

REGIONAL UN SYSTEM MEETINGS FOR EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

11-12 May 2016 – ILO, Geneva

Note for Record and Conclusions

RCM segment (9:30-12:30)

Item 1: MDG-SDG TRANSITION REPORT

UNECE informed Regional Directors of the status of preparations of the MDG-SDG transition report. Following the decision in December 2015 to prepare a short and forward-looking report on the transition from MDGs to SDGs in the region, a draft outline had been shared, an inter-agency drafting team established and a consultant hired to produce the final report. Based on contributions received from the drafting team and a first draft of the forward-looking sections, Regional Directors discussed the current status of the transition report and the next steps towards its finalization.

Key points that were emphasized in the discussion were:

- The report will be most useful if it is short and forward-looking.
- The report will benefit from an aspirational approach, focused on fighting exclusion, on the structural changes that societies are facing, and the UN of tomorrow with its universal mandate.
- Adding more substantive context on a number of issues will be useful.

DECISIONS AND AGREED FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS:

- Insert small thematic boxes to highlight specific issues, e.g. on the Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6); issue-based coalitions; or work on AIDS as an example of the UN delivering as one.
- More emphasis should be put on rights, universality, health/AIDS and population, interlinkages between different subjects, and the importance of actual implementation and the capacities for it.
- Add more explanation to the transition mapping in Table 1.
- The final messages of the report should be aligned with the paper on joint positioning by the regional UN system.
- Politically sensitive issues (such as migration) should be more carefully phrased.
- The data used in the report should be sound, consistent and with clear sources, and data should cover all countries as appropriate.
- Civil society/NGOs should be given the opportunity to comment on the report and provide their views in a continuing dialogue. Special attention will be given to involve networks of the most excluded groups of civil society (minorities, Roma, children with disabilities).
- The report will be printed by UNFPA and initially launched in New York during the HLPF around mid-July.

Item 2: UN REGIONAL THEMATIC GROUP ON NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

WHO presented an analysis of 15 UNDAFs in the region and their approach to address NCDs and their social, economic and environmental determinants as set out in the Health 2020 policy framework. Following this analysis, the Regional Thematic Group is ready to widen its scope towards a broader, issue-based coalition covering all health-related aspects of the SDGs. Hence, WHO presented draft ToRs of a **European Regional Issue-based Coalition on Health**, which would act as a Pan-European enabling mechanism to facilitate and promote the implementation of SDG 3 on health and well-being and all health-related targets through coordinating the activities of the relevant UN entities and other partners. In particular, the coalition would reach out to other partners such as the OECD, EU, the Global Fund, GAVI, and civil society and the private sector to explore ways of collaboration and joint action.

The coalition would be led and attended by Regional Directors, who will be supported by an alternate. The co-chairs of the issue-based coalition would be WHO/EURO and another UN agency that will be determined on an annual and rotational basis. The coalition would meet quarterly through face-to-face and virtual meetings. Initially, the coalition would carry out a first mapping of existing norms, policies and standards within the UN agencies that are supporting the implementation of the health-related targets and identify gaps.

In the discussion, Regional Directors stressed a number of points:

- The issue-based coalition was welcomed as a very useful means of cross-sectoral cooperation on health.
- A number of agencies expressed their readiness to participate in the coalition. However, it may not be possible for Regional Directors to attend quarterly meetings.
- Some Regional Directors cautioned that the resources that can be dedicated to joint positioning and advocacy by the coalition are very limited.

DECISIONS AND AGREED FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS:

- The analysis of UNDAFs will be shared with Resident Coordinators and UNCTs.
- Comments on the draft ToRs will be sent to WHO by Friday, 27 May.
- Existing activities, such as the European Environment and Health Process, should be used to support the coalition.
- WHO will revisit and streamline the draft ToRs towards a lighter structure.
- As a general point on all regional issue-based coalitions that exist or are being created (health, gender, youth development, social protection), they will be placed in the joint RCM/R-UNDG segment in future meetings to arrive at a more coherent architecture.

Item 3: UN SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR THE ECONOMIES OF CENTRAL ASIA (SPECA)

The SPECA member countries see a strong potential to use SPECA for SDG implementation and follow-up at the subregional level, as expressed at the last SPECA meetings in Dushanbe in November 2015. To fully use this potential, the engagement of all partners, particularly the UN agencies at the regional, sub-regional and

national levels, is needed. In practical terms, the main infrastructure to exchange information and cooperate will be the six SPECA Thematic Working Groups (converted in 2016 from the former narrower Project Working Groups). Relevant UN agencies will be invited to the 2016 meetings of these Thematic Working Groups. The next SPECA Governing Council will take place in Azerbaijan in November 2016. In addition, an [extra-budgetary project](#) to strengthen capacities of SPECA countries for implementing the SDGs, funded by the Russian Federation, has just been approved by the UNECE Executive Committee.

