



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente
Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

联合国环境规划署



3rd meeting of the consultative process on environmental and social sustainability
(Teleconference) 31 May 2012

EMG/IMG2012
12 June 2012
Distribution EMG
members for comments

Summary of the discussion and agreed actions

I: Introduction

1. The 3rd meeting of the EMG consultative process on environmental and social sustainability was held in form of a teleconference on 31 May 2012 to review the progress made in the follow up of the UN Sustainability Report and Framework and to discuss further actions in the second stage of the consultative process including preparations for the 18th meeting of the EMG Senior Officials. The list of participants is provided in Annex I.

II: key considerations and agreed actions:

1. Update on the progress made and opening remarks by Co-chairs

2. **Under agenda item 1**, a quick update was provided by the EMG Secretariat on the progress made after the finalization of the report and framework including presentation of the framework to the spring sessions of the UN High-Level Committees on Program and Management as well as the UN Chief Executives Board. This was followed up by the opening remarks of the Co-chairs of the process, Ms. Maryam Niamir-Fuller (UNEP) and Anne Marie Carlsen (UNDP), as well as remarks by participants on their overall considerations, actions and views on the sustainability consultative process.

Key considerations:

- a) The UN sustainability is mentioned in the current text of the Rio+20 Co-chairs (para 91) which provides a “hook” for continued development of the framework and its implementation
- b) The CEB and its subsidiary bodies should be kept informed on the progress made to receive their guidance on the next steps of the consultative process
- c) The focus of the second leg of the sustainability process should be on the implementation of the framework at individual and collective levels
- d) The framework provides a good basis for each agency to start an assessment /stocktaking of its sustainability work , identify gaps, and

apply the framework across policy, program/project and facilities/operations entry points.

- e) Agencies can already share experiences and lessons learned as well as challenges they have faced in implementing the framework
- f) Office of the SG and his new chief de cabinet could be a strong ally to the process
- g) Rio+20 provide a good opportunity to raise awareness on the UN sustainability report and framework. Members were advised to refer to the initiative in their related events in Rio.

Agreed Action I:

Keep the CEB and its subsidiary bodies informed on the development and implementation of the Framework and solicit its guidance and support for the next steps

2. Follow-up of the E&S Framework including consideration of the remaining issues in the framework

3. Under agenda item 2, the meeting considered a list of remaining issues in the Framework and how they can be followed up.

Key Considerations:

- a) The remaining issues are a mix of conceptual, process and implementation issues which can not be tackled at once and might require a diverse set of capacities, skills or engagement of other partners. A workplan can be prepared to list these issues and suggest the kind of action and actor(s) needed to be involved in their follow up
- b) An assessment of agencies needs would help to prepare a baseline and prioritize the remaining issues
- c) Some of these issues don't fall into the expertise and capacity of the EMG and would be better handled by engaging other partners such as the UNDG for example on the issue of national systems

Agreed Action II:

Prepare a work plan to list the remaining issues in the framework which need to be addressed by the consultative process. The priority should be given to issues which are mostly and immediately needed by agencies in advancing their sustainability work and implementing the framework.

3. Encourage actions by agencies to start using the current framework

4. Under agenda item 3, the meeting heard short presentations from participants on their current sustainability activities that are in line with the sustainability framework and how the framework at its actual form can be a starting point for implementation.

Key Considerations:

- a) A number of agencies have made progress in developing or implementing their sustainability systems including through developing policies, technical tools or further refining their existing sustainability systems. A good level of knowledge and experience exist in the UN system which can be shared through a light on-line platform.
- b) Agencies should be encouraged to benefit from the framework to identify their sustainability challenges and needs and to identify whether they can help each other in addressing those challenges. Some agencies are new to the process and would need more time to engage and implement the framework. The level of action by each agency varies depending on their organizational boundaries and limitations. So a flexible and phased approach in implementation is highly advised.
- c) Agencies would benefit from sharing their experiences and challenges in implementation of the sustainability measures

Agreed Action III:

Create an on-line platform and work space to allow EMG members upload their sustainability materials and exchange knowledge and best practices on their sustainability work

4. Options for follow up on the Framework's collective actions

5. Under agenda item 4, the meeting shortly discussed the options for addressing the collective actions in the Framework that would help agencies in developing/completing their sustainability frameworks, exchanging of lessons learned and best practices, implementation, assessments and reporting on progress made. The collective actions supported by a common service would help the agencies to work on sustainability framework in a coherent manner and to be prepared for possible assessment or reporting on progress. Linkages with the SUN facility on environmental management of the UN was also considered.

