive and equitable growth; v) it has a strong emphasis on participatory, community led strategies; vi) it has a strong focus on gender equality, empowerment and human rights. He further noted that the document is a good bridge from meeting current needs to meeting the needs of future generations.

8. On the major contents of the outcome document, he noted that it recognizes the MDGs as the overarching framework for development activities of the UN. It has a special focus on poverty, hunger, maternal and child mortality and has an emphasis on national ownership and leadership. The outcome document further notes that a strong UN is needed to meet the challenges of a changing global environment and recognizes the important role of civil society and the private sector. It further recognizes the need for providing social protection floors and calls for greater transparency and accountability in aid. He noted that all these elements are important to keep in mind in the discussion on the way forward and when defining concrete actions, helping countries at the national level and strengthening policy articulation

and advocacy at the global level. Mr. Seth summarized his comments by noting that another event will be organized in 2013 and that the outcome document also calls for fresh thinking on the UN system's vision for the post-2015 framework. The UNDG Chair thanked Thomas Stelzer, Nikhil Seth and their colleagues in DESA for all the work they had done in preparing for the High Level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs. She also thanked Richard Morgan and the UNDG High-Level MDG Task Force, recognizing the great amount of work the Task Force had done in the past year.

Item 2 – Outcome of the High Level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs and UNDG follow-up

9. Richard Morgan, Chair of the UNDG High-Level MDG Task Force, introduced the item. He noted that the level of enthusiasm and commitment by the Task Force had been critical and thanked the two co-vice chairs from FAO and UNDP. The Task Force had met at the request of the UNDG Chair to look into how the UNDG could follow-up to the outcome of the 2010 High Level Plenary Meeting of the MDGs, how to respond more proactively and coherently to the needs of countries and ensure stronger focus and drive in operationalizing the UNDG Strategic Priorities and Work Plan for 2010-11 in related areas while coordinating with the HLCP.

10. Mr. Morgan noted that the recommendations for UNDG follow-up had been limited to nine key areas critical to better equip UNCTs to support their national counterparts in achieving the MDGs by 2015: i) Strengthen national ownership of and commitment to the Outcome Document; ii) Strengthen and build on the inter-linked nature of the MDGs with each underpinning the success of the others. UNCTs need to pursue holistic approaches and programmes; iii) Support the design, implementation and monitoring of national development strategies; iv) Improve the targeting of UNCT support to address inequality, marginalization and discrimination; v) Identify good practices to contribute to solutions-knowledge exchange; vi) Enhance South-South and Triangular Cooperation; vii) Provide special support in countries in crisis and post-crisis; viii) Broaden partnerships for development; and, ix) Give special and urgent attention to the youth. Before opening the floor for comments, Mr. Morgan asked the UNDG to consider whether or not the Task Force should continue.

Discussion

11. The UNDG Chair stressed that it would be important that the MDG Task Force should continue in some form, and noted that the UNDG should review the ToRs of the Task Force, reflecting that it is a task-specific and time-bound team and self supported. She further noted that if the Task Force continues, it is likely to be tasked with being an advisory body to the Millennium Campaign. This suggestion was supported by several UNDG members who noted that there is great potential for the Millennium Campaign, especially in terms of advocacy, but that the interagency aspect had not yet been fully utilized.

12. In the discussion that followed, UNICEF provided an update on the equity approach strategy, which they are championing. Assessments have shown that even if progress is being made on the MDGs, the disparities are increasing between and within countries. This needs to be addressed through analysis of subnational data to find inequalities in countries and then by systematically scaling up the equity approach. UNICEF's recent study of indicators at the sub-national level revealed that this is not only important in reducing disparities but it is also cost efficient. Other UN entities have conducted assessments of this approach and that similar results have been found. With this solid basis of data, they noted that they would like to share their findings and collectively take this agenda forward with other UNDG members.

13. Regarding the recommendations provided on UNDG follow-up to the High Level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs, it was noted that in addition to making reference to what was said in the Outcome Document, it would be useful to look at what was not mentioned, such as the green economy and the importance of ensuring environmental sustainability. While there was strong support for the recommendations for follow-up, it was noted that the UNDG's work on the MDGs was already streamlined in the UNDG strategic priorities and work plan for 2010-2011 and that there should not be multiple implementation plans. The importance of advocacy and enhanced communication at the country level was further highlighted. It was noted that food security, nutrition and education should be mentioned together with the other key areas in the third paragraph of the recommendations for UNDG follow-up.