In the discussion, Regional Directors agreed that currently there is a window of opportunity to strengthen subregional cooperation in Central Asia, which should be seized.

DECISIONS AND AGREED FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS:

- Inter-agency cooperation will be enhanced on cross-cutting issues such as environment, gender or migrant workers, including within SPECA and in line with the existing UNDAF process in the subregion.

Item 4: OTHER BUSINESS

- *Batumi Ministerial Conference 'Environment for Europe' (8-10 June 2016)*: So far, around 800 participants have registered for the Conference, including around 40 at Ministerial or high level. Several concrete outcomes are expected, including the **Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E)**, which comprises voluntary commitments by interested countries and public and private organizations. Similarly, the **Batumi Action for Cleaner Air (BACA)** will serve as an instrument to improve air quality. The Conference will culminate in the **Batumi Ministerial Declaration**. **Regional Directors noted that inter-agency cooperation, in particular between UNECE, UNEP and WHO, has been instrumental in preparing the Conference.**
- *Health and migration*: WHO is preparing a **European strategy and action plan** on health and migration, and in this context organized a **consultation with UN agencies and other international organizations** in April in Copenhagen. One outcome was to have an informal platform to exchange information and coordinate activities. The outcome document of an earlier high-level meeting on refugee and migrant health, "[Stepping up action on refugee and migrant health](#)", was also referred to. **Regional Directors noted that the issue of refugee and migrant health calls for inter-agency cooperation that needs to bring together humanitarian work as well as longer-term building of health systems.**
- *Next RCM meeting*: **The next RCM/R-UNDG meetings will be held on 5 and 6 December 2016 in Vienna, jointly hosted by IAEA and UNIDO.** The meetings in spring 2017 are envisaged to be held in Venice, hosted by UNESCO.

Joint RCM/R-UNDG Segment (13:45-18:00)

Item 1: REGIONAL FORUM FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

UNECE presented the key outcomes of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development that took place on 10 May 2016 in Geneva:

1. The Forum focused on two areas: (1) first steps of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with member States and regional UN agencies sharing their experience of putting the Agenda 2030 into operation, and (2) exchange of views on possible elements of a future regional review mechanism for the 2030 Agenda.
2. The Forum presented an opportunity to discuss the results of the [survey](#) among UNECE's 56 member States conducted by UNECE and the Regional UN Development Group for Europe and Central Asia.
3. The Forum was complemented by a separate pre-meeting of civil society representatives from the region (participation of some of them was supported by the R-UNDG budget) with the moderator of the Forum and interested government delegations.
4. The outcomes of the Regional Forum will contribute to the High-level Political Forum to be held in New York in July 2016. A draft resolution on the [follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda](#) at the global level was circulated by the President of the UN General Assembly. The resolution identifies the "themes" for the 2017, 2018, 2019 HLPFs. According to the draft resolution, the HLPF will discuss a set of goals at each session representing the three dimensions of sustainable development, with a view to facilitating an in-depth review on progress of all goals over the course of a four-year cycle, with the goal 17 discussed annually.
5. A decision on the regional review mechanism will be taken at the UNECE Commission session in April 2017.

The following comments were made by Regional Directors in the discussion that followed the presentation:

- Regional Directors, including the Chair of the Regional UNDG, congratulated UNECE with the success of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development.
- The importance given by member States on the steps taken to roll out SDG implementation domestically, and the repeated calls for UN support to that process was noted as providing huge opportunities to strengthen UN engagement in the region.
- Member States appreciated the joint UN positioning and "unitedness" of the UN system at the regional level. With almost 20 UN entities attending, the regional UN system was well represented at the Forum.
- Member States are at the stage of nationalizing and localizing the SDGs and are working on defining/revising their national review architectures; a link between the national and regional review mechanisms will be important. Similarly, a link to the global architecture, which is becoming clear with the start of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, is to be ensured.
- Review mechanisms should be based on the existing reporting mechanisms under relevant processes, conventions and legally binding agreements. A suggestion was made that the review should not be a rigid and formal process. An emphasis should be placed on "peer learning" as

expressed by the member States during the Forum. UNCTs could support horizontal exchange of good practices. Regional reviews should also add value to the activities at the national and global levels.

