



2011 ECOSOC OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES SEGMENT

Informal summary

“Special Update on the Progress of the Independent Evaluation of Delivering as One”

03:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., 15 July 2011, Geneva

BACKGROUND

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) held a special event entitled “**Special Update on the Progress of Independent Evaluation of ‘Delivering as One,’**” as part of the Operational Activities Segment of its 2011 Substantive Session in Geneva. This event was chaired by the Vice-President of the Council, H.E. Ambassador Gonzalo Gutierrez Reinel, and involved a presentation by Mr. Lucien Back, Chief of the Secretariat to the Independent Evaluation of Delivering-as-One, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA).

Mr. Back recalled the background and process of the independent evaluation of lessons learned from the Delivering as One Pilot Countries. The evaluation was originally mandated by General Assembly resolution 62/208 (2007 TCPR) and referenced in General Assembly resolution 64/289 (UN System-wide Coherence). It is set to be conducted in 2011-2012, in order to feed into the preparations for the 2012 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of UN system’s operational activities (QCPR). The evaluation’s report is to be formally presented to the President of the General Assembly during the 66th Session of the GA.

PRESENTATION

In order to achieve a balanced, independent and credible evaluation, a regionally balanced **Evaluation Management Group (EMG)** was appointed by the UN Secretary-General to oversee the initiative. It began its work in September, 2010. **The group is composed of nine** evaluation experts, of whom two are from Delivering as One Pilot Countries, one is nominated

by each of the five regional groups as well as the chairs of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) and the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG). The EMG is currently chaired by the expert from the Latin American group. The EMG structure allows for the most transparency, effective use of resources and efficient division of labor, benefiting from a vast array of relevant expertise.

The EMG members have proceeded to recruit a **Core Evaluation Team**, i.e. consultants, who will carry out the Independent Evaluation. The evaluation will be strongly guided by the 2001, 2004 and 2007 GA resolutions on its review of UN system operational activities (TCPR) and by the resolutions of the General Assembly on system-wide coherence adopted as a follow up to the 2005 World Summit Outcome.

The **key focus of the evaluation** will be on the new modalities in the functioning of the United Nations system adopted in the pilot countries and at headquarters and regional levels, achievements and remaining challenges, particularly in regards to the strengthening of national ownership and leadership, national capacity building, as well as initiatives for greater coherence, partnerships and coordination. The evaluation will also highlight the development of innovative funding instruments, better coordination mechanisms and the simplification and harmonization of business practices in order to increase efficiency and reduce costs.

It was also stressed that particular attention would be placed in avoiding duplication. This would include efforts to avoid a repetition of the country-led evaluations in pilot-countries, while remaining aware of the need to assess the accuracy and validity of the findings of these evaluations. Additionally, data will be collected in order to evaluate country and system wide initiatives and their impact on the workings of the UN at all levels.

The work to be done by the Core Evaluation Team has been organized in **three different phases**. The Inception Phase has already begun, and it will focus on informing and supporting the EMG on the further design and conduct the evaluation. This phase will be followed by the Implementation phase, and then by the Report Writing Phase.

The EMG also appointed a **Quality Assurance Panel**, in order to have the Independent Evaluation reviewed by two prominent development and evaluation professionals. These experts will provide insights on the specific role of the UN development system in development effectiveness, doing so from the viewpoint of evaluation methodology.

In regards to **funding**, gratitude was expressed for the generous contributions received to carry out the evaluation, including additional extra-budgetary resources mobilized by Member States on a voluntary basis, as well as from Funds and Programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system. UN-DESA has arranged a Trust Fund for this purpose. The total budget to conduct the evaluation currently amounts to USD\$2.2 Million.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

During the Q and A session, delegates asked to what extent the independent evaluation would also cover non-pilot countries having voluntarily adopted the Delivering-as-One approach. The Chief of the Secretariat clarified that, strictly speaking, the independent evaluation is only mandated to assess lessons learned from the eight pilot countries. The experiences of other countries, however, will also be taken into consideration, albeit not in an in-depth manner.

Speakers also asked whether the interim products of the evaluation, e.g. the report of the inception phase, would be published. Mr. Back said that this would not be the case, but that final versions of interim reports can be shared with stakeholders on an informal basis.

PARTICIPANTS

CHAIRPERSON:

H.E. Mr. Gonzalo Gutierrez Reinel

Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council
Permanent Representative of Peru at the United Nations

PRESENTER:

Mr. Lucien Back

Chief, Secretariat to the Independent Evaluation of Delivering-as-One, Department of Social Affairs