

Draft Concept Note

High-Level Tripartite Conference on “Delivering as One: Lessons from Country-led Evaluations and Way Forward”

14-16 June 2010, Ha Noi, Viet Nam

I BACKGROUND AND MANDATE

1. The Delivering as One approach (DaO) was adopted on a voluntary basis in the beginning of 2007 by eight programme countries¹ and has since been voluntarily initiated by a growing number of other countries. The approach has drawn interest from donor and programme countries alike, including during informal consultations on system-wide coherence in the General Assembly.
2. The Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review (TCPR) of operational activities for development of the UN system (GA Resolution 62/208; Para.139), “...encourages the Secretary-General to support programme country pilot countries to evaluate and exchange their experiences, with the support of the United Nations Evaluation Group”.
3. At its 63rd Session, the General Assembly through GA Resolution 63/311 on system-wide coherence, reiterated its encouragement for the Secretary-General to support the programme country pilots to undertake expeditiously their own country-led evaluations, with technical support from the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG).
4. In the spirit of the TCPR Resolution the pilot countries met in Maputo in 2008 and in Kigali in 2009 to share experiences and lessons from the design and implementation of ‘Delivering as One’ at the country level. At the Inter-Governmental Consultations in Kigali in 2009, the pilot countries agreed to conduct their country led evaluations and to share the outcome at their next inter-governmental meeting. Based on a framework proposed by UNEG, seven of the eight pilot countries (Albania, Cape Verde, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uruguay and Viet Nam) are in the process of conducting their country-led evaluations with quality assurance support from UNEG. The process is expected to be completed in May 2010.
5. At the Kigali meeting the Government of Viet Nam announced it would host a High-Level Tripartite Conference in Ha Noi in 2010. In consultation with pilot countries, donors, and the United Nations system, it has been decided to organize this Conference on 14-16 June 2010.
6. The outcome of the Ha Noi Conference will inform inter-governmental processes related to system-wide coherence as well as the independent evaluation of the Delivering as One approach requested in the 2007 TCPR Resolution (GA Resolution 62/208; Para.139). Preparations for this evaluation are currently under way. It is scheduled to be completed during the second half of

¹ Albania, Cape Verde, Mozambique, Pakistan Rwanda, Tanzania, Uruguay and Viet Nam,

2011, i.e. during the 66th Session of the General Assembly and in advance of the Quadriennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) planned for 2012.

II. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

7. The overall purpose of the Conference is to contribute to on-going efforts to improve the coherence, effectiveness and relevance of the United Nations development system in line with the 2007 TCPR resolution (GA Resolution 62/208) and the 2009 Resolution on System-Wide Coherence (GA Resolution 63/311).

8. In particular, the Ha Noi Conference represents an important opportunity to review achievements and challenges related to the Delivering as One approach. After three years of piloting new ways of working together for a more relevant, coherent and efficient support by the UN system to national development priorities, this Conference represents the first opportunity, based on the findings of the country-led evaluations, to learn lessons and arrive at recommendations for the way forward.

9. Noting the high level of commitment expressed in Maputo and Kigali, the Government of Viet Nam has decided to invite very senior official from other pilot countries as well as donors and the United Nations system to review progress and renew their commitment in light of the lessons learned and challenges that are emerging. With a view to transparently sharing these lessons and challenges with a wider group of countries, including those that are at different stages of adopting and implementing this initiative and other Member States taking an interest in the experiences, the Government has extended invitations to other governments as well.

10. Drawing guidance from General Assembly resolutions 62/208 and 63/311, the specific objectives of the Conference are to a) share findings and conclusions from the Country-Led Evaluations (CLEs) of pilot country experiences; b) set out an agenda for further actions required to enhance, deepen and expand the Delivering as One approach for those countries that are adopting it on a voluntary basis; c) communicate more broadly progress and critical issues of the Delivering as One initiative to concerned parties, so as to mobilize support of programme and donor countries as well as the UN system in view to strengthen reforms; d) based on the country-led evaluations, inform the independent evaluation of Delivering as One scheduled to take place in 2010-2011 as well as the forthcoming intergovernmental process concerning system-wide coherence in general and operational activities for development of the UN system in particular of the lessons learned from the delivering as One experiences.