- The UN should foster more civil society participation in the roll-out, assessment and reporting on SDGs.
- A suggestion of regularizing the Regional Survey (every 2-3 years) as a stock-taking exercise was made.
- The UN could play a role in using existing databases to conduct specific analyses of trends of progress in equity and inclusion for the most vulnerable in achieving the SDGs.
- Engagement of other regional organizations and bodies (OECD and others) could be explored.
- Despite the “integratedness” and cross-sectoral character of the SDGs, the national structures are still organized around “sectors”. This should be taken into account when working on the regional review mechanism.

DECISIONS AND AGREED FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS:

- **A summary of the outcomes of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development will be shared by UNECE once finalized.**
- **The status of regional follow-up and review will be discussed at the next meetings, including in light of the HLPF outcomes.**

Item 2: JOINT ADVOCACY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 2030

Briefing on political work in the region

The session started with a presentation by a guest speaker – Miroslav Jenča, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, who provided a brief overview of the regional challenges and threats (large movements of people, growing threat of terrorism and extremism, etc.), and analysis of the key regional players, as well as the role of the UN system in providing support to Member States in Europe and Central Asia. The ASG for Political Affairs expressed the opinion that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development can unite the UN and Member States in their preventive action to ensure peace and security in the region.

Outreach to governments

The session proceeded with a presentation by UNECE of the working luncheon of the UN agencies with mandates for advanced countries held on 23 March 2016 in Geneva. The working luncheon participants included: UNECE, WHO, UNHCR, OHCHR, UNEP, UNFPA, and UNICEF. The luncheon participants agreed on the need to raise awareness of and advocate for the 2030 Agenda in non-programme countries with the aim to develop an engagement strategy with the European institutions (EC, European Council, and European Parliament) and with the EU member states.

Update of regional advocacy paper

The third sub-session discussed options for updating the 2013 Regional Advocacy Paper. A Concept Note was shared with the participants before the meeting. Key discussion points included:

- Issue-based coalitions should take the lead on updating and further developing relevant issue briefs.
- Agencies that led preparation of the issue briefs in the initial Regional Advocacy Paper will work on/update those issue briefs that are not tackled by issue-based coalitions.
- Information on non-programme countries will also be included by the UN entities leading on respective issue briefs, as relevant.
- Updated issue briefs as part of the Advocacy Paper may be presented at a side event in September 2016.

DECISIONS AND AGREED FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS:

- **UN Offices in Brussels will be involved in developing the joint engagement strategy on SDGs with EU Member States.**
- **Explore the organization of a joint meeting of Regional Directors with EC Vice-President Timmermans and other senior officials.**
- **Issue-based coalitions will work on updating respective issue briefs for the Regional Advocacy Paper.**
- **Updated issue briefs as part of the Regional Advocacy Paper may be presented jointly during a side event in September 2016.**

Item 3: COOPERATION ON DATA AND INDICATORS FOR THE 2030 AGENDA

The session started with a [presentation](#) by the UNECE Statistical Division, who presented the results of the session of the [Conference of European Statisticians](#) that took place on 27-29 April 2016 in Paris, France. The CES discussed a draft Road Map on statistics for SDGs that consists of 5 substantive parts: assessing readiness to report on SDG indicators; selecting regional indicators; reporting on SDG indicators; capacity-building; and communication and dissemination. The final Road Map will be presented to the CES at the next session in Geneva in June 2017. In addition, statistical work at UNECE covers the modernization of statistical production.

UNDP presented the results of the regional roundtable discussion on “2030 Agenda: Moving Forward in Mainstreaming, Implementation, Monitoring and Reporting of the SDGs”:

- The workshop brought together key national decision makers on the SDGs, data providers, and UNDP officers from the six countries—Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Montenegro, Turkey, Turkmenistan, as well as regional offices of UNDP, UNFPA, and UN WOMEN.
- The main objective of the workshop was to identify strategic opportunities and guidance that would help facilitate SDG planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting for all countries in the region.

