

Opening Remarks

1. The Fund Steering Committee (SC) Chair, Craig Mokhiber, presided the meeting and welcomed everyone to the first annual dialogue of the HRM Fund. He opened the meeting with the dialogue's objective of establishing a systematic dialogue between the Fund SC members and current donors to inform the Fund's strategic directions, including generation of support for its resource mobilization strategy and supported initiatives. He underscored that 2020-2021 have been pivotal years for human rights in development. The Fund has been a critical resource supporting the UN Development System (UNDS) coordinated response to the COVID19 crisis and broader efforts of the UNDS to support countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda. In the context of urgency and growing unmet demand, the Fund has revitalized its strategic direction and crafted an ambitious multi-year plan informed by the Fund's first independent evaluation and stakeholder consultations across the system including inputs from donor partners. He also noted the challenge for funding for development and human rights and closed his remarks with a quote from the SG's Common Agenda view on human rights as "vital problem-solving tools that safeguard lives and livelihoods and can prevent grievances from arising."
2. SC members and donor delegates presented their names and roles within their entities during the round of introductions.
3. The SC Chair recognized the invaluable contributions of DCO, from hosting the Fund's secretariat to its active part in all SC deliberations. The DCO Policy and Programme Branch Chief (Helena Fraser, previously RC Uzbekistan) shared some remarks from the RC system perspective. Helena cited the UNDS reform, the new QCPR and the Fund's role in giving the RCs and UNCTs space to exercise the principled leadership that human rights required. She underlined that this is an inflection point that cannot be missed; we cannot have another Sri Lanka or Myanmar Report highlighting failures by UNCTs in responding to the human rights challenges. She expressed strong support for the Fund's new multi-year plan and the greater focus on action in the field, doubling down on Human Rights Advisers (HRAs) as one of the most effective tools RCs have, while at the same time expanding the toolbox for RCs and UNCTs with other forms of support tailored to the needs of UNCTs, and support at the regional level. She expressed DCO's gratitude to donors for providing the funding and the pressure for this Fund to be optimally placed to provide RCs and UNCTs the support they need to deliver on the 2030 Agenda, the SG's Call to Action and the Common Agenda. She concluded her remarks by referring to the recent Montreaux event (with triple-hatted and Resident Coordinators/Humanitarian Coordinators) where RCs/HCs with HRAs unanimously affirmed the support and satisfaction, and those without are demanding one. Strong examples of human rights work linked to prevention and the new generation of Cooperation Frameworks have shown that HRAs have become gamechangers for RCs. She also acknowledged OHCHR for managing well the HRA Programme and the collective and collaborative approach of other UN entities for the 2030 Agenda and Call to Action implementation.

Agenda Item: Overview of Fund Progress

4. The overview of the Fund's progress including recent achievements was presented by UN Women and OHCHR. The presentation emphasized the Fund's dynamic role in the evolving UNDS landscape, and overall progress in its 10 years of operations in terms of 4 tracks (enhanced policy coherence, strengthened RCs and UNCTs leadership on human rights, systematic integration of human rights in development work, and strategic engagements with human rights mechanisms). They also noted the demand for the common learning package and practical guidance on LNOB, gender equality and women's empowerment, engagements and partnerships with NHRIs, UPR and VNR processes alongside the HRA scale up. The presentation highlighted some of the recent achievements in the context of pandemic operations, and the importance of the Fund's first evaluation which confirmed its relevance, effectiveness and sustainability, as well as the value add of interagency collaboration and HRAs in RC offices.
5. The SC Chair introduced Anders Pedersen, current RC and HC Jordan, to share his views on the Fund's support and impact. The RC Jordan stressed that the Fund's support to RCs and UNCTs works with lots of hard work since not everybody is on the human rights bandwagon. He affirmed that the HRA deployed in Jordan is a vital asset;

without the right people, human rights at the core of development will not happen at country level. He expressed thanks to the donors and cited that human rights work needs resources for a package/wholistic approach to get the balance right on mainstreaming and direct interventions. He elaborated on the core work on centrality of human rights (in CCA/CF) through the joint work of HRAs, PDAs and RCO economists. With the support of the Fund, the UNCT has strengthened the centrality of prevention (early warning, plus Surge Initiative), and VNR engagement (with UNDP-OHCHR project support for UPR and VNR processes), and messaging on inequality (LNOB) in strategic alliances (eg. with EU dialogues), convening power (policy brief on Food Summit) and frontline work (capacity building with UNFPA) benefiting from the expertise of the HRA. Despite the progress at country level, he also noted the pushbacks and obstacles.