III. EXPECTED OUTCOME OF THE CONFERENCE

11. The Conference is expected to arrive at a Statement of Outcomes and Recommendations on the Way Forward agreed upon by the governments of the programme pilot countries, donors and participants from the United Nations. The Statement will take note of any observations from all the other participants. The Statement will highlight: a) key findings and conclusions of country-led evaluations reflecting progress achieved since the launch of the DaO initiative, lessons learned and critical areas deserving attention; b) reaffirmation of the commitment of Governments of programme country pilots, countries voluntarily adopting the DaO approach, donors and the UN system to take further actions required to ensure a more effective delivery as one by the UN development system at the country level; c) the agenda for further actions

required to enhance, deepen and expand the Delivering as One approach; d) inform the independent evaluation of Delivering as One as well as to intergovernmental processes related to system-wide coherence and operational activities on lessons learned from the Delivering as One experiences.

IV. SUBSTANTIVE FOCUS OF THE CONFERENCE

DAY 1 (MONDAY, 14 JUNE 2010)

Presentation of individual country-led evaluations and summary statement of findings and conclusions

12. Seven of the eight DaO country programme pilots (Albania, Cape Verde, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uruguay, Viet Nam) will present lessons learned from their country-led evaluations. The evaluations were conducted by teams of external consultants under the auspices of independent country-level Evaluation Management Groups. Findings and conclusions of each of the evaluations will be presented by the chairs of the Evaluation Management Groups.

13. The presentations of the individual country-led evaluations will be followed by a presentation of a summary of key findings and conclusions of the evaluations, including on results of the DaO approach and critical issues that need to be addressed by pilot countries. This will inform other countries voluntarily adopting the DaO approach, donors and the UN system at country, regional and headquarters levels in view to enhance the performance and usefulness of the approach.

14. With due regard to the specificity of individual countries' experiences and the principle of 'No One Size Fits All', the Statement of Outcome is meant to highlight the lessons from the DaO approach and challenges that need to be addressed to enhance the approach for those countries that are adopting it on a voluntary basis.

15. The common lessons learned are expected to inform the forthcoming independent evaluation of Delivering as One scheduled to take place in 2010-2011 as well as further consultations on system-wide coherence and the Quadriennial Comprehensive Policy Review planned for 2012.

DAY 2 (TUESDAY 15 JUNE 2010)

Consolidation of achievements and action agenda for further improvements of the Delivering as One approach and information to the independent evaluation of Delivering as One as well as to intergovernmental processes on system-wide coherence and operational activities for development of the UN system.

16. Lessons learned from the evaluations will be refined in parallel workshops with panels composed of representatives of programme countries (including pilot countries, countries having voluntarily adopted the Delivering as One approach and other countries) donors and the UN system. The discussions in the workshops should lead to a) the adoption of a tripartite agenda of actions for the improvement of DaO in the pilot countries and other countries voluntarily

adopting the approach; and b) inform the independent evaluation of Delivering as One as well as the intergovernmental processes on system-wide coherence and operational activities for development of the UN system.

17. Guiding questions have been developed that closely follow the provisions of the 2007 TCPD resolution (62/208) and the 2009 resolution on system-wide coherence (63/311). The following dimensions will be addressed taking into account lessons learned identified in the country-led evaluations:

Workshop 1: National ownership and leadership and coherence of the contribution of the UN system

- To what extent has the DaO approach enhanced national ownership and leadership over the role and contribution of the UN system? How can this be improved?
- To what extent has the DaO approach made it possible to better coordinate United Nations operational activities for development at the country level and increased coherence of the contribution of the UN system? What can programme countries, donors and the UN system itself do to enhance coherence?

Workshop 2: Responsiveness of the UN system to national needs and priorities

- To what extent has the DaO approach improved the responsiveness of the UN system to national needs and priorities, including access to mandates and resources of the UN system? How can responsiveness be enhanced?
- As an example how the DaO approach deals with cross-cutting issues, to what extent has the DaO approach made it possible to mainstream a gender perspective and to pursue gender equality and the empowerment of women in country programmes, planning instruments and sector-wide programmes in accordance with national development strategies? Where is there room for improvement?