The discussion that followed included the following key points:

- SDG monitoring will require strengthened statistical cooperation between UN entities and other partners

- The final matrix of indicators under the indicator framework reveals a number of challenges and gaps that need additional capacity development and greater coherence between the UN agencies;
- There is a need for disaggregated data and better sources of data. UN Women is developing an initiative on supporting better production of gender statistics, which envisages work with all UN agencies: the initiative will be piloted in the ECA region.
- UN staff at the technical level (statisticians specifically) should look at possibilities of aligning the current data collection and monitoring systems of different agencies.
- WHO Health 2020 covers almost all of the currently suggested health indicators and will be used for monitoring. UNICEF's Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) will cover at least half of household level SDG indicators.
- The UNECE Regional Advisor for Statistics will be visiting countries in the region to identify the capacity building needs for statistics to help establish some data production systems.
- UN agencies such as UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA are already engaged in strengthening national statistical capacity building in ECA.

DECISIONS AND AGREED FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS:

- **Statisticians/respective technical staff from UN agencies will reach out to UNECE to join/get involved in the work on strengthening national statistical capacities and share work already ongoing in this area.**
- **UNECE and statisticians/respective technical staff from UN agencies will exchange information on available statistical systems and mechanisms within UN entities to ensure better sharing of data within the regional UN system.**
- **Plenary sessions of the meeting of the Conference of European Statisticians in 2017 will be open to the participation of agencies' technical/statistical staff. UNECE will continue updating UN entities on the results, plans and priorities in this area.**

Item 4: UPDATE FROM REGIONAL WORKING GROUP ON GENDER

The R-UNDG Chair opened the session with a brief overview of the Results Groups as coordination mechanism for the country level work. At the previous regional UN system's meetings in December 2015, it was suggested to consider transforming regional working groups into issue-based coalitions to reflect the need to work with a wider range of partners. It was, therefore, suggested that the results achieved by the newly transformed issue-based coalitions will be reviewed in the joint segment of the future meetings. Regional Working Groups will review their Terms of Reference and will share them with the R-UNDG and the RCM.

UN Women and UNFPA, the co-chairs of the ECA Regional Working Group on Gender (RWGG), covered the following topics in their [joint presentation](#) to the Regional Directors:

- Results under the 3 priorities of the 2016 RWGG Work Plan.
- RWGG with its diverse membership has been reviewing a transformation to an issue-based coalition. Presentation of this vision is to be made during the following R-UNDG meeting.

Key points of the discussion include:

- 2015 Performance Appraisal of UN Resident Coordinators used the feedback provided by the RWGG.
- UNEP expressed intention to join the work of the RWGG: the new UNEP Gender Expert was nominated.
- UNECE informed of the “[International Geneva Gender Champions](#)” campaign in various UN entities and encouraged everyone to join.
- UNDP will continue to actively support the RWGG.
- WHO informed about their work on the men’s health strategy.

DECISIONS AND AGREED FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS:

- **UNEP is welcome as a new member of the RWGG.**
- **Newly transformed issue-based coalitions will review their Terms of Reference, which will be shared with all Regional Directors for comments.**
- **Reporting on the results achieved by the issue-based coalitions from the next meeting onwards will be done during the joint segment of the R-UNDG/RCM meetings.**

ECA R-UNDG Team Meeting – 12 May (9:00-17:30)

The R-UNDG Team meeting was opened by the R-UNDG Chair, Cihan Sultanoglu with the introduction of the agenda and points for discussion. R-UNDG Chair welcomed new members of the R-UNDG Team: UNFPA Regional Director Alanna Armitage, UN Habitat Chief of the Office for Europe and European Institutions Paulius Kulikauskas, and UNIDO Chief of Europe and Central Asia Division Jacek Cukrowski.

Item 1: BUILDING SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOORS AND SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEMS

ILO, on behalf of UNICEF, and UNDP, presented an update on the work of the Working Group on Social Protection. The [presentation](#) provided an overview of the results achieved by national and regional focal points, outline of the country activities in Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, and Ukraine, future steps, and lessons learned.

The discussion that followed included the following points:

- Common understanding and clarification of definitions of social protection is an important task of the WG which will lead to more effective work at country level.
- The Group could explore a possibility of joint programmatic activities in one or two countries. Resources will be needed for these interventions.
- Connection to the discussion on data and statistics was made: disaggregated data is particularly important for the work on social protection for different groups of population.
- There is a need to make a strong link between the work of the Working Group on Social Protection and other issue-based coalitions (IBC), in particular the one of non-communicable diseases and social, economic and environmental determinants of health.
- WFP expressed intention to join the Working Group and participate in the meeting of the Working Groups on 30 May. UNFPA is interested in joining the WG at the regional level, while national staff of UNFPA already contribute to the work of the group. UN Women would also like to be involved and interested in joining the working group.

