

## Joint SDG Fund Development Partners Meeting - Memo -

**Date and time:** Wednesday, May 6, 2020 | 11:00 – 12:30 pm.

**Participants:** Denmark, the European Union, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, UNDP (Chair), UNICEF, UNFPA, ILO, WFP, DCO, MPTFO.

On May 6, 2020, the [Joint SDG Fund](#) hosted a Development Partners meeting, to provide an update on progress of the [Fund's first set of 35 joint programmes](#), including re-programming in some countries in response to COVID-19, the state of play of the Fund's [first call on SDG Financing](#) and the Fund's resource mobilization strategy.

The meeting, led by the Chair of the Fund's Operational Steering Committee and UNDP Director of Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, Assistant Secretary-General Mr. Haoliang Xu, was attended by 40 participants including the Fund's 12 donors and the UN Agencies part of the Fund's Operational Steering Committee as well as DCO and the MPTFO.

In discussing the progress of the Fund's calls on Social Protection and LNOB and SDG Financing, donors expressed strong support for the Joint SDG Fund's C-19 re-purposing and the relevance of the SDG finance/ INFF opportunities in light of COVID-19. Development partners also sought clarification of the synergies and differences between the Joint SDG Fund and the Covid-19 Emergency Relief Fund (ERF), and the funding status of the Joint SDG Fund.

The Chair and the Operational Steering Committee presented the complementarities between the funds, noting the ERF is characterized by a short term emergency dimension, while the Joint SDG Fund has a medium to long term timeline, linked to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. Colleagues also stressed the role of the Joint SDG Fund in supporting the reform of the UN development system and in strengthening a new generation of Resident Coordinators and Country Teams.

In terms of resource mobilization, the Secretariat noted the response from the field across the two SDG finance components, equating to a demand for \$US1.2 billion dollars in programme funding contrasted with its \$US100 million funding envelope for the call. The Secretariat presented its current budget of \$US38 million with expected replenishments bringing this year's balance to \$65 million while sharing strategies for responding to the component one proposals, essentially halving the allocations to the field to double the countries who will receive funds,



with plans for further support of the proposal pipeline dependent on funding received in 2020/2021.

The Development Partners requested a Strategic Advisory Group meeting be held in June to update senior leadership as the Joint Fund's pipeline of solid project proposals offers a global opportunity for longer-term COVID-19 economic recovery and SDG acceleration.