

BRIEFING FOR THE ADMINISTRATOR

Briefing Note: ECOSOC Operational Activities Segment 2025

Event: Dialogue with UNSDG Executive Heads: Supporting countries to achieve sustainable development in the current context

Venue: ECOSOC Chamber

Date: Wednesday, 21 May 2025, 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm, NY time

Objectives

- The dialogue explores concrete actions of UN development system entities working together to accelerate progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda in its three dimensions: economic, social, and environmental, with special attention to the needs of countries in special situations. Executive Heads will discuss measures they are taking, in line with the 2024 QCPR, to further adjust their business models and scale up joint work to advance impact and key transitions to deliver better country support, while increasing efficiencies, including through enhanced coordination.
- Discussions will touch on areas of work that exemplify the integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda, and how development system entities are adapting their development operations in the current context challenged by the impacts of global crises, fragility and conflict, as well as challenges to multilateralism. These discussions will be supported with examples of cross-cutting actions, such as how the UN development system is working together to advance efforts to address development challenges and scale up means of implementing the 2030 Agenda at an accelerated pace.

Note: · To keep the session engaging and allow sufficient time for Member States to speak from the floor, we kindly ask speakers to keep their opening remarks concise and no longer than 4 minutes for speakers and 3 minutes for panel discussants. Please also refrain from using PowerPoint presentations.

Remarks, UNDP Administrator

Dialogue with UNSDG Executive Heads: Supporting countries to achieve sustainable development in the current context

Draft Speech. 4 Mins Allocated / 500 words approx.

Chair, H. E. Ambassador **Krzysztof Szczerski**, Permanent Representative of Poland to the United Nations,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is a privilege to address you at this critical moment when **human development across the globe has stalled to a 35-year low.**

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) **is working as part of UN Country Teams and governments to help reverse this alarming trend.**

Our new Strategic Plan is being designed in full alignment with the QCPR mandates – weaving together integrated approaches across sustainable development, peace and human rights, humanitarian assistance, foresight, and anticipatory planning.

Our ‘SDG Push’ analyses exemplify UNDP’s integrator role by offering innovative, data-driven, and actionable insights tailored to specific national contexts, detailing how targeted investments in key areas can ‘push’ SDG progress.

In 2023, 95 countries generated these SDG Insights Reports: each reflecting the unique challenges and opportunities within a country.

Building on this momentum, we expanded our efforts with NDC x SDG Insights in 20 countries, revealing how equitable access to energy, green investments, and digital infrastructure can yield transformative benefits.

The findings are compelling: through the adoption of ambitious, yet feasible policies, an additional 60 million people could be lifted from poverty by 2030—and 175 million by 2050.¹

This work provides a roadmap for policymakers while fostering new collaboration among UN Country Teams.

Indeed, over the past six years, **UNDP has been instrumental in repositioning the UN development system.**

By leveraging our expertise, networks, and financial resources, we have enhanced collective impact and strengthened the UN's response to global challenges.

¹ <https://www.undp.org/publications/advancing-sdg-push-equitable-low-carbon-pathways>

Looking ahead, the urgency of **fulfilling the commitments of the Funding Compact** cannot be overstated.

Flexible and predictable resources are essential to providing programmatic support, especially as development increasingly unfolds in fragile, high-risk environments.

In 2024, **50% of UNDP's global expenditure was directed to fragile settings.**

Alongside the UN's critical humanitarian support during conflict and crisis, this is based on the recognition that development remains our global community's most powerful enabler of peace.

Integrated national financing frameworks (INFFs) are central to this overarching mission – assisting governments to mobilize and channel billions of dollars to the SDGs and ultimately foster peace and stability.

These INFFs are being utilized by 86 countries -- including 50 in crisis-affected contexts – an effort supported by UNDP, UNICEF, UNDESA and our many partners.

At the country-level, we are seeing tangible results of collaboration.

- **To take just one example, in the Sahel**, UNDP's collaboration with WFP and FAO has improved food security and livelihoods through climate-smart agriculture, early warning systems and social protection platforms -- highlighting the impact of pooled expertise and joint programming under the **Cooperation Framework**.²

Despite successes, structural disincentives to collaboration—such as siloed funding streams, limited predictability of resources, and capacity gaps in joint planning and implementation—remain obstacles.

Therefore, UNDP continues to advocate for, and contribute to pooled financing mechanisms, improved joint results reporting, and shared platforms for data and analytics.

Through the **Joint SDG Fund** and our partnerships via **Multi-Partner Trust Funds**, we are helping to operationalize more coherent approaches.

We also continue to invest in 'system-wide enablers', such as the **Business Operations Strategy** and **Common Back Offices**, to improve efficiency and collaboration on the ground.

Our collective experience affirms a simple truth: **development thrives on collaboration**, which represents a proven pathway towards a future of peace, resilience and prosperity for all.

Thank you.

END

² Other example: in Uzbekistan, UNDP, UNICEF, and WHO jointly supported the government in reforming its early childhood development strategy, leading to increased national budget allocations and new service delivery models reaching remote communities.