6. The SC Chair opened the floor for plenary interaction. The donors asked about cross-fertilization of HRAs with PDAs, lessons learned among RCs and HRAs, and any plans or activities similar to the Montreaux event. The RC Jordan responded that they have country-level mechanisms for joint work and team approaches of HRAs and PDAs, and DCO is leading the reform process for core capacities of RCs and UNCTs. OHCHR clarified that the Fund through the HRA Programme has conducted joint orientations for HRAs and PDAs (prior to and during their deployments) and organized a joint PDA-HRA workshop for the ECA region to build synergies and foster teamwork. OHCHR also cited the teamwork in Malawi, the HRA and PDA working together for elections and prevention, not as one-off event but part of the country programme plan. OHCHR, together with DCO, has organized yearly Community of Practice meetings of all HRAs. Some RCs and HRAs also engage with the annual Board of Trustees Meeting of the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the field of Human Rights (VFTC), where joint results and reports of RCs, HRAs and PDAs are shared. Some of the recent challenges include COVID19 pandemic restrictions (no in-person meetings last year) and the turnover of HRAs (due to limited tenure). The HRA Programme is organizing, with the support of DCO, a retreat of HRAs later this year which will involve exchanges with some RCs on joint results with PDAs. OHCHR added that the Fund previously organized RC leadership dialogues which focused on peer-to-peer exchanges of RCs delving into human rights challenges at regional level, and tactical engagements which leverage tools and capacities of RCs in advancing human rights. And that the Fund will build on the Evaluation recommendations to continue the regional and global level conversations to ensure linkages with other UN initiatives. DCO underlined the importance of regional level coordination and support capacities for human rights and humanitarian work, particularly prevention and protection, similar to what PDAs have.

Agenda Item: Supporting the Fund's Multi-Year Results Framework

7. The SC Chair introduced this item with reference to the intense process for reviewing and updating the Fund's strategic directions including engagements of donors in the evaluation process and contributions to the draft foundational documents. The Secretariat expounded the Fund's key steps in revitalizing its directions, the deeper engagement with donors in Fund's governance process, the theory of change, and the 2021-2024 results framework with 4 thematic outputs. The presentation elaborated on the new and expanded areas to provide diversified support to RCs, UNCTs and interagency work. The Fund's resource needs and gaps for the multiyear results framework, and the key priorities of the SC for 2022 including the high-level donor event to expand its support base were underscored in this session.

8. The SC Chair invited SC members to add any further reflections. UNDP cited its new strategic plan which has human rights mainstreaming as an engagement principle and has specific output indicators on supporting Member States in fulfilling their human rights obligations. UNDP noted the importance of working on the "One UN" approach to bring the broader system together. The Fund's evaluation has been comprehensive and participatory, and helped the Fund in its retooling process and will continue improving its work and plans in the coming years. UNDP recognized the Member States' critical role in making the positive environment possible with the QCPR. UNDP also agreed with previous speakers that challenges to human rights remain and human rights mainstreaming

cannot be disregarded. In closing, UNDP mentioned that individual UN entities have been working on various human rights issues and forging partnerships with national human rights institutions and human rights defenders, but the Fund's value and sustainability will be in bringing together various expertise towards building capacities of country teams. MPTFO noted that the Fund's evaluation process and draft TOR are in line with the Funding Compact commitment #14. And MPTFO cited the Fund's ongoing crafting of its M&E framework in alignment with the requirements of the TOR and results matrix.