14. **Decision:** *The UNDG endorsed the proposed recommendations on UNDG follow-up to the High Level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs with a few editorial changes. The UNDG agreed on the continuation of the UNDG MDG Task Force as a task-specific, time-bound and self supporting mechanism. The UNDG endorsed the idea of the MDG Task Force taking on the role of Advisory Body to the Millennium Campaign. Agencies were encouraged to work with UNICEF on the Equity Agenda.*

15. **Action Point:** *The UNDG requested Richard Morgan to prepare and circulate new ToRs of the UNDG MDG Task Force for the UNDG to approve. Editorial changes to be made to the recommendations on UNDG follow-up to the High Level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs, including adding food security, nutrition and education to the third paragraph. UNDG members to send any additional editorial corrections to Richard Morgan within a week after the meeting.*

Item 3 – Implementation of the UNDG strategic priorities and work plan for 2010-2011

a) Feedback from the Regional UNDG Team in Asia and the Pacific on the UNDAF rollout: Successes and Challenges

16. The Chair of the Regional UNDG Team Asia-Pacific, Ajay Chhibber, provided an update on the UNDAF rollout in the Asia-Pacific region. Regarding the process, he noted that the Regional UNDG Team had started out as a small team, which had expanded in accordance with the Management and Accountability System to a group of about 20 agencies. He noted that the expansion had been a good and collaborative effort. Noting that the UNDAF design process used to be a very labour intense process with a checklist to follow to assure quality of UNDAFs, a decision had been made to engage earlier, and have face to face interaction with the Country Teams during the UNDAF design phase. To ensure the quality of the support provided, the Regional UNDG Team decided to have a Regional Director lead the engagement of the team in each country. This has ensured accountability and commitment from the start until the end of the process. In the design process, the main function of the Regional UNDG Team is to provide strategic guidance and ask questions that may not be raised by others, such as cross-border issues.

17. On substance, Mr. Chhibber noted that the Regional UNDG Team is working closely with the Regional Coordination Mechanism. One example of this is the regional MDG report which was prepared and presented jointly in September. This report has proven to be an important tool as a guidepost for Country Teams on progress on the MDGs. He concluded his presentation by giving an example of the

positive experience of the Regional UNDG Team's involvement in the UNDAF preparation and implementation process in Indonesia.

Discussion

18. UNDG members thanked Mr. Chhibber for his presentation and noted that the strategic level of engagement he had described is exactly in line with the UNDG strategic priorities and work plan for 2010-2011 and the role foreseen for Regional UNDG Teams. On the normative role of the Regional UNDG Team, it was noted that continued cooperation with the Regional Coordination Mechanism was of great importance. Regarding the Regional UNDG Team's oversight of the UNDAF process, the importance of their responsibility to ensure that the UNDG strategic priorities are captured at the country level was emphasized. On the UNDAF Action Plan, it was noted that this is a voluntary tool for Country Teams to use, and this should be clearly communicated by the Regional UNDG Teams. It was suggested to undertake an analysis of the conditions in which to adopt an UNDAF Action Plan, and benefits and disadvantages, particularly in small UNCTs/MICs.

18b. Action Point: *DOCO to remind Regional UNDG Teams and RCs/UNCTs that UNDAF Action Plan is optional and that the UNDAF process and tools should be light, flexible and applied as suits the country situation.*

b) Feedback from organizations on implementation of the UNDG strategic priorities in organizations

19. The UNDG Chair noted that four organizations had provided useful feedback in writing on the implementation of the UNDG strategic priorities in their respective organizations: FAO, UNCTAD, UNICEF and WFP. FAO provided an update on the detailed matrix they had prepared, which mapped FAO's implementation of the UNDG strategic priorities. Stressing that the feedback on the implementation of the UNDG strategic priorities is both useful and necessary, UNDG members asked DOCO to provide light guidance and a format for information sharing by UNDG members.

