



**COOPERATION FRAMEWORK  
BETWEEN  
THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS  
AND  
THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), herein after collectively referred to as the "Regional Commissions" and the United Nations Development Programme, herein after referred to as "UNDP",
2. Recalling ECOSOC resolution 1998/46 and the 2005 Summit Outcome Document (A/RES/60/1);
3. Building on the agreement laid out in the Strategic Compact for collaboration between the Regional Commissions and UNDP that was signed on 7 July 2000, which this Cooperation Framework supersedes and replaces; and
4. Reaffirming their commitment to working together to enhance the impact of United Nations development activities in response to the needs of Member States through this Framework and in line with on-going United Nations reforms, the Regional Commissions and UNDP, herein after referred to as "the Parties", agree as follows:

**II. GENERAL PURPOSE OF COOPERATION**

5. The general purpose of the cooperation is to realize the complementarities that might be achieved through interaction between the Regional Commissions and UNDP. The Regional Commissions provide normative and analytical capacity in addition to expertise on trans-boundary and regional issues. UNDP has the mandate to implement programmes, drawing on its global and regional development knowledge and expertise. UNDP is also the main operational and coordination arm, through the resident coordinator system, of the United Nations at country level.
6. Taking this into account and given that the mandates of both the Regional Commissions and UNDP cover broad development sectors, the Regional Commissions and UNDP agree to work together to achieve overarching United Nations objectives in order to:
  - a) Promote sustainable human development and support Member States in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other internationally agreed development goals;
  - b) Promote coherence and achievement of synergies for a more effective United Nations response to the development priorities of national partners.

### III. FOCUS AND MODALITIES OF COOPERATION

7. The Regional Commissions and UNDP agree to collaborate, coordinate and complement each other in :
- (a) Assisting Member States in their efforts to implement and achieve the MDGs and other internationally agreed development goals;
  - (b) Sharing knowledge on policy development issues, programmes, and emerging priorities to support sustainable human development;
  - (c) Addressing issues that could benefit from regional or multi-country involvement; as well as issues that are trans-boundary in nature or that would benefit from collaborative inter-country approaches;
  - (d) Using the comparative strengths of each of the concerned Parties to promote organizational synergies at the global, regional, and, where relevant, at the national and local levels.
8. It is envisaged that the focus areas for joint priority collaboration may include the following, and any other area that may be eventually agreed upon to support the implementation of the Framework:
- I. United Nations Summits and international conferences  
Joint preparation for and follow-up at the regional level to United Nations Summits and international conferences, including joint monitoring, reporting and advocacy of MDGs and other internationally agreed development goals.
  - II. Regional coordination  
Support to regional coordination mechanisms with the aim of maximizing the complementarities of both the Regional Commissions and UNDP.
  - III. Knowledge management  
Knowledge sharing and management, including sharing of lessons learned, good practices and publications; collaboration on expert roster management and development; development of regional knowledge-sharing networks and management of regional pool of knowledge and linkages with global and in-country knowledge-sharing mechanisms.
  - IV. Regional and inter-regional technical cooperation  
Joint needs assessments, as well as design and implementation of key regional technical cooperation projects in areas of common interest, linking normative, analytical and operational work and where applicable, joint catalytic support to key South-South cooperation initiatives at the regional, sub-regional and country levels, as well as at the inter-regional level.
  - V. Human resources development  
Increased staff training and exchanges, including through secondments.
  - VI. Country-level planning processes  
In line with General Assembly resolution 59/250, facilitation by the United Nations resident coordinators of the involvement of the Regional Commissions, as non-

resident agencies, in analytical and planning exercises by United Nations country teams, including participation in the regional Peer Support Groups, and in CCA/UNDAF processes based on country context and national development priorities.

VII. Advisory Services at the country level

Where relevant and appropriate, close coordination of advisory services provided to governments, including joint missions, as appropriate, to achieve synergies and increase impact, including consultations before, during and after the advisory missions, and exchange of joint mission and other relevant reports.

VIII. Cooperation at regional and global levels

Joint products and initiatives within Executive Committee for Economic and Social Affairs (EC-ESA) clusters as appropriate; consultations within United Nations Development Group (UNDG) mechanisms, particularly on matters of regional dimension; preparation and support to joint events such as launching of joint publications; and support to global annual consultations at the Executive Heads' level.