10. The SC Chair opened the floor for donors to share their comments and questions on the presentations and background documents. Norway appreciated the sharing of documents for review and inputs and recognized the importance of the first dialogue as envisaged in the draft TOR. Norway provided several comments and suggestions on the draft TORs including: further details on the strategic dialogues timing and documentation; clarifying the Fund's support (how) to the UNDS reform; who will approve the TOR and role of UNSDG; alignment of the multi-year results framework to the QCPR period (from 2022-2025); placement of HRA results and indicators in the results framework; and comments on output indicators (importance of annual, set targets, minimizing transaction costs in data collection and reporting; alignment with QCPR indicators). Norway also suggested the SC further highlight the Fund's contribution to prevention (citing RC Jordan), civic space and human rights defenders, and reprisals work. SIDA supported Norway's feedback and noted that SIDA has given in writing their comments on the draft TOR. SIDA's comments in the meeting raised: support for follow up dialogues; requests for clarification on how the Fund will contribute and complement other Funds and interagency mechanisms toward the full spectrum of human rights; with the revised structure, how will participating agencies' engagements and interagency collaboration work; and if the Fund has any leads on other new donors. SIDA also shared its planning commitment of support for two years, with the caveat that it still subject to parliamentary appropriations and completion of the appraisal process.

11. The SC Chair clarified the following points: the TOR is approved by the Steering Committee; Annual meeting timing will be included in the TOR; noted the recommendation to highlight prevention and reprisals work; the SC will explore the suggestion to align the results framework period with the QCPR cycle, including consultation with MPTFO. The Chair also requested the donors' support in helping the Fund expand its resource mobilization outreach.

Agenda Item 4: AOB and Closing

12. In the interest of time, it was agreed that the donors will email any further feedback on the background documents and the SC will reply in writing to these emailed comments as well as to the other questions or suggestions made on the virtual floor. Everyone agreed as well with the donors' recommendation to share the summary notes (of this meeting) and publish the final document on the Fund's website (MPTFO Gateway) for transparency.

13. The SC Chair thanked everyone especially the donors for their thoughtful and constructive feedback. He underlined that this dialogue is now part of the Fund's governance process and expressed gratitude for the donors' willingness to support the Fund and commitment to continue to build on respective roles and strengths in achieving together the 2030 Agenda.

Annexes

1. List of Participants

Donors	Delegation
	Helena Bjuremalm, Deputy Head of Unit
	Camilla Redner, Program Officer Specialist; SIDA focal point for OHCHR
	Louise Wahlström, Program Officer Specialist; SIDA focal point for the Fund
	Katarina Zinn, Program Officer Specialist; SIDA focal point for UNDP
	Emma Nilenfors, Counsellor (Sida), Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations in New York
Norway	Berit Fladby, Policy Director UN Development Activities Department for Multilateral Cooperation, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
	Lena Hasle, Deputy Director, UN Development Activities Department for Multilateral Cooperation, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
	Martin Hauge Torbergesen, Senior Adviser, Section for HR and Democracy, and Gender Equality; focal point for the Fund and OHCHR
Denmark	Esther Sandholt Hansen, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations in New York
Finland	Helena Jauhiainen, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations in New York
Guests	
Jordan	Anders Rye Pedersen, Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in Jordan
	Christina Meinecke-Chalev, Senior Human Rights Adviser in Jordan
Steering Committee	
SC Chair	Craig Mokhiber, Director, OHCHR New York Office
UNICEF	Manel Stambouli, Programme Specialist, UNICEF New York
UNDP	Katy Thompson, Head, Rule of Law, Security & Human Rights; Sarah Rattray, Global Policy Specialist for Human Rights, Rule of Law, Security and Human Rights for Sustaining Peace
OHCHR	Karin Lucke, Senior Human Rights Officer, OHCHR New York Office Pablo Espiniella, Manager, HRA Programme, Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division, OHCHR Geneva
UNESCO	Kostas Tararas, Programme Specialist, Inclusion, Rights & Dialogue, Paris
UN Women	Louise Nylin, Chief, Political Analysis and Programme Development Unit, New York
MPTFO	Mari Matsumoto, Portfolio Manager, New York
DCO	Helena Fraser, Chief of Branch, Programme and Policy; Antonio Cisneros, Senior Human Rights Adviser, Programme and Policy
Secretariat	Brianna Harrison, Head of Secretariat
	Romina Sta. Clara, Programme Specialist

2. List of background documents

- *HRM Fund annual report 2020*
- *HRM Fund TOR (revised, consultation draft)*
- *Fund Summary Requirements*
- *Powerpoint presentations*