20. Action Point: *Agencies who have not done so, to report on progress in implementing the UNDG strategic priorities. DOCO to send light guidance for future information sharing.*

c) UNDG follow up to the recent GA and ECOSOC resolutions on System-wide Coherence, including follow up to the Tripartite Conference on Delivering as One in Hanoi, 14-16 June

21. The UNDG Vice Chair provided an update on the main outcomes of the Hanoi High Level Tripartite Conference on Delivering as One on 14-16 June, which she attended together with the UNDG Chair, two representatives from the UNDG Advisory Group – ILO and UNICEF – and the Director of DOCO. She noted that the atmosphere at the conference was very positive, and that the UNCTs and Governments of the eight pilot countries in the Outcome Statement had expressed the view that the Delivering as One approach is ensuring coherence, improved strategic focus at country-level and that a single planning document has proved critical to make it happen. There had been a strong call for donors to provide multi-year, predictable, un-earmarked funds to One Funds. She noted that the Outcome Statement reiterated the fundamental importance of One Funds for coherent and coordinated UN development activities. On harmonization of business practices, she noted that the Outcome Statement called on the reporting of

programme results to be further streamlined to avoid multiple and duplicate reporting. It had further highlighted the importance of empowered leadership at the country level and the critical role of the UN Resident Coordinators. She informed the UNDG that Uruguay had announced their intention to host the next inter-governmental meeting on Delivering as One in 2011.

Discussion

22. The UNDG Chair noted that she had picked up some concerns relating to the UN's normative role which should not be diminished as a result of increased national leadership. She further emphasized the value of the multiple mandates and histories of UN organizations and noted that Delivering as One was never about organizations losing their identity. The approach should be about how to coordinate the system and leverage its assets more effectively. On the independent evaluation of Delivering as One, she noted that the pilot process has been a complex exercise, and that it may still be too early to see concrete results that show development impact since most of the results may still be on the process side. The points made by the Chair were supported by other UNDG members who had participated in the Hanoi Conference and it was noted that the UN system needs to prepare well for the next meeting in Uruguay to position itself on how to support national governments through our different mandates.

23. The UNDG Vice Chair continued her presentation by providing an update on the latest ECOSOC resolution on operational activities and the latest General Assembly resolution on System-wide coherence. To guide the implementation of the ECOSOC resolution, she noted that DESA has prepared a matrix outlining the actions for the relevant UN entities. She highlighted the main areas addressed in the resolution, including: progress on the MDGs; national capacity development; South-South co-operation; performance indicators for gender equity and empowerment of women. She noted that on the functioning of the resident coordinator system, the resolution makes a number of observations. It encourages: the continued improvement in the quality of UNDAFs; calls for the RCs to report to national authorities on progress made against results in the UNDAFs; and, calls on the UN development system and UNDG to continue to streamline, and eliminate duplication in, reporting requirements.

24. The resolution further encourages the UN development system to continue to support the work of the UNDG for improving the process by which RC/HCs are selected and trained. It also called for further simplification and harmonization of business practices and took note of the Delivering as One Kigali and Hanoi Conferences. On the General Assembly resolution, she highlighted the key areas addressed of importance to the UNDG, including on Common Country Programming, funding and business practice harmonization. DOCO was asked to circulate the UNDG Vice Chair's presentation to the UNDG.

25. In the discussion that followed, it was noted that the future funding of coordination needs to be discussed as indicated by several donors. A call for caution was made with regard to the messages going out about the development of Common Country Programmes, since it was a controversial issue in member states and discussion on the resolution and the details of the CPP were still not finalized. It was also flagged that there is need to clarify with Regional UNDG Teams and UNCTs that UNDAF Action Plan is voluntary/optional. On the improvement of the process by which RC/HCs are selected and trained, the UNDG Chair urged agencies to put up their "best and brightest" to the Resident Coordinators Assessment Centre.

Item 4 – Update on UN Women and on UNDG support to the transition process

26. Gulden Turkoz-Cosslett, Senior Advisor to the Deputy Secretary-General and head of the UN Women transition team, presented the item. She noted that UN Women is looking forward to be part of the High Level Committee of Management, the High Level Committee on Programming, the UN Development Group, the Regional UNDG Teams and the UN Country Teams. Michelle Bachelet, former President of Chile, has been appointed as the first Under Secretary-General for UN Women and has already assumed her functions. She further mentioned that UN Women will be fully operational by 1 January 2011. The four entities, DAW, INSTRAW, OSAGI and UNIFEM have worked on putting in place the first organizational chart and defining the functions.