#### IV. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND MODALITIES OF CONSULTATIONS

9. The Regional Commissions and UNDP recognize that effective collaboration depends upon open, comprehensive, and regular exchange of information at both the global and regional levels.
10. The Regional Commissions and UNDP agree to make appropriate arrangements at both the global and regional levels to inform each other of their strategic direction and substantive priorities.
11. The Regional Commissions and UNDP agree that each Regional Commission and the corresponding UNDP Regional Bureau should make suitable arrangements to facilitate the exchange of information within their respective regions. In doing so, they agree to optimize the use of existing collaboration mechanisms, and to that effect:
  - (a) As per the mandate given by ECOSOC resolution 1998/46, each Regional Commission will continue to organize annual inter-agency meetings aimed at improving coordination among all United Nations Offices, Specialized Agencies and Programmes in their respective regions. The Regional Coordination Meetings will cover topics of common interest, as appropriate. Each Regional Commission will consult with UNDP on the convening of those meetings, in which UNDP will actively participate at senior level.
  - (b) Each Regional Commission will participate as an observer in relevant segments of regional United Nations resident coordinators/UNDP resident representatives meetings, as agreed. UNDP, in its capacity as Chair of UNDG and in accordance with the agreed procedures of that Group, will facilitate Regional Commission contributions to UNDG regional structures, where such structures exist, to inform about regional trends and issues that may have bearing on the implementation of programmes and projects at the country level, as well as inform about country level processes, issues, needs and demands that might have influence on the regional and sub-regional development agendas.
  - (c) Each Regional Commission will inform United Nations resident coordinators/UNDP resident representatives regularly of its activities that

are being planned or implemented in the countries of its respective region. Likewise, UNDP's respective regional structures will also inform each Regional Commission on a regular basis of its activities that are being planned or implemented at the regional level.

12. The Regional Commissions and UNDP agree to hold annual consultations at the global and regional levels to review the planning, implementation, and outcomes of cooperation activities as well as discussing results, challenges, opportunities and problems. They further agree that the annual global consultations will be at the level of Executive Heads of both Parties.

#### VI. GENERAL PROVISIONS

13. The MOU of August 2003 between the UN (including Regional Commissions) and UNDP with regards to UNDP cost recovery for services at the programme country level will continue to be operative and will be governed by UNDP's relevant cost recovery policies.
14. The Regional Commissions and their corresponding UNDP Regional Bureaux may decide to develop bilateral agreements to govern their regionally specific cooperation. Such bilateral agreements should be developed in line with this Cooperation Framework. Where bilateral agreements already exist, they should, following the entry into force of this Cooperation Framework, be reviewed to ensure they are in line with the agreements contained herein.

#### VII. SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

15. Any controversy, claim or dispute arising from or in connection to this Cooperation Framework shall be settled through negotiation between the Executive Head of each concerned party. In the event that the Executive Heads of each Party fail to amicably resolve such controversy, claim or dispute, any Party may refer the controversy to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for final resolution.

#### VIII. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

16. The Regional Commissions and the UNDP agree that the focal points for overseeing the implementation of cooperation at the global level are to be:
  - (a) For the Regional Commissions: The Regional Commissions New York Office (with this office responsible for consulting with and keeping the Regional Commissions informed as required); and
  - (b) For UNDP: The Partnership Bureau (with this office responsible for consulting with and keeping the UNDP Regional Bureaux informed as required).
17. The Regional Commissions and UNDP agree that the focal points for regional level cooperation are to be:
  - (a) For the Regional Commissions (including their sub-regional offices and subsidiary organizations): Chiefs of the respective programme planning and management offices, in each Regional Commission; and
  - (b) For UNDP (including Country Offices and Regional Centres within the region): A senior Official designated by the Director of the respective Regional Bureau.

18. The responsibilities of the focal points at the global and regional levels may include the following and any other action they might deem appropriate, for the effective conduct of their role:

- a. The focal points for cooperation at the global level will be responsible for facilitating the implementation of all institutional aspects of this Framework and the identification of opportunities at the global level for such cooperation. Responsibilities and tasks will include establishing effective communication; promoting awareness concerning this Framework; and ensuring adequate representation of both Parties in all related normative policy and operational activities implemented in the context of this Framework. The focal points will also be responsible for initiating and managing a joint mid-term review in 2010 of the results and impact of cooperation between the two Parties initiated under this Framework after three years of implementation.
- b. The focal points at the regional level in each Regional Commission and corresponding UNDP Regional Bureaux will be responsible for ensuring that synergies are developed and maintained to optimize the complementarity and cost-effectiveness of the collaboration and support offered by the UNDP Regional Bureaux and the Regional Commissions to countries and regions.

19. The Regional Commissions and UNDP recognize that the involvement of both organizations in joint cooperation activities needs to be publicized. They agree that:

- (a) There will be public acknowledgment of the role and contribution of each organization to cooperation projects in all public information documentation related to such cooperation; and
- (b) The use of emblems of each organization in documentation related to cooperation will be in accordance with the Regulations, Rules, policies and procedures of each organization concerning such usage.

#### IX. TERMS AND REVIEW OF THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

20. The Regional Commissions and UNDP agree that:

- (a) The term of the Framework will be effective from the date of signature by both Parties for an initial period of five years;
- (b) A joint mid-term review will be carried out in 2010 with any necessary amendments to the Agreement being made at that time;
- (c) The Framework will continue to provide the umbrella for cooperation after the initial period unless otherwise amended by both Parties:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, duly appointed representatives of the Regional Commissions and UNDP, respectively, have on behalf of the Parties signed the present Cooperation Framework in six original copies in New York on 24 October, 2007

**For the Regional Commissions  
of the United Nations**

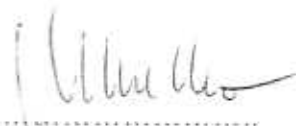
**For the United Nations  
Development Programme**



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