DECISIONS AND AGREED FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS:

- **The Working Group on Social Protection is transformed into an Issue-Based Coalition (IBC) on Social Protection, with the revised TORs to be shared for approval.**
- **WFP, UNFPA and UN Women are full members of the Issue-Based Coalition on Social Protection.**
- **Links will be ensured between the IBC on Social Protection and the IBC on non-communicable diseases and social, economic and environmental determinants of health and other IBCs, when and if necessary.**
- **All human resource components for the functioning of the IBCs should be absorbed by the engaged UN entities.**
- **Joint UN Position Paper on Social Protection in Europe and Central Asia that is under discussion will showcase in-country collaboration and will be published by September 2017.**

Item 2: REGIONAL RESPONSE TO REFUGEE/MIGRATION ISSUES

UNHCR presented a situation update on the current large movements of migrants and refugees in Europe along the Eastern Mediterranean and Western Balkans route. The presentation focused on:

- Development of the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RRMRP) for Europe developed by UNHCR together with a wide range of partners and stakeholders.
- Discussion with IOM, UNICEF and other partners on the revision of the RRMRP were undertaken to reflect the shifts in the numbers of migrants and refugees, as well as to reflect the latest political consultations and decisions among the EU member states, border closures and other important political and humanitarian dimensions of the crisis.
- The RRMRP is also used as a resource mobilization tool to cover the financial requirements that are on the rise for many host and transit countries.
- There is a strong cooperation with the UN Resident Coordinators in programme countries and a link to UNDAF work is made whenever feasible.

UNDP presented the results of its work with host communities in Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Turkey.

During the discussion, R-UNDG Team members highlighted the following key points:

- There is a constant increase in the number of children (including unaccompanied minors) among migrants and refugees, which requires additional dimensions to be introduced to the UN support (education, vaccination, nutrition, child protection).
- Rights-based approach to work should be exercised to advocate for employment of refugees and migrants with a need to ensure opportunities to join workforces for those who stay in camps as well as for those who are on the move. Understanding and matching the skills of refugees and migrants with the needs of the labour market needs is important.
- Support to women on the move is an important element of the response, whereas authorities and local bodies often lack knowledge, experience and capacities to deal with women refugees.
- There is a need for a stronger advocacy on temporary housing in urban settings for refugees instead of camps, with a view of the temporary systems becoming more permanent.
- Preliminary strategy of working on environmental issues that result out of the current massive movements of refugees is under discussion and preparation by UNEP and partners.
- Access to health services remains a high priority.
- Joint advocacy strategy with key messages from the regional UN systems is needed to ensure coherence in communication and work with the authorities, partners and donors.
- UN agencies at the regional level are committed to joint work and cooperation under an issue-based coalition on large movements of people, displacement and resilience.
- There is a growing need for inter-regional work inside the UN system (greater cooperation with the UN Regional Teams in Africa and Arab States).
- A representative of IOM may join the next R-UNDG Team meeting.

DECISIONS AND AGREED FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS:

- Revised RRMRP will be shared with R-UNDG Team by UNHCR when finalized;
- A virtual connection with the R-UNDG Chair and/or representatives in Arab States during the next ECA R-UNDG Team meeting will be organized for a joint discussion of the challenges, needs and priorities of the UN response to the current crisis.
- Issue-based coalition on large movements of people, displacement and resilience is created: UNDP has volunteered to co-chair the issue-based coalition; UNHCR will explore the feasibility of co-chairing the IBC.

Item 3: COUNTRY SUPPORT ON SDGs IMPLEMENTATION

R-UNDG Chair informed that following the Joint SDG Retreat in December 2015 and development of the Joint UN Positioning Paper, discussions among R-UNDG Team has shaped into a proposition not to pursue the idea of the Programme Advisory Group any longer. Activities envisaged under the “Implementing 2030 Agenda” component of the Joint Positioning Paper will be re-distributed between the issue-based coalitions. UN Women and UNFPA as co-leads of the Programme Advisory Group will facilitate the preparation of a regionally-tailored guidance for UNCTs on SDGs. Financial support for respective consultancy will be provided by the R-UNDG budget.

Peer Support Group (PSG), in addition to providing support to UNDAF development, will continue providing support in UNDAF implementation (with a focus on SDG integration in UNDAFs). Terms of Reference for the PSG can be accessed [here](#).