27. Work to find a suitable home for UN Women headquarters where all UN Women Headquarters staff will be placed is progressing. The change management process, including a position matching exercise and job fair, is underway. Members of ECOSOC will hold elections for the 41 Executive Board members of UN Women by early November 2010. The first Executive Board Meeting is scheduled to take place in January 2011. Ms. Turkoz-Cosslett informed the meeting that the newly appointed USG would like to put in place an interim vision and a UN Women Strategic Plan, which will require consultations with a variety of UN and external partners. Highlighting the importance of having the right profile of UN Women's representatives in UN Country Teams, Ms. Turkoz-Cosslett noted that the current presence and capacity of UN Women in 80 countries need to be scaled up. In summing up her remarks, she noted that the establishment of UN Women in no way releases other parts of the UN system of their responsibility to promote gender equality. Joanne Sandler, Deputy Executive Director of UNIFEM, emphasized the importance of having a USG leading the organization. She further noted that the establishment of UN Women is an interesting marker of UN reform and the notion of coherence, and posed a question on what UN Women can do to enhance the accountability for gender equality.

Discussion

28. Strong support was expressed by the UNDG for the establishment of UN Women, the plans for an interim vision and strategic plan and the appointment of the new USG and noted that the UNDG members look forward to future cooperation with UN Women. Several noted that the advent of UN Women does not relieve the agencies of their responsibilities. It was further noted that a discussion is needed on the membership of the UNDG Advisory Group.

Item 5 – Items for decision

a) Preparations for High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, Korea in 2011

29. Ms. Dasa Silovic, Co-Chair of the former Aid Effectiveness Task Team presented the item. She noted that the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF-4) will be held on 29 Nov. – 1 Dec. 2011 in Busan, Republic of Korea, and that effective UNDG participation in HLF-4 will require joint preparations and close coordination both at headquarters and at the country level. In this regard, the UNDG was asked: i) to consider the establishment of a time-bound, task-specific task team to coordinate joint UNDG preparations for HLF-4; ii) to mandate UNDP to represent the UNDG in the OECD Working Party on Aid Effectiveness; iii) to endorse "Better Aid for Development Effectiveness: Reference Guide for UNCTs"; and, iv) to encourage joint UNCT participation in the Paris Declaration Monitoring Survey 2011.

Discussion

30. A question was raised on what could be done to ensure broader participation in the process, such as identifying an alternate who could work together with the UNDP representative. It was clarified that the UNDP representative represents the UNDG family and not a specific organization, and a suggestion was made that the representative report to the time-bound task team. Some UNDG members asked for further clarification and information on the proposed tasks and requested a couple of more days to provide additional feedback on the reference guide: Better Aid for Development Effectiveness.

31. **Decision:** *The UNDG agreed to establish a time-bound, task-specific and self supported team to coordinate joint UNDG preparations for HLF4. UNDP to represent UNDG in the OECD Working Party on Aid Effectiveness, in consultation with the Task Team and identify another member of the UNDG as a vice representative. The UNDG also endorsed "Better Aid for Development Effectiveness: Reference Guide for UNCTs". They agreed to encourage joint UNCT participation in the Paris Declaration Monitoring Survey 2011.*

32. **Action Point:** *Creation of the time-bound, task-specific and self supporting team to coordinate joint UNDG preparations for HLF4 and to identify an alternate to work together with the UNDP representative. New Reference Guide to be shared on the UNDG website (toolkit), in light of the moratorium.*

b) **Guidance Note on including the rights of persons with disabilities in UN programming at country level**

33. Ms. Akiko Ito, Chief of the Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, introduced the item. She noted that the guidance note and toolkit had been developed following the decision of the CEB at its 12th Session and that it was part of the outstanding work from last year's UNDG work plan, which the UNDG had agreed to complete. The UNDG was asked to endorse the Guidance Note on Including the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in UN programming at Country Level, including its appendices and toolkit.