Workshop 3: Effectiveness of the UN system

- To what extent has the DaO approach enhanced implementation of better programming processes of the UN system at country, regional and global levels leading to results effectively contributing to national goals and objectives? How can programming processes be improved?
- To what extent did the DaO approach make use of national systems and expertise and thereby contribute to national capacity development? What action could be taken to enhance the contribution to national capacity development?

Workshop 4: Business practices

- How have business practices improved with the DaO approach and what business practices have been simplified and harmonized? What has been done in this regard at UN headquarters level and what are outstanding challenges?

- How have transaction costs been reduced? What action can be taken to reduce transaction costs?

Workshop 5: Funding

- To what extent have the One Budgetary Framework and One Fund contributed to strengthening the appropriateness, predictability and timeliness of the funding of UN country operations? What improvements can be suggested?
 - How did the One Fund contribute to an improved responsiveness of the UN development system to national needs and priorities? How can this instrument be enhanced?
18. The outcomes of the different workshops will be presented in a plenary session on day 2 with a summary of the discussions structured around the following questions that are the common thread of the different workshops:
- What improvements has the DaO approach brought to the functioning of the UN development system at country level? What achievements need to be consolidated?
 - What critical issues need to be addressed to improve its performance in countries voluntarily adopting the DaO approach and the usefulness of the experiences in the broader context of the discussions on system-wide coherence and the functioning of the UN development system?
19. The lessons learned will eventually be assessed as to their implications for the intergovernmental processes related to system-wide coherence and operational activities for development, including their role for the independent evaluation of Delivering as One.

Preparation of the Statement of Outcome and Recommendations on the Way Forward

20. At the end of day 2, the Government of Viet Nam will present an outline Statement of Outcome and Recommendations on the Way Forward to be adopted by participants at the end of the Conference on day 3.
21. Representatives of Governments of programme country pilots, countries voluntarily adopting the DaO approach, donors and the UN system will have an opportunity to contribute to the drafting of the statement that will be submitted for approval by participants during the high level segment of day 3.

DAY 3 (WEDNESDAY 16 JUNE 2010) – HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT

Renewal of commitments and adoption of the Statement of Outcomes and Recommendations on the Way Forward

22. On day 3, representatives of Governments of programme countries and donors, many of whom will be at the ministerial level as well as principals of the UN system will have an

opportunity to renew their commitment to the improvement of the functioning of the UN development system based on lessons learned from the Delivering as One approach.

23. They will proceed to the adoption of the “Statement of Outcomes and Way Forward” agreed upon between representatives of pilot countries, donors and representatives of the UN system. The statement will be based on the findings and conclusions of the country-led evaluations, the outcome of the discussions of the Conference and will specifically address opportunities, challenges and actions to enhance the Delivering as One approach for those countries that are adopting it on a voluntary basis and inform the independent evaluation of Delivering as One as well as further consultations on system-wide coherence and the Quadriennial Comprehensive Policy Review planned for 2012.

Annex: Provisional Agenda and Programme

V. PARTICIPANTS

24. The Conference is expected to be attended by representatives of around 40 countries, including from pilot countries, other countries voluntarily adopting or interested in the DaO approach, donor countries, principals of the UN system (Deputy Secretary General, chair and vice-chair of the United Nations Development Group) and senior staff from the UN system.

25. The co-chairs of the System-Wide Coherence consultation process of the 64th Session of the General Assembly and of the Joint Coordinating Committee of the G-77, and the Non-Aligned Movement are equally invited to take part in the Conference.

In particular, participants in the Conference are expected to include:

- Government representatives from the eight Delivering as One pilot countries (in principle for each country: one Minister, one senior government official, the chair of the Evaluation Management Group, one representative of the Permanent Mission in New York)
- Government representatives from countries having voluntarily adopted the Delivering as One and implementing the approach (one government representative)
- Government representatives from other programme countries invited by the Government of Viet Nam (one government representative for each country)
- Co-chairs of Informal Consultations on System-Wide Coherence and two representatives of Joint Coordinating Committee G-77 / Non-Aligned Movement
- Government representatives from capitals of donor countries, including donors contributing to the One Plan Fund in Delivering as One pilot countries as well as other donors
- Government representatives of 19 bilateral donors in Viet Nam (Ambassadors and Heads of Cooperation)

- Government of Viet Nam (30 staff – representatives from GACA and others)
- UN Headquarters representation (Deputy Secretary General, UNDG chair and vice-chair, and other senior staff from UN Headquarters in New York)
- Two representatives from the United Nations Country Teams from each of the eight DaO programme country pilots, and one representative from each of the countries that have voluntarily adopted the DaO approach and are currently implementing it
- UN Country Team in Viet Nam.

