Overall Summary of the Meeting

The SC Chair opened the first meeting in 2022 by thanking everyone’s contributions to the Fund’s progress in 2021 including finalizing and endorsing the revised Terms of Reference, Multi-year results framework (MYRF), Fund logo/brand identity and the Fund appeal document. He underscored that 2022 is the start of the MYRF implementation and the completion of the Management Response (MR) plan. The SC Chair underscored the importance of continuing resource mobilization and the continued strong engagement of members through their focal points in the Resource Mobilization (RM) working group to ensure the successful implementation of the MYRF ambition.

Agenda Item 1: Overview of Fund Status (for information)

Background document: HRM Funding Framework

MPTFO presented the Funding Framework for the HRM Fund shared in the background documents. The Fund has a current cash balance of USD1.6 million. The Fund received additional USD5.9 million from donors in 2021. The Denmark contribution (USD 300,000) was not yet reflected when the document was circulated. Details of all approved projects and transferred funds are included in the report.

Agenda Item 2: Overview of Resource Mobilization efforts (for information)

Background document: Funding appeal

The Secretariat presented updates on progress on Fund-led initiatives on donor outreach (from circulating the appeal document to current donors to the DCO-supported introductions to 15 Member States) in preparation for the SIDA/Norway-hosted high-level donor event. The Secretariat used a powerpoint to highlight the financial needs for 2022 annual workplan based on forecasted Fund resources (soft commitments from current donors; pending new donor agreements for the MYRF) and agreed priorities. From the 2022 workplan approved in December 2021 by the Steering Committee, the estimated Fund requirement for 2022 was USD22.7 million with an estimated funding gap of USD11.6 million if all soft commitments are received in 2022.

The Chair opened the plenary discussions after the presentation of agenda items 1 and 2 given their interlinked nature. The Members expressed their thanks, supported the planned donor event in April (although noting the unfortunate delays), and seconded the importance of expanding the donor base, multiyear approach to planning and support for standing human resources commitments. DCO expressed interest in partnering with other SC entities for proactive donor outreach given the increasing demand for support on human rights (beyond HRAs) by RCs and UNCTs as well as opportunities from the UN reform. The SC Chair thanked the Secretariat, MPTFO and Steering Committee members for their support for the resource mobilization efforts and appealed to the members for their entities’ RM experts’ active engagement in the Fund’s resource mobilization efforts.
**Decision and action point:**

- **The SC members will inform the Secretariat on resource mobilization opportunities and other potential joint resource mobilization efforts.**

**Agenda Item 3: 2022 Workplan and Use of Funds (for discussion and decision)**

*Background document: 2022 Workplan; Draft HRA Programme Prodoc*

The SC Chair recalled that the Steering Committee in December 2021 endorsed the 2022 provisional workplan and budget for sharing with current partners. The Secretariat formally called for the submission of proposals from leads/co-leads identified in the MYRF. The SC Chair noted that although the Fund do not currently have funds for additional programmes, entities are encouraged to submit proposals as soon as possible, taking into account that some of the planned new initiatives will take time to conceptualize and develop through consultative processes. The SC will be best placed to make decisions on use of funds with all proposals before it. The SC-approved proposals will be part of the Fund’s pipeline and will support the overall resource mobilization efforts for the MYRF appeal. Multi-year proposals are feasible under the new Fund structure. Full or partial funds transfers under the pipeline of approved projects will be at the discretion of the Steering Committee, taking into account funds available and all other relevant considerations for maximizing the delivery of the MYRF outcome and outputs.

**Decision and action points:**

1. **The Steering Committee affirms the call for submission of proposals under the 2022 Workplan and requests the Secretariat to communicate this to participating UN organizations that are not a part of the Steering committee.**

2. **The lead entities and co-leads (PUNOs) will inform the Secretariat the timeframe (quarter period) for proposal submission for SC forward planning on the pipeline programmes/projects by 16 February 2022.**

3. **The lead entities and co-leads (PUNOs) convene their partner agencies to discuss their plans and include such information when they submit their proposals to the Steering Committee.**

4. **Proposal submission has no deadline (but nothing later than the third quarter of the year as indicated in the Operations Manual). The sooner they are submitted, the sooner they will be calendared into the SC pipeline review process.**