Key Considerations:

- a. This is learning by doing process. Further work should be done to identify if and what common support service is needed for the collective actions. However, at this stage a soft support approach would be enough by sharing experiences, creating a network, sharing documents and web discussion space. Regular teleconferencing would help to share experiences and lessons learned

Agreed action IV:

EMG Secretariat to organize regular meetings of the consultative process to ensure a continued exchange of information and review of the progress.

Linking with the SUN facility could be considered with the caution that the scope of the SUN is limited to only “Environmental Sustainability “ while the framework for advancing environmental and social sustainability in the UN system provides the broader chapeau. Potential linkages with SUN should be reflected in the work plan.

5. Terms of Reference for further work of the consultative process

6. Under agenda item 5 and 6, the meeting considered the modalities for the future work of the consultative process in view of the preparations for the 18th meeting of the EMG Senior Officials

Agreed Actions V and VI:

Prepare a road map for the future work of the consultative process for approval of the 18th Senior Officials of the EMG

Convene a small open-ended drafting group (composed of UNEP, UNDP, WFP, WHO, IFAD and FAO, other interested members) to advise and support the EMG Secretariat in preparing the agreed actions

Closure of the teleconference

Annex I

4th meeting of the consultative process on environmental and social sustainability,
(Teleconference) 31 May 2012

EMG/IMG2012
12 June 2012
Distribution EMG
members for comments

List of Participants

UNDFS

Sophie Ravier

UNEP

Maryam Miamir-Fuller
Yunae Yi

Joint Secretariat of the Chemicals Conventions

Ana Priceputu

WHO

Michaela Pfeifer
Marian Maiero

FAO

Daniela Morra

WFP

Brenda Behan

UNDP

Anne Marie Carlsen
Holly Mergler

OHCHR

Karina Holm

IFAD

Elisa Di Stefano

RAMSAR

Anada Tiega

World Bank

Steven Lintner

EMG Secretariat

Hossein Fadaei
Isabella Marras **(SUN)**

Annex II



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Provisional Agenda

1. **A quick update on the progress made so far with general comments and remarks by the co-chairs (Maryam and Anne Marie)**
2. **Follow up of the E&S Framework** including consideration of the remaining issues in the framework such as:
 - a. *Minimum requirements*
 - b. *Resolve issue of principles (have them or not, if so which?)*
 - c. *An understanding of costing issues and resource needs using early implementers as a guide post*
 - d. *Legal and managerial considerations – consultations with DOM, OLA, others*
 - e. *Consult and knowledge sharing with WB, IFC, GEF*
 - f. *Common support and knowledge sharing function (begin by capturing lessons learned from early adapters; coordination with IMG SM)*
 - g. *update the table of existing UN sustainability practices and develop options for*
 - h. *engagement of equivalent social expertise*
 - i. *grievance and public disclosure issues*
 - j. *common reporting system*
 - k. *oversight*
 - l. *how to work with national systems*
 - m. *identification of ways to go beyond managing risks and benefits and also “do good”*
 - n. *roll-out and implementation plan, including further development of the phased approach*
3. **Encourage actions by agencies to start using the current framework** for an internal assessment/stocktaking/comparison of E&S strategies, policies or existing relevant tools to indentify the gaps and develop a coherent internal strategic framework on sustainability
4. **Options for possible common service facility to support agencies** in developing/completing their sustainability frameworks, exchanging of lessons learned and best practices, implementation, assessments and reporting on progress made.

5. **Terms of Reference for further work of the consultative process** in addressing the above issues and any other related work for consideration of the 18th meeting of the EMG Senior Officials
6. **follow up actions by the group including through an open-ended small drafting group**
7. **Other matters**