VI DATE AND VENUE

The Conference will be held from 14-16 June 2010 at the Melia hotel, Ha Noi, Viet Nam

VII ARRANGEMENTS

Host country

26. This Conference will be hosted by the Government of Viet Nam

Secretariat

27. Secretariat services will be jointly provided by the Government of Viet Nam and the UN system.

Cost for conference

28. The cost for organizing the conference will be borne by the United Nations and the management of the logistics budget for expenditure in Viet Nam will be assured by the Government of Viet Nam.

29. The Government of Viet Nam is responsible for providing the security for the conference and state protocol services to high level participants. Appropriate Government staff will be made available to support the planning and organization of the Conference.

30. A logistical note will contain details concerning travel cost and other arrangements of participants.

Annex 1

**High-Level Tripartite Conference on “Delivering as One:
Lessons from Country-led Evaluations and Way Forward”**

14-16 June 2010, Ha Noi, Viet Nam

Provisional Agenda and Programme

DAY 1 (MONDAY, 14 JUNE 2010) - SENIOR LEVEL SEGMENT

Presentation of individual country-led evaluations and summary statement of findings and conclusions

08.30 – 09:30

Opening Session

Introductory and welcome remarks

Chair of the Conference (Government of Viet Nam)

Statements (TBC) on behalf of the

- Delivering as One countries
- Donors
- Chair of the UNDG
- Co-Chairs of the 64th General Assembly Informal Consultations on System-wide coherence

09:30 – 10.00

Coffee / Tea

10.00 – 12.00

Lessons learned and key challenges identified through the country-led evaluations

Session 1: Plenary

Presentation of four country-led evaluations by chairs of the Evaluation Management Groups (20 min presentation and 10 minutes discussion per country)

12.00 – 13.30

Lunch

13.30 – 15.00 **Lessons learned and key challenges identified through the country-led evaluations**

Session 2: Plenary

- Presentation of three country-led evaluations by chairs of the Evaluation Management Groups (20 min presentation and 10 minutes discussion per country)

15.00 – 15.30 Coffee / Tea

15.30 – 17.30 **Lessons learned and key challenges identified through the country-led evaluations**

Session 3: Plenary with representative panel

- Presentation of summary of findings of the country-led evaluations by one EMG chair or the facilitator for the Conference (20 min)
- Common trends and issues emerging from all evaluations- comments from a panel composed of representatives from DaO countries, donors, System-Wide Coherence Consultations co-chairs, Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) (G-77/ NAM), UN system etc.

19.00 **Cocktails or dinner [TBC]**

DAY 2 (TUESDAY 15 JUNE 2010) – SENIOR LEVEL SEGMENT

Consolidation of achievements and action agenda for further improvements of the Delivering as One approach and information to the independent evaluation of Delivering as One as well as to intergovernmental processes on system-wide coherence and operational activities for development of the UN system.

08.30 – 10.30 **Refinement of Lessons Learned in view of an action agenda for further improvements of the Delivering as One approach**

Session 4: Parallel workshops with representative panels (coffee / tea served in the workshops)

Workshop 1: National ownership and leadership and coherence of the contribution of the UN system

- To what extent has the DaO approach enhanced national ownership and leadership over the role and contribution of the UN system? How can this be improved?

- To what extent has the DaO approach made it possible to better coordinate United Nations operational activities for development at the country level and increased coherence of the contribution of the UN system? What can programme countries, donors and the UN system itself do to enhance coherence?

Workshop 2: Responsiveness of the UN system to national needs and priorities

- To what extent has the DaO approach improved the responsiveness of the UN system to national needs and priorities, including access to mandates and resources of the UN system? How can responsiveness be enhanced?
- As an example how the DaO approach deals with cross-cutting issues, to what extent has the DaO approach made it possible to mainstream a gender perspective and to pursue gender equality and the empowerment of women in country programmes, planning instruments and sector-wide programmes in accordance with national development strategies? Where is there room for improvement?

