

QCPR IMPLEMENTATION STATUS UPDATE
**The Regional United Nations Development System: Leveraging regional cooperation,
expertise and policy advice**

HARNESSING THE REGIONAL ASSETS OF THE UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM TO ACHIEVE THE 2030 AGENDA

A strengthened United Nations response at the regional level is essential to maximize the impact of support for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In General Assembly resolution 72/279 on the repositioning of the UN development system, Member States reaffirmed the role and functions of the UN development system at the regional level and underlined “the need to continue to make them fit for purpose in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and to revamp the regional structures”. Guided by this objective, the Secretary-General, in his [2019 report](#) on the implementation of the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR), put forward five transformative areas to harness the regional assets of the UN development system in support of the 2030 Agenda. Reiterated and further refined, on a region by region basis and following extensive consultations with all UN regional Groups, these five transformative areas were proposed in the Secretary-General’s [2020 report](#) on the implementation of the QCPR:

- (i) Creation of United Nations regional collaborative platforms (RCPs) that would absorb existing duplicative coordination mechanisms and foster collaboration on sustainable development among United Nations development system (UNDS) entities operating at the regional level;
- (ii) Establishment of strong knowledge management hubs in each region by pooling policy expertise currently scattered across various entities;
- (iii) Enhanced transparency and results-based management at the regional level, including through annual reporting on United Nations system-wide results at the regional level in support of the 2030 Agenda;
- (iv) Launch of a region-by-region change management process to consolidate existing capacities with regard to data and statistics;
- (v) Identification of administrative services that could be provided more efficiently to regional offices through common back offices (e.g. human resources, procurement and common premises), similar to efforts that have been made at the country level.

In [ECOSOC resolution 2020/23](#) (July 2020) and [GA resolution 74/297](#) (August 2020), Member States welcomed the efforts of the Secretary-General in formulating the recommendations to harness the regional assets of the UN development system. General Assembly resolution 75/233 on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review ([2020 QCPR](#)) further requested “*the Secretary-General to continue regular follow-up, monitoring and reporting, on the work of regional assets of the United Nations development system in support of the 2030 Agenda with a view to enhancing transparency, accountability, efficiency, coordination and results-based management at the regional level in order to ensure that the longer-term reprofiling and restructuring of the regional assets of the United Nations are addressed on a region-by-region basis and in accordance with the region’s specific needs and priorities, as agreed in resolution 74/297 of 11 August 2020*” (OP 78).

THE REPOSITIONED REGIONAL ARCHITECTURE OF THE UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

All five regions have transitioned previous coordination mechanisms into the Regional Collaborative Platforms (RCPs), the main internal UN-wide collaboration platform for sustainable development at the regional level, effective 1 December 2020. RCPs are composed of the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Economic and Social Commissions, Regional Directors (or equivalent) of UN development system entities and the Regional Directors of the Development Coordination Office. The criteria for membership in UN country teams and the UN Sustainable Development Group also guides membership in the RCPs – all UNDS entities with significant regional development activities (in that region) are part of the RCP.

Each RCP is chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General with the Executive Secretary of the respective Regional Commission and the UNDP Regional Director as co-Vice-Chairs. The RCP is supported by a Joint Secretariat, composed of Regional Commission, UNDP and the Development Coordination Office (DCO) at the regional level. All RCPs have annual workplans and hold an annual meeting chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General, back-to-back with the Regional Forums on Sustainable Development.

The Regional Collaborative Platforms have not changed the mandates of the Regional Commissions nor those of UN entities at the regional level but provide a platform for inter-agency collaboration in support of the 2030 Agenda in line with regional priorities and specificities. The revised Management and Accountability Framework of the UN development and Resident Coordinator system, issued in 2021, includes a regional chapter setting out accountabilities and reporting lines at the regional level.

The RCP architecture includes issue-based coalitions (IBCs) and inter-agency groups to take forward transformative areas ii-v (see p. 1). The timebound, demand-driven IBCs bring together the existing expertise of the regional UNDS entities to advance work at the regional level on sub-regional and regional issues and to respond to the specific needs and priorities of countries under their purview. The IBCs vary according to the policy priorities and specificities in each region (please see annex I).

In line with transformative areas ii-v, knowledge management hubs have been launched in all regions¹ and reports on UN system-wide results at the regional level in support of the 2030 Agenda are published annually.

Efforts to consolidate existing data and statistics capacities have built on existing SDG Gateways in Asia-Pacific and LAC. In Europe and Central Asia, a Dashboard of SDG Indicators was launched in 2020. In Arab States, a SDG Gateway and Data Portal are part of the MANARA platform. The Africa UN Data for Development Gateway was launched in September 2021.

To take forward transformative area v, Regional Operations Management Teams (R-OMT) have been established in all regions and regional Business Operations Strategies (R-BOS) are signed-off and in place. R-OMTs are currently working on reporting how the regional collaborative arrangements can leverage efficiencies at the country level, as well as on new opportunities for regional services.