**HRA programme ProDoc**

The HRA Programme Prodoc was circulated in the month of January and received no comments. The Secretariat provided the context, from MPTFO requirement for Funding Compact to aligning with the MYRF pipeline and improving efficiency of SC processes in relation to the HRA programme. The Secretariat explained that under an approved pipeline proposal, the SC will retain discretion in approving full or partial funds transfer requests which will be supported by a workplan and budget. The SC will also retain a role in approval of new requests vetted by OHCHR and DCO, HRA extensions and HRA post changes from N/P and vice versa. The Secretariat also cited the use of new templates (referred in the Operations Manual) for this Prodoc. The Secretariat thanked OHCHR for advancing funds from the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights (VFTC) for the extension of the current cohort of HRAs to ensure that there will be no gap in the programme pending Fund replenishment. OHCHR thanked MPTFO, DCO and Secretariat support for the draft as well as the SC members’ support for the programme. OHCHR stressed the overall contributions of the programme to the MYRF outputs, the inclusion of the SC-
endorsed revised criteria for deployments and extensions and alignment with the multiyear framework (from 2022 to 2025). Members expressed support for the ProDoc.

Decision and action points:

1. The Steering Committee requests OHCHR to circulate the completed human rights adviser project document (prodoc with all annexes) for electronic review and endorsement for the Fund’s pipeline.
2. The Steering Committee requests the Secretariat to circulate the completed eligibility review template with the full prodoc.
3. If there are any substantive comments received during the electronic review period, the Secretariat will convene a dedicated meeting for the SC to discuss them.
4. The Steering Committee also requests OHCHR to submit the detailed budget and workplan for the transfer of funds of up to USD 1.9 million for the review of the Steering Committee.

Joint UNDP-OHCHR programme on enhanced strategic engagement with HR mechanisms, NMRFs and NHRIs to achieve the SDGs.

UNDP cited the good collaboration with OHCHR on this project in 2021 and the support from DCO and the Secretariat for the programme implementation and its extension until April 2022. UNDP announced the upcoming key knowledge products (with Fund’s new branding) on UPR good practices (end of February, in time for the Human Rights Council meeting), the VNR and Human Rights (with DESA) as part of though leadership and links to C2A Task Team work, and the reprisals protocol update to include analysis of various UN approaches. SC members commended the joint programme. DCO noted the timeliness of these thought leadership for reprisals (expanding it from NHRIs to the UNDS) and knowledge products for the UPR 4th cycle, and the parallel DCO efforts in harnessing support for RCs covered by this cycle. UNESCO offered to share their forthcoming paper on SDGs for potential synergies with the C2A Task Team work. UNDP confirmed its interest in submitting a multi-year proposal to continue this initiative following the proof of concept. UNDP noted that small funds transfers increase transaction costs and undermine the efficiency and impact of the programme.

Agenda Item 4: Management Response updates (for review)

Background document: Draft Operational Manual; Draft Monitoring & Evaluation Framework

The SC Chair underlined the importance of completing the key documents for the Fund’s funding and operations, and called on the Secretariat to provide updates on the pending items of the Management Response (MR). The Secretariat provided an overview of MR implementation status, highlights of the new Operations Manual and the M&E Framework, and the areas for SC guidance on the gender marker, and the evaluations.

Decision and action points:

1. The Steering Committee requests the Secretariat to have the senior leadership engagement plans as agenda point in the next SC meeting.
2. The Steering Committee accepts the proposed gender equality marker and the 15% as minimum for budget resource linkage in the proposal template in the draft Operations Manual, in line with the QCPR indicator and Funding Compact commitments.
3. The Steering Committee accepts the proposed mid-term assessment and final/summative evaluation in the draft Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework.
4. The Secretariat will circulate the final drafts of the Operations Manual and the M&E Framework by 8 February 2022, for review and endorsement on a no objections basis by 15 February 2022 COB.
5. The Secretariat will convene a briefing for entity technical focal points in the second half of February on the new Fund templates and related processes under the new Operations Manual.

Agenda Item 5: AOB

The SC Chair asked the Secretariat to present the AOB. The Secretariat reminded the group on the importance of MOU Addendum signature for the updating of the Fund’s TOR and end date on the MPTF Gateway; and alerted members of the annual report submission of PUNOs for the Fund’s Annual Report. The SC Chair encouraged all entities to submit soonest the signed MOU Addendum and the annual reports to make the case stronger for further investments on human rights in sustainable development.