

7th Operational Steering Committee Meeting

- Minutes -

Date and time: 28 October 2019 | 2:30 – 5:00 pm; **Location:** United Nations, New York

Attendance: *UNDP (Chair), ILO, UNICEF, WFP, UNFPA, DCO, MPTFO, JOINT SDG FUND SECRETARIAT*

Overview of decisions and outcomes:

- Equatorial Guinea (EG): The MPTFO, acting on behalf of the Joint SDG Fund, sought a letter of endorsement from the EG Government to confirm receipt of the proposed funds. No response was received. It was confirmed that the funds will not go through the Joint SDG Fund and MPTFO/interested UN entities will consider reprogramming the funds through a different vehicle.

- First Call for Concept Notes:
 - The OSC approved the first 18 Joint Programmes that were vetted through the quality control process led by the Fund Secretariat with OSC experts. The Chair signed the fund allocation matrix accordingly for \$US35,315,978.
 - The remaining Joint Programmes (18) remain under development. These will be vetted, quality assured and shared electronically with OSC members for e-approval in two sets, with the process to be completed by early December 2019.
 - The Head of the Secretariat, on behalf of the OSC, will inform RCs (and designated focal points) of final funding approvals.
 - The OSC tasked the Secretariat to develop a proposal for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Fund for presentation at the next OSC meeting in January 2020. The proposal should take into account: i) other agencies' M&E expertise ii) current efforts to strengthen system wide evaluations of pooled funds; iii) lessons learned from other pooled funds; iv) innovative ways of doing M&E; v) ways of keeping the M&E exercise simple and light for UNCTs; vi) a way to balance project implementation outputs with wider SDG acceleration outcomes.

- Call for Concept Notes: Strategic Financing:
 - The OSC endorsed the proposed funding envelope of \$100 million divided into two components, as per the Fund's Terms of Reference for windows B and C: component 1, at \$30 million, will fund Joint Programmes that aim to "reinforce the SDG financing architecture and ecosystem". Component 2, at \$70 million, will fund Joint Programmes that aim to "catalyze strategic programming and investments".
 - In order to finalize the Call for Concept Notes, the Secretariat will organize a technical workshop with OSC experts in the first week of November 2019. The Secretariat will then share a draft Call for concept notes with the OSC for their review and endorsement.
 - The OSC recognized the limited capacity of the UN system on strategic financing. The Fund's Secretariat, in coordination with OSC agencies, will explore ways to support UNCTs as they develop proposals, and, subsequently, as they implement joint programmes.

- Resource mobilization and partnerships:

- The OSC endorsed the Fund's resource mobilization strategy. The OSC highlighted the importance of aligning the Fund's calendar of events with OSC Agencies and to engage their senior leadership as much as possible.
- The OSC endorsed the Fund's revised Project Document (signed by both the Chair and the MPTFO).
- The OSC noted that the Fund's results framework, currently in the Fund's Terms of Reference, should be updated.