34. **Decision:** *The UNDG endorsed of the Guidance Note on Including the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in UN programming at Country Level, including its appendices and toolkit, with smaller edits to include the specific vulnerabilities of refugees with disabilities.*

c) **2010-2013 Work plan of the Human Rights Mainstreaming Mechanism**

35. Mr. Ivan Simonovic, Assistant-Secretary-General from OHCHR New York, started the presentation by reminding the UNDG that the initial priorities for the UNDG-HRM had already been agreed at the 4 May UNDG meeting, and noted that the Mechanism's 2010-2013 work plan had been endorsed by senior members of the UNDG-HRM. Craig Mokhiber OIC, Research and Right to Development Division, OHCHR Geneva, continued the presentation by noting that the work plan had been developed in full alignment with the UNDG strategic priorities for 2010-2011. The work plan has been divided into two parts: i) a priority work plan for 2010-2011, elaborated on the basis of the initial priorities agreed by UNDG; and, ii) a medium

term work plan for 2011-2013 to further operationalize the objectives contained in the original concept document approved by UNDG in November 2009.

36. **Decision:** *The UNDG endorsed the 2010-2013 Work Plan of the Human Rights Mainstreaming Mechanism.*

d) **Common Budgetary Framework**

37. Mr. Subhash Gupta, co-convenor of the former Joint Funding Financial and Audit Issues (JFFAI), introduced the item by thanking DOCO for the support provided to the development of the Common Budgetary Framework. He noted that the JFFAI, together with the former Working Group on Programming Issues had developed the guidance note on Common Budgetary Framework as part of the UNDAF guidance package. He noted that the guidance note is an integral part of the UNDAF Action Plan and that this was part of the outstanding work from last year's UNDG work plan agreed to be completed. Due to its inter-related nature, the guidance note had been cleared by both Working Groups. Responding to a question on how to resolve the issue of different financial arrangements in different agencies, he recognized that this is addressed in section 5 of the Framework, and that further clarifications can be made in this section if necessary.

38. **Decision:** *The UNDG approved Annex 3 to the UNDAF Action Plan Guidance Note "Common Budgetary Framework".*

e) **QSA mechanism and way forward**

39. Ms. Lubna Baqi, DOCO Associate Director, presented the item. She noted that the UNDG support structure for the UNDAF development and implementation process was at the regional level. Assessments have indicated that the current Quality Assurance mechanism may not be the type of support the Regional UNDG Teams should focus on providing. She noted that some Regional UNDG Teams have already moved away from the qualitative role to providing upstream policy advice and guidance. She noted that the recommendations of the capacity assessment of the Regional UNDG Teams undertaken earlier this year was in line with the recommendation coming out of the 3 June retreat of the UNDG Advisory Group and members of the Regional UNDG Teams, which both recommend a shift to a more strategic approach. She concluded her presentations by noting that it is expected that each region adopt the key elements of the upstream function to ensure it is harmonized across all regions so that UNCTs expectations are evenly met.

Discussion

40. Some UNDG members expressed a concern that there may not be an adequate quality assurance support mechanism if the function of the PSG to review the UNDAF documents is changed. It was noted that the organization of a workshop of PSG members and Regional UNDG Secretariat staff to discuss the details of the new approach was critical in order to review the concerns raised.

41. **Decision:** *The UNDG endorsed the Concept Note on UNDG QSA Mechanism with the understanding that it will be further discussed in the upcoming workshop of PSG members and Regional UNDG Secretariat staff.*

f) DevInfo evaluation results and way forward

42. Mr Nicolas Pron, former Senior Programme Manager for DevInfo, UNICEF, started with the history of DevInfo which stemmed from a UNICEF initiative Child Info and was adopted by the UNDG in 2004 and, thus, has become an important inter-agency initiative for storage and dissemination and use of data at national and sub-national levels by governments and UN partners. The global evaluation of DevInfo, commissioned by UNICEF in 2008, was meant to inform UNICEF senior management and the DevInfo Advisory Committee in its decision for the way forward for the initiative. The evaluation showed that DevInfo was being used in more than 130 countries and by over 20,000 people. DevInfo proved to be a useful tool display data nationally and sub-nationally including highlighting disparities and inequities and focusing on vulnerable groups. The UNDG was asked to endorse the recommendations for action in response to the DevInfo evaluation. It was clarified that there was no new task team but just an inter-agency consultations led by UNICEF. Concerns were expressed by one agency which would be addressed in the interagency consultations.

