

UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office

UN Pooled Funds Stakeholder Discussion Forumⁱ

SUMMARY OF TOPICS DISCUSSED

22 January 2019

UN pooled funds and the repositioning of the UN development system.

Interagency pooled funds are a powerful tool to drive UN coherence and empower Resident Coordinators and Humanitarian Coordinators. As part of the UNDS repositioning, UN Secretary General has called for doubling pooled financing. Stakeholders agreed upon the need to further promote pooled funds and market their comparative advantages, and manifested their commitment to support the UN and the MPTF Office in this regard. Pooled funds are a platform to share and manage risk and, thereby, enable delivery. Member States showed interest in participating in the design of new funds. Capacity of delivery at country level is also essential for the good performance of pooled funds.

The Multi Partner Trust Fund Office.

The MPTF Office is a UN system-wide service hosted by UNDP. As the UN center of expertise on UN pooled financing, it conducts its trustee or administration function separately from the pooled fund governance and implementation roles, ensuring a neutral and professionally dedicated trustee function firewalled from all UN implementing entities, UNDP included. It is a self-financed service (through administrative agent fees), which helps ensure its independence.

Pooled funds in the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

Stakeholders in the Forum saw a real opportunity in learning from the valuable experience of transition funds (and particularly the Peacebuilding Fund) in order to apply pooled instruments in the HDP nexus and to overcome silos. Best practices and experiences are being gathered and new common financing instruments across the nexus are being developed. The vision is to move from the current siloed model of humanitarian, peacebuilding and various development-oriented funds to a scenario where existing funds are more consolidated under the leadership of the RC/HC or where new financing instruments are developed and from their onset ensure easier transitioning or cross referencing. Regarding the role of the administrative agent in humanitarian funds, it was concluded to be an issue predominantly between UN entities at this stage and positive bilateral discussions between UNDP and OCHA was ongoing, guided by the vision of the framework of the nexus.

Transparency and reporting of results.

Due to the increasing level of scrutiny of development aid allocations, contributors insisted on the need to have high transparency and reporting results standards, more so in the case of pooled funds, where contributions are comingled. Stakeholders recognized the transparency, availability of real time financial information and easy navigation of the [MPTF Office Gateway](#). The MPTF Office is revamping this Gateway to align it with SDGs, adding new functionalities and improving data visualization and reporting, also in follow-up to the 2018 evaluation of inter-agency pooled

financing. Stakeholders were invited to participate in helping to beta test the new Gateway in 2019. Better access to reports and results in fragile countries were underscored as areas for improvement. The MPTF Office is working with OECD-DAC to make data on pooled funding available in the OECD-DAC Total Official Support for Sustainable Development database in 2019.

Fees and overheads.

The MPTF Office charges 1% for administrative agent fees and implementing entities charge 7% for indirect costs. The 1% coordination levy does not apply to pooled funds. The MPTF Office uses standardized legal, financial and reporting documents and tools, which together with the accumulated expertise in pooled funds, contribute to efficiency. UN Agencies highlighted the need to ensure adherence to standard legal agreements and reduce to a minimum requests by donors to modify standard documents endorsed by the UNSDG.

Format, timing and themes of future discussion forums and next meeting.

After this first more general discussion forum, future periodic meetings could focus on one or two themes. Further engagement with other stakeholders, such as civil society or private sector, could enrich the discussion. Background papers can be helpful ahead of the forums to cover particular topics.

The forum was well-appreciated by the participants. Stakeholders indicated preferences to keep the subsequent forums in a similar format and flexible regarding frequency and themes. Future meetings could also be virtual. Member States indicated the margins of June's Executive Board session as a potential next date for a forum.

The MPTF Office will revert back to stakeholders before the 15 of April 2019 regarding suggestions for themes and dates for the next Forum.

ⁱ This document presents a brief summary of key topics discussed during the first multi-stakeholder discussion forum on UN pooled funds organized by the Multi Partner Trust Fund Office. The forum was established per recommendation of the independent evaluation of [UNDP inter-agency pooled financing services](#) (September, 2018). This summary has been prepared to support future discussions and address questions and suggestions raised during the forum. The document is for information purposes only and by no means represents the views of the UN, its Member States or its entities.