



## **First High-Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation Mexico City, 15-16 April 2014**

### **Position Statement**

The United Nations Development Group (UNDG) unites the 32 UN funds, programmes, specialized agencies, departments, and offices that play a role in development cooperation. Ahead of the First High-Level Meeting (HLM) of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC), **we affirm our common objective to deliver more coherent, effective efficient and relevant support for country-owned development, including the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.**

Despite considerable progress in achieving the MDGs, **important gaps and challenges remain**, including in tackling extreme poverty, hunger, access to social services, unemployment, forced displacement, and gender equality. Meanwhile, the geography of poverty has evolved, inequality is rising, especially in middle income countries, and the interlinked social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development can no longer be addressed separately.

**The GPEDC plays an important role** in assessing and catalyzing the effectiveness of development cooperation, and strengthening the coordination, cooperation, and accountability among stakeholders at country and global levels.

**A renewed, inclusive and more effective global partnership for development is needed to meet the challenges of a universal post-2015 development agenda.** A wide range of new and emerging actors are playing a growing role in development cooperation, including Southern partners, the private sector, philanthropy and civil society organizations. Building on the experience of MDG-8, a global partnership for development, anchored in the United Nations, should reflect the evolving challenges and actors involved in development cooperation – recognizing shared interests, differentiated needs and mutual responsibilities – and be grounded in equity, solidarity and human rights.

**Achieving more effective and relevant development cooperation, engaging all stakeholders, is critical.** The UNDG, both collectively and individually, is taking steps to improve its cooperation and to ensure the UN development system is fit for purpose to effectively support implementation of a universal post-2015 agenda. We must strengthen accountability for development cooperation commitments, including the unfinished aid effectiveness agenda, and pursue progress on policy coherence for development.

Our programming is guided by **national ownership** and alignment with national development priorities, strategies, systems, and programming cycles. We are taking further steps to enhance UN coherence in support of country ownership, including through implementation of the second generation of the 'Delivering as One' reform initiative in close to 40 countries, guided by joint steering committees with national stakeholders and UN partners.

The UNDG-endorsed MDG Acceleration Framework is being used in over 50 countries to boost **results** on achieving specific MDGs. In addition, we have launched the global ‘Delivering Results Together Fund’ to strengthen our joint results focus through performance-based allocations to high-performing programmes in Delivering as One countries.

We are committed to being **inclusive of all stakeholders** in all stages of the programming process. We are working to bring more actors into nationally-led country-level coordination mechanisms. We have supported over 80 national consultations on the post-2015 development agenda. We are also engaged in issue-based multi-stakeholder partnerships including ‘Sustainable Energy For All’ and ‘Every Woman, Every Child’, and the ‘Zero Hunger Challenge.’ In these processes, we recognize that CSOs play a critical role in the fight against poverty and hunger, and their increasing presence in the field.

We are committed to **mutual accountability** for development cooperation commitments and for our programming results, and to enhancing our **transparency**. Many of our members are at the leading edge of implementing standards such as the International Aid Transparency Initiative. Shared data and results, increasingly made available in the public domain, also enable a more open and shared learning and engagement with people from across the world, bringing the global and local development agenda closer together.

The UNDG will continue working to strengthen the quality of our cooperation in line with our **country-programming principles** – a human rights-based approach, gender equality, environmental sustainability, results-based management and capacity development. We will also draw on our comparative advantages, bridging the normative and operational agendas; our multi-sectoral policy and programme capacities; our convening power and universal representation; as well as our impartiality.

**Official development assistance remains a vital tool for development, particularly in least developed countries, fragile and conflict-affected states, and small island developing states.** Ensuring its levels and quality is critical. It is important to maintain commitments on the unfinished aid effectiveness agenda, and we welcome renewed efforts to meet the UN ODA target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income on an agreed timetable.

We also welcome the focus the Mexico City HLM has placed on specific areas of cooperation that will be of increasing relevance going forward in the post-2015 agenda. The substantive discussion can inform and complement those taking place at the United Nations – including the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, and the UN Development Cooperation Forum.

**Domestic resources** are the most important source of development finance, complemented by investment and saving, and their mobilization can reduce aid dependency and broaden developing countries’ policy space.

Despite strong economic growth, **middle income countries**, are home to roughly three-quarters of the world’s poor, and growing inequalities threaten to reverse MDG achievement. The UNDG will continue to co-operate with middle income countries by adapting to their changing needs in addressing a universal sustainable development agenda.

The scale and importance of **South-South and triangular cooperation** as a complement – rather than substitute – to traditional cooperation continues to grow. Our members are stepping up efforts to support South-South and triangular cooperation through policies, strategic

frameworks, operational activities, and budgets, and are forging operational partnerships to scale up South-South cooperation in our areas of competence. But we recognize that our rules, regulations, procedures and business models should be further adapted, while preserving the richness in diversity of our business models that have demonstrated efficient and effective results. **Knowledge sharing** and technical cooperation amongst all countries through South-South, triangular and North-South cooperation are vital and a priority for UNDG support.

**Inclusive partnerships**, involving not just governments but also businesses, foundations, international organizations, civil society, cooperatives, local authorities, parliaments, trade unions, research institutes and academia, are an important driver for a development cooperation framework that is not only centered on aid effectiveness. But effort is needed to strengthen its contribution to concrete development impact for vulnerable populations and country-driven development results.

We hope the Mexico City HLM will provide clear messages that can inform discussions at the United Nations on the post-2015 development agenda, including at the 2014 UN Development Cooperation Forum.