DECISIONS AND AGREED FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS:

- The Programme Advisory Group is dissolved.
- Issue-based coalitions will implement relevant activities under the “Implementing 2030 Agenda” component of the Joint UN Positioning Paper.
- Issue-based coalitions will work with the UN entities to develop a regionally-tailored guidance for UNCTs on the SDGs. A retreat will be organized in September with agencies’ focal points on SDGs. Financial support for respective consultancy will be provided by the R-UNDG budget.

Item 4: UPDATE ON THE JOINT BOARDS’ MISSION TO KYRGYZSTAN

The UN Resident Coordinator and the UN Country Team from the Kyrgyz Republic provided an overview of the joint field visit of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN WOMEN and WFP to Kyrgyzstan on 2-7 May 2016. The major points presented include:

- In the final debriefing on the joint field mission, Executive Boards’ members expressed a positive assessment of the coherent work of the UN Country Team with strong synergies and strategic partnerships with national government, local authorities and other partners.

- The final report of the joint field visit will be finalized and presented in September 2016. Preliminary recommendations were made regarding monitoring and evaluation, visibility, and partnerships.
- Members of the Executive Boards appreciated the work of the UN with the high risk groups and vulnerable groups of population.
- The government demonstrated strong commitment to hosting the joint field visit with some of the ministers accompanying Executive Boards members in field trips and meetings.

Following the presentation, the R-UNDG members congratulated the UN Country Team with a successful mission. UNCT responded to the questions regarding the role of the non-resident agencies in preparation to the joint field visit; feedback and advice for future joint visits, etc.

DECISIONS AND AGREED FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS:

- **The final report of the joint field visit of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN WOMEN and WFP to Kyrgyzstan will be shared with the R-UNDG Team once available.**

Item 5: APPROVAL OF TORS FOR ISSUE-BASED COALITIONS

UNFPA and UNW as leading agencies of the Regional Working Group on Gender (RWGG) [presented](#) their vision of the transformation of the RWGG into the Issue-Based Coalition on Gender:

- TOR of RWGG fully fits the purpose of an issue-based coalition
- Concrete activity suggested for 2016 is the development of a Regional Guidance Note (Issue-based Policy Brief) on SDGs and Gender, which should be cross-referenced and linked to the to-be-developed regionally-tailored guidance on the SDGs;

UNFPA also presented the vision of the Partnership for Youth Network:

- The motto has been changed to “No Youth Left Behind.”
- In addition to the UN agencies, the IBC on Youth will be open to other organizations and entities.
- More emphasis will be put on health, education, employment and youth participation as key focus areas with inequalities being a primary focus.
- Youth participation will become a fundamental approach of the IBC on Youth.
- Mapping of the organizations and entities that could become potential participants of the IBC on Youth will be prepared; a regional dialogue on “leaving no one behind” will be initiated; priorities within the four areas mentioned above will be defined.

During the discussion, the R-UNDG Team unequivocally supported the suggested visions and plans of action to develop issue-based coalitions building on the work of the current RWGG and Partnership for Youth Network.

DECISIONS AND AGREED FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS:

- **Issue-based coalitions on Gender and Youth were established.**
- **If necessary, RWGG and Partnership for Youth Network will discuss and revise their Terms of Reference to reflect the transformation into issue-based coalitions.**

- **Final Terms of Reference will be shared among R-UNDG Team for approval.**

Item 6: UPDATE ON UNDAF ROLL-OUT

UNDP and UNAIDS as PSG Co-Chairs [presented](#) an overview on the work of the Peer Support Group with 2016 UNDAF roll-out countries: Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, and Ukraine. Presentation also included an update on the 2014 UNDAF roll-out countries, where 9 out of 11+1 UNDAFs are signed.

The UNDAF Legal Annex, the signature of which has seen some difficulties in the ECA region, will be discussed by PSG member during the DOCO Training for PSGs and Regional Coordination Specialists on the new UNDAF Guidance on 20-23 June 2016.

Schedule of UNDAF roll-out for 2018 was presented (no UNDAF roll-out in 2017). There is a need for a new Co-Chair for PSG for 2018.