43. **Decision:** *The UNDG endorsed the recommendations for action in response to the DevInfo evaluation, including for UNICEF to manage the consultations and funding mechanism.*

44. **Action Point:** *UNICEF to lead the inter-agency technical consultation to review the future of DevInfo and report back to the UNDG on the outcome.*

g) New UNDG working methods

45. Ms. Mari Simonen, UNDG Advisory Group Chair, introduced the item. She recalled that there had been a great consultative process when developing the new UNDG working methods – the UNDG Advisory Group focal points met several times to review it, the Advisory Group at ASG level reviewed it as well as the full UNDG. She noted that all feedback from UNDG members, which has all been taken into account in the revised proposal presented at the meeting. She noted that the proposal is to move from five standing Working Groups to two Working Groups and two Networks focused on critical elements of the UNDG strategic priorities: i) Resident Coordinator and leadership issues; ii) Crisis and transition issues; iii) Programming issues, with particular focus on the UNDAF roll-outs; and, iv) Joint funding and business operations issues with a particular focus on driving forward the implementation of the HLCM-UNDG implementation plan.

46. She noted that the idea of Networks, as opposed to Working Groups, is that they would experiment still further in terms of working methods. On programming issues, including the UNDAF roll-out, the Advisory Group Chair noted that these are central to the UNDG strategic priorities and work plan. The UNDAF Programming Network will be vital in driving this agenda and continue the focus on programming issues, including normative issues. The expectation is that the Network will drive the programmatic priorities in the UNDG strategic priorities and work plan, which include UNDAF implementation. Ms. Simonen noted that another central part of the UNDG strategic priorities and work plan is continuing to address issues on joint funding and drive the business practices reform. The Joint Funding and Business Operations Network will focus on implementing UNDG's responsibilities under the joint HLCM-UNDG work plan on harmonization of business practices and on responsibilities in oversight of MDTFs as established in the M&A system. She mentioned that, if necessary, the virtual Networks can meet in person.

47. On Task Teams, she noted that the UNDG would go from 30 to 7, maintaining the task teams/mechanisms on gender equality, the HACT Advisory Committee, the Task Team on Common Premises, the Expanded Funding Window Steering Committee, Fiduciary Management Oversight Group, and the IAAP and the Human Rights mechanism. Emphasized the importance of the new Groups and Networks in driving the UNDG strategic priorities and work plan and in so doing, if there is a need for a time-bound, task specific team to drive the work plan forward, it can be created. She underlined that in line with the principle of inclusiveness, all working methods - groups, networks and task teams – will be open for participation by all UNDG member organizations, most especially Non-Resident Agencies. The IAAP has an established membership. She further mentioned that DOCO will service both Working Groups, both Networks and five of the seven task teams, with the exception of the Task Team on Common Premises (serviced by UNDP) and the Task Team on Gender Equality (serviced by UNIFEM). She also mentioned the two time-bound, task-specific and self supporting task teams created by the meeting on the MDGs and on Aid Effectiveness.

48. In addressing some of the concrete concerns raised by UNDG members ahead of this meeting on the proposed new working methods, she noted that although the focus of the UNDG strategic priorities and work plan is on implementation at the country level, the UNDG will continue to support the UN's global work, such as the Rio 20 and the high-level forum on aid effectiveness. Further to the concern that we refine the functioning of the new methods, she announced the decision that she, in her capacity as Chair of the UNDG Advisory Group, together with the Director of DOCO and the UNDG Vice Chair will bring the new conveners and co-conveners together in a one-day retreat to review the implications of the UNDG strategic priorities and work plan for each Group and Network, as well as the needed interface across the UNDG working mechanisms to drive the work plan forward.