Workshop 3: Effectiveness of the UN system

- To what extent has the DaO approach enhanced implementation of better programming processes of the UN system at country, regional and global levels leading to results effectively contributing to national goals and objectives? How can programming processes be improved?
- To what extent did the DaO approach make use of national systems and expertise and thereby contribute to national capacity development? What action could be taken to enhance the contribution to national capacity development?

Workshop 4: Business practices

- How have business practices improved with the DaO approach and what business practices have been simplified and harmonized? What has been done in this regard at UN headquarters level and what are outstanding challenges?
- How have transaction costs been reduced? What action can be taken to reduce transaction costs?

Workshop 5: Funding

- To what extent have the One Budgetary Framework and One Fund contributed to strengthening the appropriateness, predictability and

timeliness of the funding of UN country operations? What improvements can be suggested?

- How did the One Fund contribute to an improved responsiveness of the UN system to national needs and priorities? How can this instrument be enhanced?

10.30 – 12.00

Session 5: Plenary with representative panel

Consolidation of achievements and action agenda for further improvements of the Delivering as One approach

Reports from the workshops (10 min for each of the workshops focusing on consolidation of achievements and action agenda) and 40 minutes discussion by representative panel focusing on the following questions:

- What improvements has the DaO approach brought to the functioning of the UN development system at country level? What achievements need to be consolidated?
- What critical issues need to be addressed to improve its performance in countries voluntarily adopting the DaO approach and the usefulness of the experiences in the broader context of the discussions on system-wide coherence and the functioning of the UN development system?

12.00 – 13.30

Lunch

13.30 – 15.00

Implications for the independent evaluation of Delivering as One and for intergovernmental processes related to system-wide coherence and operational activities

Session 6: Plenary with representative panel

- Status report on independent evaluation by the Office of the UN Deputy Secretary General
- Introduction by co-chairs system-wide coherence and discussion (TBC)
- Feedback from donors and Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) (G-77/NAM) (TBC)

15.00 – 15.30

Coffee / Tea

15.30 -

Constitution of a panel composed of members of the drafting group

Session 7: Plenary with constitution of the panel

- Introduction to the process of the drafting of the outline outcome statement
- Constitution of a panel composed of members of the drafting group
- Drafting of the outcome statement by drafting group on the basis of a zero draft presented by the Government of Viet Nam

N.B. Side-event(s) for participants not involved in the drafting of the outcome statement [TBC]

19.00 Gala dinner hosted by the Government of Viet Nam

DAY 3 (WEDNESDAY 16 JUNE 2010) – HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT

Renewal of commitments and adoption of the Statement of Outcomes and Recommendations on the Way Forward

08.30 – 9.30 **Official opening of the High Level Segment**

- Key notes address by the Prime Minister of Viet Nam Nguyen Tan Dung (TBC)
- Introductory statement by UN Deputy Secretary General
- Introductory statement by a representative of the donors

09:30-10:30 Session 8: Plenary with interactive discussion

- Reporting by the Rapporteur of the drafting group on the draft statement of outcome and recommendations on the way forward
- Ministerial statements and reactions to draft statement of outcome and recommendations on the way forward

10.30 – 11.00 Coffee / tea

11:00 – 12:30 Session 8 (continued): Plenary with interactive discussions.

- Ministerial statements and reactions to draft statement of outcome and recommendations on the way forward (continued)

12.30 – 14.00 Lunch

14.00 – 15.30 Session 9: Plenary (if needed)

- Review of draft statement of outcome and recommendations on the way forward
- Adoption of statement of outcome and recommendations on the way forward

15.30 – 16.00 Coffee / tea

16.00 – 17.00 **Closing of the Conference**

Closing remarks by

- Co-Chair of the 64th General Assembly Informal Consultations on System-wide Coherence, [TBC]
- Representative of the donors [TBC]
- DSG [TBC]
- Chair of the Conference/Representative of the Government of Viet Nam [TBC]

N.B. Press conference at the end of Day 3.