DECISIONS AND AGREED FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS:

- **UNDP and UNAIDS will remain PSG Co-Chairs for 2017 in view of no UNDAF roll-outs in 2017.**
- **UNAIDS will remain PSG Co-Chair for 2018 to ensure that institutional knowledge is embedded in PSG work. Another PSG Co-Chair will be identified in the R-UNDG meeting in December 2016.**

Item 7: ECOSOC DIALOGUES – KEY ASPECTS OF ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS

Director of UN DOCO Kanni Wignaraja joined the R-UNDG Team on video-teleconference and provided an overview of current debates and negotiations on the future of the UN development system. The following points were highlighted:

- There is a wide breadth of positions and views with regard to the future of the UN system with some Member States in favour of a more centralized system, while other Member States see the current structure appropriate and relevant with a need for better coordination and improvements of the protocols of joint work.
- Member States are requesting greater cooperation among UN agencies. In this respect, additional work is needed in middle income countries (the latest 15 countries that started Delivering as One are middle income countries).
- Universality of the agenda calls for categorization of countries with more composite indicators for defining country typologies. Discussion evolves around other indicators in addition to GDP that are needed for measuring sustainable development.
- Voluntary reporting during the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July 2016 will be presented by 23 countries. Available global mechanisms that could be used for reporting are under discussion.
- With regard to financing modalities, only several agencies and entities have legal frameworks for working on a non-grant basis. Blended set of funding instruments are needed.
- Member States are also taking up regional issues in addition to global and national levels. There is a greater need for stronger cooperation between Regional Economic Commissions and Regional

UNDG Teams. ECA model of cooperation between the R-UNDG and the RCM is particularly important for other regions to learn from.

During the discussion that followed the following points were raised:

- To ensure stronger coordination within the UN system, it is important to break internal silos. Current RCM and R-UNDG coordination in the ECA region has proven to be effective with a good complementarity of the normative role of UNECE with other levels of work covered by the R-UNDG Team and UN agencies.
- The role of the UN vis-à-vis development banks and investment facilities with a threat of the UN system being pushed into a narrower niche of stabilization and humanitarian work.
- Generation of resource in ECA region will be based on new modalities that are to be found. Cooperation with the private sector should be explored.
- Stronger promotion of the UN and its role in SDG implementation is needed.
- None of the UN agencies can move implementation of the 2030 Agenda alone, more commitment to cooperation not competition is needed.

DECISIONS AND AGREED FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS:

- **Following the suggestion of the R-UNDG Chair, a joint meeting between all Regional Economic Commissions and Regional UNDG Teams will be organized on the margins of the HLPF in July by UN DOCO.**

Item 8: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

UN HABITAT presented an update on the preparation to Habitat III, the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development to take place in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 – 20 October 2016. Zero Draft of the Outcome document was shared on 6 May. On 16-18 May, hearings with the local communities will take place, while the third session of the Preparatory Committee will be held in Surabaya, Indonesia, on 25-27 July 2016. Issue papers were prepared and comments from the Member States received. Detailed information can be found on Habitat III official web-site (<https://www.habitat3.org/>).

AGREEMENT ON THE NEXT STEPS & CLOSING REMARKS

The next meeting will be hosted by IAEA and UNIDO in Vienna in the first week of December (dates of 5-6 December are tentatively reserved). The dates will be confirmed by the hosting agencies. The first meeting in 2017 will be hosted by UNESCO in Venice.

AGENDA

11 MAY 2016

REGIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISM (RCM)

Time	Item	Background
09:00-09:30	Welcoming Coffee	
09:30-09:45	WELCOMING REMARKS <i>Mr. Christian Friis Bach, UNECE Executive Secretary and Chair RCM</i> <i>Mr. Guy Ryder, ILO Director-General</i>	
	GROUP PHOTO	
09:45-10:45	Item 1: MDG-SDG TRANSITION REPORT - Update on status of preparation of the report - Next steps for finalization of the report - Organization of launch event during the meeting of the HLPF	Key elements of transition report and contributions received
10:45-11:30	Item 2: UN REGIONAL THEMATIC GROUP ON NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH - Update on the work of the group - Revision of mandate towards an issue-based coalition	To be added here
11:30-12:00	Item 3: UN SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR THE ECONOMIES OF CENTRAL ASIA (SPECA) - Update on recent developments	Background note on SPECA
12:00-12:30	Item 4: OTHER BUSINESS - Batumi Ministerial Conference 'Environment for Europe' (UNECE, UNEP) - Health and Migration (WHO) - Next meeting	
12:30-13:45	Lunch Break	