¹ Africa: <https://akmh.uneca.org> ; Asia and the Pacific: <https://knowledge.unasiapacific.org/>; Arab States: <https://manara.unescwa.org/home> ; Europe and Central Asia: <https://uneuropecentralasia.org/index.php/en/knowledge-and-expertise> ; LAC: <https://agenda2030lac.org/en>

RESULTS ACHIEVED AND REMAINING CHALLENGES

Since 2020 and as evidenced in the regional results reports, the RCPs have gradually demonstrated their potential in supporting and reinforcing an integrated response by UN country teams. Exchanges between the regional and country levels, as well as collaboration among platform members around collective priorities have become more systematic, and increasingly focused on ensuring regional assets are deployed in support of country teams. Recent examples include:

- The **RCP Africa** supported the design of essential food systems strategies in Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya and South Sudan, as well as the integration of food system acceleration in the Cooperation Frameworks of Madagascar, Malawi and Mozambique. In Uganda, the Platform supported the Uganda Bureau of Statistics in peer reviewing and improving indicators generated from the Uganda demographic and health survey, contributing to quality indicators for monitoring SDG progress in the health and socioeconomic sectors. In Mozambique, the RCP Africa deployed IBC expertise to advise the Government on carbon market and carbon credits swaps.
- The **RCP Arab States** initiated an inter-agency capacity-building programme for social protection, which engaged more than 300 participants. It also completed a comprehensive mapping of adaptation and mitigation strategies in Arab states, providing a baseline for current climate action at the regional and national levels to enable better analysis and planning.
- The **RCP Asia and the Pacific** established the Asia-Pacific Regional Networking Group of Food Systems, providing a coordinated platform for UN organizations to pool resources for food systems transformation. On education, it supported 32 countries in translating national commitments into actionable steps and refining action plans and implementation strategies for educational system transformation. On climate change, it upgraded the existing IBC to include energy transitions whilst a dedicated networking group on Oceans and the Blue Economy was created to ensure its relevance to SIDSs and Pacific countries. Earlier this year, the IBC on Digital Transformation was established in line with its importance as an SDG accelerator and its relevance to Asia-Pacific.
- The **RCP Europe and Central Asia** ensured coordinated support to countries participating in the Food Systems Stocktaking Moment in July 2023, including the preparation and submission of voluntary progress reports. To advance climate action in the region, the IBC Environment and Climate Change organised a workshop on integrating global environmental agendas into country level work of the UN system.
- In 2023, the **RCP Latin America and the Caribbean** received requests for support from 14 UN country teams across the region², including on climate change and resilience, equitable growth and financing for development, governance for peace, justice and strong institutions, and human mobility.

The RCP, through the IBCs and its working groups, have raised awareness, supported advocacy and built thought leadership through dialogues organised on a range of thematic priorities on SDG acceleration.

A detailed account of results achieved and remaining challenges can be found in the 2024 [SG's report on QCPR](#) or its [summary](#), the [UNSDG Chair's report on the Resident Coordinator system](#) and the annual reports on UN system-wide results at the regional level.

² Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, Peru, and Venezuela.

Annex I - Issue-based coalitions (as of September 2024)

Issue-based coalitions (and their co-conveners)		
<p>AFRICA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Strengthened Integrated Data and Statistical Systems for Sustainable Development</u> (ECA, UNFPA, UN Women) • <u>Ensuring effective and efficient macroeconomic management and accelerated inclusive, economic transformation and diversification</u> (ECA, UNCTAD, ITC, UNDP) • <u>Education, Innovation, Digitalization, and Youth</u> (UNDP, ILO, UNESCO, UNFPA, ITU, UN HABITAT, UN Women, WHO) • <u>Fostering Climate Action, Resilience and Food Systems</u> (FAO, UNDP, UNEP, ECA) • <u>Towards Peace, Security, Respect of Human Rights, and Forced Displacement</u> (OHCHR, UNODC, UNHCR, UNDP, UN Women) • <u>Sub-regional initiatives and strategies (cross-cutting)</u> 	<p>EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Adolescents and Youth</u> (UNFPA, UNICEF) • <u>Sustainable Food Systems</u> (FAO, WHO, UNICEF) • <u>Health and Well-Being</u> (WHO) • <u>Gender Equality</u> (UN Women, UNFPA) • <u>Environment and Climate Change</u> (UNEP, UNESCO, UNECE) • <u>Social Protection</u> (ILO, UNICEF, UNDP, WHO) • <u>Large Movements of Populations, Displacement and Resilience</u> (UNHCR, IOM, UNDP) 	<p>ARAB STATES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food systems (WFP, FAO) • Energy access and affordability (ESCWA, UNIDO) • Digital connectivity (ESCWA, ITU) • Education (UNESCO, UNICEF) • Jobs and social protection (UNICEF, ILO) • Climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution (UNDP, UNEP) • Macroeconomic growth (UNDP, ESCWA) • Gender equality (UN Women) • Recovery and reconstruction (UN Habitat, UNDP) • Data and AI tools – <u>Mustashar</u> (ESCWA)
	<p>LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Climate change and Resilience</u> (UNDRR, UNEP) • <u>Equitable Growth and Financing for Development</u> (ECLAC, ILO, UNDP) • <u>Governance for Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions</u> (UNDP, UNICEF, UNOPS) • <u>Human Mobility</u> (ECLAC, IOM, UNHCR) 	<p>ASIA-PACIFIC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising ambitions on climate action, air pollution and energy transitions (ESCAP, UNEP) • Building resilience and Early Warning for All (UNDP, UNDRR) • Promoting Human Rights, Gender Equality, Women's Empowerment and Disability Inclusion (OHCHR, UNFPA, UN Women) • Inclusive economic growth (UNDP, UNICEF) • Digital Transformation (ITU, ESCAP, UNESCO)