OPTIONS ON IMPROVING STRUCTURED FUNDING DIALOGUES

JOINT BRIEFING TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARDS
23 JANUARY 2020
OVERVIEW

- Background
- Options to improve quality of dialogues
- Common Funding Considerations
- Responses by Member States
Why this session?

- Decision adopted at Second Regular Session 2019 of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF and UNWomen Executive Boards:

  “To present, by first regular session 2020, options on improving the quality of the structured funding dialogues”.

- Opportunity to reflect on several years of dialogues with the Executive Boards on funding issues, as mandated by the QCPR.

- Momentum created by the adoption of the Funding Compact, with agency-specific SFDs expected to inform and facilitate the implementation of the Funding Compact.
What does the Funding Compact suggest?

- **Mutual** commitments and accountability
- **Shared** understanding and purpose
- **Ownership and Leadership** by member states
- Embracing **Diversity** [funding needs, models, structures, rules & regulations]
- **Interactivity**
- **Results** and **Field** focus
What do we want to improve?

"QUALITY OF DIALOGUES", which depends on:

- FORMAT
- CONTENT
- TIMEFRAME
  - Timeliness of dialogues
  - Regularity of interactions

Content, Format and Timeframe are interconnected
CLARIFYING SFDs GOALS

• Securing adequate level of flexible & predictable funding for the SPs through ...

• Improved understanding of funding situations, transparency, trust, and mutual accountability

• Forum for analyzing needs, challenges and finding solutions

• Systematic follow-up to & implementation of commitments / decisions

• Complementarity to UNDS-wide processes

- QUESTION TO MEMBER STATES –

Are there any other goals to be achieved through the SFDs?
PRINCIPLES INFORMING OPTIONS

• SFDs should be **jointly owned** and led by both member states and UN entities

• Content and format of the SFDs should facilitate **interactive dialogue** to promote learning and understanding

• Content and format should be iterative and shaped by **both member states’ and agencies’ interests and priorities**

• Content should be **evidence-based and analytical** – both quantitative and qualitative

• SFD **information/documentation** should be **easily accessible**

- **QUESTION TO MEMBER STATES** –

Any other principles to be applied?
FORMAT OF SFDs

• A more flexible format: Informal setting, panel discussion, armchair set-up
• Leadership by member states on specific topics
• Engagement of Donors and Programme Countries in discussions
• Broadening the scope of participation, as relevant:
  • Other UN entities, IFIs
  • Private sector & non-governmental organizations
  • Subject experts, Speakers etc.
• Considering some meetings outside the UN Secretariat

- QUESTIONS TO MEMBER STATES –

• How will member states contribute to making the dialogues more interactive?
• Are member states ready to lead on selective SFDs?
• Any suggestions to address inherent limitations, such as:
  - UN Board “traditional” format?
  - Rotation of Board’s Membership?
CONTENT OF SFDs

CONTENT OF DIALOGUES
- Shaping content to member states’ and entities’ mutual interests & priorities
- Focusing on concrete country examples and practices
- Addressing common funding considerations in a systematic manner

CONTENT OF SFD REPORT
- Harmonized improvement of agency-specific reporting on Funding Compact:
  - Improved narrative on progress and challenges
  - Annual milestones
  - Country-level impact

- Important considerations –
  - System-wide guidance expected from DCO
  - Avoiding double-reporting
  - Taking into consideration agency-specific funding & business models

OPTIONS TO IMPROVE CONTENT OF SFDs

- QUESTIONS TO MEMBER STATES -
  - Could member states suggest topics for the year?
  - What material is most appropriate for supporting dialogues (formal & informal sessions)?
TIMING & TIMEFRAME OF SFDs
Quality depends on Regularity...

- **Frequency** of Dialogues:
  - One Formal session per year, preceded by an informal session (August-September)
  - Additional informal session(s) during the year
  - One joint-session per year, as needed

- Relevance of discussion at **different points in year**
  - Annual pre-determined calendar
  - Alignment to Board cycle
  - Alignment to other Board agenda items and other UNDS processes (ECOSOC, OAS etc.)

➢ Need to factor-in:

- Financial data availability in the year
- Entities’ capacity to generate data/analysis
- Missions’ capacity to cover multiple SFDs per year

- **QUESTIONS TO MEMBER STATES** -

  - What are member states expectations with regards to frequency & regularity of SFDs ?
  - What about one Joint-SFD per year ?
OPTIONS TO IMPROVE SFDs

YEARLY TIMELINE

Joint-SFD (Floating Timing)

First Regular Session

February

March

April

May

June

July

August

September

October

November

December

Annual Session

ECOSOC Operational Activities Segment

Entity-specific Informal

2nd Regular Board Session

Annual SFD Report presented and discussed

Consider additional agency-specific informal session(s) – To be discussed with each agency
COMMON FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS

- **UN Women** - Flexible & Predictable Funding: A spectrum of funding sources and instruments

- **UNDP** - Planning & Budgeting cycle in a voluntarily funded environment

- **UNICEF** - Gaps: Various aspects to consider
RESPONSES BY MEMBER STATES