JOINT SEGMENT RCM AND R-UNDG

13:45-14:30	Item 1: REGIONAL FORUM FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT - Debriefing and next steps (UNECE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provisional Agenda of the 2016 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development • Summary of replies to Regional SDG Survey • Responses Regional SDG Survey • Civil society position paper
14:30-15:45	Item 2: JOINT ADVOCACY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 2030 - Briefing on political work in the region by ASG Miroslav Jenca, DPA - Outreach to governments, including non-programme countries - Update of regional advocacy paper "Building More Inclusive, Sustainable and Prosperous Societies in Europe and Central Asia: A Common United Nations Vision for the Post-2015 Development Agenda"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2013 regional advocacy paper "Building More Inclusive, Sustainable and Prosperous Societies in Europe and Central Asia: A Common United Nations Vision for the Post-2015 Development Agenda" • Update of the regional advocacy paper. Concept Note
15:45-16:00	Coffee Break	
16:00-17:30	Item 3: Cooperation on Data and Indicators for the 2030 Agenda - Debriefing from the Conference of European Statisticians (UNECE) - Debriefing from the regional roundtable on "2030 Agenda: Moving Forward in Mainstreaming, Implementation, Monitoring and Reporting of the SDGs", 25-27 April 2016, Istanbul (UNDP) - Discussion of next steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CES Roadmap and Decision on SDG Statistics • Concept Note. Regional roundtable discussion on "2030 Agenda: Moving Forward in Mainstreaming, Implementation, Monitoring and Reporting of the SDGs"

17:30-18:00	Item 4: Update from Regional Working Group on Gender - Ingbjorg Gisladdottir, Regional Director UN-Women, and Alanna Armitage, Regional Director UNFPA	ECA Regional Working Group on Gender – 2016 AWP with update
18:00-	Reception hosted by ILO	
12 MAY 2016		
REGIONAL UNDG TEAM (R-UNDG)		
09:00-09:30	Welcoming Coffee	
09:30-09:40	WELCOMING REMARKS <i>Ms. Cihan Sultanoglu, Chair of the R-UNDG Team</i>	
09:40-10:30	Item 1: BUILDING SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOORS AND SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEMS - Thematic Working Group on Social Protection led by ILO and UNICEF - Issue-based coalition on social protection	To be added
10:30-11:30	Item 2: REGIONAL RESPONSE TO REFUGEE/MIGRATION ISSUES - Situation update: briefing on Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan for Europe by UNHCR; resilience building through host communities by UNDP - Update on Human Rights up Front/Regional Quarterly Review (R-UNDG Chair) - Issue-Based Coalition (R-UNDG Chair)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNDP Response to Migration and Displacement • UNDP Response in Turkey Results Sheet • UNDP Response in Serbia • UNDP Response in Macedonia - DRAFT TO BE FINALIZED • UNDP Fast Facts - Migration Crisis
11:30-11:45	Coffee Break	
11:45-12:30	Item 3: COUNTRY SUPPORT ON SDGs IMPLEMENTATION - Implementation of follow-up actions agreed in the Joint SDG Retreat of December 2015 (UNFPA and UN-Women) - Ongoing agency-specific support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint UN Positioning Paper • Implementation Actions for Joint UN Positioning Paper
12:30-13:30	Lunch Break	
13:30-14:30	Item 4: UPDATE ON THE JOINT BOARDS' MISSION TO KYRGYZSTAN <i>UN RC and UNCT in Kyrgyzstan</i>	Briefing Package for EB Mission to Kyrgyz Republic - 28 April 2016
14:30-15:15	Item 5: APPROVAL OF TORs FOR ISSUE-BASED COALITIONS - Gender (UN-WOMEN and UNFPA) - Youth development (UNFPA)	
15:15-15:45	Item 6: UPDATE ON UNDAF ROLL-OUT - PSG Co-Chairs UNDP and UNAIDS	
15:45-16:00	Coffee Break	
16:00-17:00	Item 7: ECOSOC DIALOGUES – KEY ASPECTS OF ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS - Update by UN DOCO Director (TBC) - Discussions on agencies' perspectives (TBC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECOSOC Background Paper on Functions and Impact • ECOSOC Background Paper on Funding Practices • ECOSOC Background Paper on Governance • ECOSOC Background Paper on Partnership Approaches • ECOSOC Background Paper on Organizational Arrangements and Capacity
17:00-17:30	Item 8: ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
17:30-18:00	AGREEMENT ON NEXT STEPS AND CLOSING REMARKS <i>Ms. Cihan Sultanoglu, Chair of the R-UNDG Team</i>	