

Programme of the Expert Group Meeting
Adapting UN system to better support sustainable development
UN Headquarters, New York, 3-4 December 2013
Rooms S-1522 and S-1523

Time	Topic
Day 1	
9.30-10.00	<p>Opening Speakers: Mr. Nikhil Seth, Director, Division for Sustainable Development, DESA Professor Thomas Weiss (CUNY)</p>
10.00-12.30 (including coffee break)	<p>Session 1: How far has the United Nation system advanced with mainstreaming sustainable development? <i>This session aims to provide an overview of the current state of progress on adopting sustainable development as the framework for the UN system work.</i></p> <p>Questions to be addressed by the panel and participants:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Has Rio+20 generated a momentum in individual organizations for mainstreaming sustainable development approaches? 2. What would be needed to advance further in this direction? What would be the main entry points? 3. Has the discussion on making the UN "fit for purpose" addressed the need to make sustainable development the overarching framework for UN system work? <p>Moderator: Mr. Nikhil Seth, Division for Sustainable Development/DESA</p> <p>Speakers (3 – 5 min. each):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Simona Petrova, Director, CEB Secretariat • Ms. Marion Barthelemy, Chief Intergovernmental and Interagency Branch, DSD/DESA: introducing the SG’s Report on mainstreaming of sustainable development; • Ms. Anne Marie Sloth Carlsen, Senior Adviser, UNDP: Introducing the Framework for advancing environmental and social sustainability and the Options Paper; • Mr. Elliott Harris, Director UNEP NY Office: Introducing the paper prepared in his former capacity of HLCP Vice-Chair on making the UN fit for purpose and the discussion in HLCP in October 2013; • Lucien Back, Consultant on “Delivery as One” evaluation <p>Followed by interactive discussion</p>
Lunch	
14.00-16.20	<p>Session 2: From the global to the national : Mainstreaming sustainable development in Strategic Plans of UN system entities - Sharing of experiences <i>The first part of the second session will discuss how sustainable development concerns have been taken into account in the design of the new organizational strategies.</i></p>

	<p>Questions to be addressed by the panel and participants:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How has Sustainable Development been integrated in organizational strategies? 2. What were the challenges/difficulties 3. How will organizations be held accountable? <p>Chair/Moderator: Ms. Ndey-Isatou Njie, Chief, Water, Energy and capacity development Branch, DSD/DESA</p> <p>3-4 Speakers (bilateral discussions are under way – (3-5 min each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNICEF: Mr. Alex Heikens, Senior Adviser, Climate and Environment, Division of Policy and Strategy • Regional Commissions, Mr. Amr Nour, Director, Regional Commissions NY Office • UNESCO, Ms. Ana Persic, Science Specialist, UNESCO NY Office <p>Followed by interactive discussion</p>
Coffee-break	
16.30- 17.45	<p>Session 3: Learning from experience: Mainstreaming specific issues across the UN system.</p> <p><i>This session is aimed at showcasing the processes undertaken to mainstream specific issues/issues-driven approaches across the UN system.</i></p> <p>Questions to be addressed by the panel and participants:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What lessons can be learned from the processes to integrate cross-cutting priorities throughout the UN system? 2. Can they help to adopt sustainable development as an overarching framework to UN system work? 3. Which practical problems were encountered and how were they overcome? <p>Chair/Moderator: Mr. John Hendra, Assistant Secretary-General, UN-Women</p> <p>Speakers: (3-5 min. each) (bilateral discussions are under way with partners below)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWAP (UN Women on process under CEB system to develop the System-wide Action Plan on gender): Ms. Aparna Mehrotra, Senior Adviser on Coordination and Focal Point for Women in the UN System • Disaster and Risk Redaction: Ms. Elina Palm, UNISDR • Human Rights Mainstreaming Mechanism: Ms. Karin Lucke, Policy Adviser, Human Rights UNDG • Environment (UNEP on mandate from Rio to develop system-wide environmental strategies): Mr. Elliot Harris, Director, UNEP NY Office • Sustainable United Nations facility (SUN): Ms. Julie MacKenzie, Senior Advisor for Sustainability, UN Secretariat <p>Followed by interactive discussion</p>

Day 2	
9.00-11.00	<p>Session 4: Enhancing sustainability in programmes and projects: Quality assurance and safeguards and beyond - Sharing of examples from individual organizations. <i>Session three is dedicated to looking at examples of corporate management of UN system entities aimed at integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development. It will discuss the potential for scaling up and replicability.</i></p> <p>Questions to be addressed by the panel and participants:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What challenges and lessons can be shared? 2. Is it possible to develop initiatives that pursue the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development? 3. Can we move towards the “do good” principle? <p>Chair/Moderator: Mr. Thomas Gass, Assistant Secretary-General, DESA</p> <p>Speakers: (5 min. each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Bank safeguards: Mr. Stephen F. Lintner, Senior Technical Advisor • GEF Secretariat: Mr. Andrew Velthaus, Senior Policy Officer, Operations and Business Strategy • UNDP Quality Assurance: Ms. Holly Mergler, Programme Specialist, Environmental Mainstreaming, UNDP <p>Followed by interactive discussion</p>
Coffee-break	
11.15-12.30	<p>Session 5: Mainstreaming and UN inter-agency mechanisms <i>This session will take stock of how various inter-agency mechanisms work towards supporting mainstreaming/integration in their respective fields</i></p> <p>Questions to be addressed by the panel and participants:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How do we move from coordination to integration? 2. Are feedback mechanisms in place and supportive? 3. Do interagency mechanisms foster integration at the level of individual organisation? <p>Chair/Moderator: Mr. Nikhil Seth, Director DSD/DESA</p> <p>Speakers: (5 min. each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEB Secretariat: Ms. Xenia Von Lilien, Programme Officer • DOCO (on the UNDAF): Ms. Saraswathi Menon, Director, Policy Division, UN Women • DESA: as co-chair of TT, Technical Support Team on SDGs and ECESA Plus (on support for the HLPF and possible reporting on sustainability framework) • Ms. Michelle Fanzo, Consultant on TST on SDGs: taking stock of mainstreaming/integration in the issues briefs prepared for the OWG <p>Followed by interactive discussion</p>

Lunch	
14.00-15.30	<p>Session 6: How can inspections and independent evaluations help the UN system move forward to become more ‘fit for purpose’ to support integrated approaches including through the use of the Sustainability Framework?</p> <p><i>This session will focus on how inspections and evaluations can help the UN to become equipped and fit to support Member States as they move towards a post 2015 sustainable development agenda. It will discuss possible ways to tie and adjust the sustainability framework to this paradigm shift.</i></p> <p>Questions to be addressed by the panel and participants:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To what extent have UNEG and JIU initiated processes to assess the implications for evaluation / inspection of the new comprehensive concept of sustainable development? 2. What would be concrete internal steps to be taken by UNEG / JIU to make the UN evaluation system fit for purpose for sustainable development? 3. How could Member States help the UN evaluation system to innovate in this regard? <p>Chair/Moderator: Mr. Lucien Back</p> <p>Speakers: (3-5 min. each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNEG: Mr. Alan Fox, Evaluation adviser, UNDP Evaluation Office • JIU: Ms. Sukai Prom Jackson, JIU Inspector and Ms. Susanne Frueh, Executive Secretary JIU <p>Followed by interactive discussion</p>
Coffee-break	
15.45-17.30	<p>Closing session: Developing a road map for further action</p> <p><i>The last session will summarize the findings of the workshop and develop a set of recommendations for further action.</i></p> <p>Chair/Moderator: Mr. Thomas Gass, Assistant Secretary-General, DESA</p>