49. Another concern raised on the proposed working methods was the merging of the different functions related to Joint Funding, Financial Management, Audit and Oversight into one Network on Joint Funding and Business Operations. With regard to this, she highlight that the concept of a Network will allow for great flexibility and as soon as the Network has been established, it will need to carefully review the tasks assigned to it in the UNDG work plan for 2010-2011 and the joint UNDG HLCM mission implementation plan and organize itself in an effective manner to address all the different functions expected of it – e.g. provide advice on joint funding issues, oversight issues and implementing the recommendations of the joint UNDG HLCM mission on harmonization of business practices. Implementation of these tasks may require establishment of a task team or a standing group under the Network, but this will be up to the Network to determine. She further agreed with the proposal that “in addition to its oversight functions, the FMOG will provide policy development/support/guidance on joint funding issues, including, but not limited to, MDTFs” and noted that this will be reflected in the final version of the new UNDG mechanisms.

50. A request had been made to include the outstanding work from the prior UNDG work plan that the former UNDG Task Team on Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change and the Task Team on Programming Principles were tasked to do, on the list of outstanding work which the UNDG agreed to complete. She noted that this would be included. To ensure the retreat of the new conveners and co-conveners could be organized as soon as possible, Ms. Simonen called for nominations to be sent to the Director of DOCO by COB Friday 8 October.

Discussion

51. The UNDG Chair expressed her appreciation to everyone involved in the process of developing the new working methods and reiterated that the UNDAF Programming Network will indeed cover also normative issues. Regarding the reduction of the number of task teams, she highlighted the possibility of creating time-bound, task specific teams to drive the work plan forward, if UNDG members agree to do so and also commit to resource their work. A concern was raised with regard to the concept of virtual Networks, and it was agreed that these Networks can meet in person to start with and when needed before moving over to more virtual interactions. On the principle of inclusiveness, it was noted that it would be desirable to have specialized agencies as conveners and co-conveners. Some recommended having a separate a group to provide policy development, support and guidance on joint funding issues (e.g a Joint Task Team on Funding). It was agreed that there was flexibility for this, it could be further discussed by the convenors and the separate nature of the two functions would be reflected in the new organigram. It was further agreed that the moratorium on new guidelines is still in effect and that only existing policy guidance and additions to existing guidance can be sent to UN Country Teams as and when agreed by the UNDG.

52. **Decision:** *The UNDG endorsed the new UNDG organigram and working methods with the editorial changes described above. A moratorium on new guidelines would be in effect for one year and only existing policy guidance and additions to existing guidance can be sent to UN Country Teams as and when agreed by the UNDG, except on exceptional basis such as for the guidance on the rights of persons with disabilities. The rest would be posted on the UNDG website/toolkit, shared upon request as well as integrated into agency programme guidance and relevant inter-agency trainings. Expanded role of FMOG in Joint Funding to be reflected in the organigram.*

53. **Action Point:** *The Chair of the UNDG Advisory Group, the UNDG Vice Chair and the Director of DOCO to bring the new conveners and co-conveners together in a one-day retreat to review the implications of the UNDG strategic priorities and work plan for each Group and Network, as well as the needed interface across the UNDG working mechanisms to drive the UNDG work plan forward. Nominations for co-conveners to be sent to the UNDG Advisory Group Chair by 8 October.*

Item 5 – Items for information - Re-launch of the UNDG Toolkit

54. Ms. Sarah Poole from UNDP and Ms. Zehra Aydin from UNEP, Co-chairs of the UNDG tool kit reference group, presented the item. They noted that the toolkit, which originally was developed by the Task Team on Change Management, had been reviewed and updated by the reference group with the support of DOCO. The new content of the UNDG Toolkit will ensure that it is as up-to-date and relevant to the UN Country Teams as possible. This is particularly important in the context of the estimated 46 countries that have begun rolling out new UNDAFs in 2010. The updated UNDG toolkit will be re-launched in a number of weeks. On the ownership and continued commitment to the toolkit, it was noted that if no Working Group or Network could take over the maintenance of it from the UNDG tool kit reference group, a time-bound, task-specific interagency group would need to be convened to review it regularly. It was agreed that the UNDAF Programming Network would follow up on the work that had been done and ensure continued maintenance of the tool kit.

55. Action Point: *Toolkit to be re-launched. UNDAF Programming Network to ensure continued oversight of the tool kit.*

Item 6 – AOB, Closing remarks and way forward

56. The UNDG Chair closed the meeting by noting that the UNDG for the first time ever had a historic agreement on strategic priorities, a work plan and new working methods. She mentioned that the next full UNDG meeting is likely to be held in January and that DOCO would revert with the date.