



**Interoffice  
Memorandum**

To: Mr. Khalid Malik  
UN Resident Coordinator  
China

Date: 30 June 2008

From: Bisrat Aklilu  
Officer -in- Charge  
Partnerships Bureau-UNDP

Extension 6880

Subject: The China Culture and Development Partnership Framework

File: MDGF 1692

**I. Approval Status**

On behalf of the MDG-F Steering Committee I am pleased to inform you that your Joint Programme 'The China Culture and Development Partnership Framework' is approved with an allocation of USD\$6 million over three years. This figure includes 7% for indirect costs incurred by UN Participating Organizations. Please note the 1% AA fee will be reimbursed directly to the MDTF Office and need not be included in your allocation.

**II. JP design comments**

We appreciate the efforts made in revising the document that no substantive changes are required to the design of your Joint Programme and you may proceed with signature of the Joint Programme document. In addition to the Government, the UN Resident Coordinator and Participating UN Organizations should each sign the Joint Programme document. We would encourage you to ensure some visibility for this event and for the launch of activities. For our records we would highly appreciate receiving a copy of the signed minutes of the National Steering Committee meetings.

We note the Joint Programme aims to further promote the inclusion of ethnic minority groups in China by raising awareness, promoting sector policy analysis and recommendations, developing capacities of a variety of service delivery providers, and empowering this ethnic minority groups to strengthen and manage their own cultural resources. The Joint Programme will be implemented in four provinces.

Our original concerns regarding the issue of access to basic services for ethnic minorities not being integral part of this window have been partially addressed. The programme should move forward and we will monitor this issue. We look forward the results of the survey to provide far more information on the beneficiaries (targeted ethnic minorities).

While the proposed Monitoring framework is clear, additional effort should be undertaken to develop indicators to capture progress at the level of MDGs, UN reform and Paris Declaration. In addition, the Secretariat plans to work with all approved programmes during 2008 to address their M&E frameworks and to develop a small number of common indicators relating to the MDGs, thematic windows, UN reform and the Paris Declaration.



### III. JP re-design requirements and/or recommendations

N/A

### IV. Management arrangements and delegation of authority

On receipt of a copy of the signed document, the Fund Secretariat will transfer the full three-year allocation to the custody of the Multi Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) Office pending further instructions from you.

Please note the MDTF Office will pass-through funds to Participating Organizations on instruction from you as Resident Coordinator and Co-Chair of the National MDG-F Steering Committee.

As reflected in the Fund's Framework Document (Section 9 'Formulation Process & Release of Funds) and the global MoU with Participating Organizations (Article I, 2-c) the MDTF Office will release resources on an annual, advance basis. For the first advance, these funds will be transferred on the basis of receipt of the first year Annual Workplan and the signed Joint Programme document. Subsequent annual advances will be released on instructions from you and on the basis of a) receipt of the next annual work-plan approved by the National Steering Committee; b) evidence that a formal review of the programme's progress has been undertaken not more than three months earlier, either in the form of an annual progress report (if the timing coincides) or through the minutes of a National Steering Committee where this has been discussed; and c) only when combined commitments against the existing advance have exceeded 70%. Please review the initial year budget requests carefully with participating organizations in order to ensure realistic delivery targets in this regard. The annual agency apportionment projected in the final budget attached to the signed Joint Programme document should also be reviewed and can be revised up to the time of your first funds-advance request. This is important for the reasons outlined below.

In order to allow the implementation team some flexibility to adapt the strategy to unexpected challenges and opportunities (most particularly delivery issues), and to empower Resident Coordinators in their oversight responsibilities, this memorandum also provides you with the authority over the three year duration of the programme in consultation with Participating Organizations and with the agreement of your National Steering Committee to (a) transfer up to \$1,000,000 or 20% of the total value of the project budget – whichever is lowest – *between Participating Organizations* identified in the original Joint Programme budget and (b) re-phase up to \$1,000,000 or 20% of the total value of the project budget – whichever is lowest - *between years*. The base-line against which these ceilings will be measured is the annual budget projection (by year and by participating organization) confirmed at the time of your first funds-advance request. The MDTF Office must be informed of any revisions of this kind, decided locally and is responsible for tracking these delegation ceilings for each programme. Any changes that fall outside these parameters will have to be referred back to the (Global) MDG-F Steering Committee for approval.



As you will appreciate, one of the MDG-F's express goals is to strengthen the role of Resident Coordinators as leaders of Country Teams. The success of the MDG-F activities will depend on your ongoing leadership and engagement. We count on you to exercise this leadership and to ensure this Joint Programme remains an ongoing, integrated effort by the UN system in support of national priorities. Please also use the National Steering Committee mechanism to help ensure national ownership by the Government in particular and involve it in important financial and programmatic oversight decisions.

The signed Joint Programme document and the completed Fund Release Form should be sent to the MDG-F Secretariat and MDTF Office within 30 days of the receipt of this memorandum. If this deadline is not possible, please inform the secretariat accordingly.

The Executive Coordinator of the MDTF Office, Bisrat Aklilu, will be in contact with any specific documentation requirements to ensure the programme meets compliance requirements for the Fund's pass-through arrangements.

With best wishes.

cc.

Mr. Bisrat Aklilu, Executive Coordinator, Multi-Donor Trust Fund Office  
Mr. Ajay Chhibber, Assistant Administrator and Director Bureau for Asia and Pacific, UNDP New York  
H.E. Mr. D. Juan Antonio Yáñez-Barnuevo, Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations  
H.E. Mr. Wang Guangya, Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations  
Mr. Gabriel Ferrero y De Loma-Osorio, Deputy Director of Development Policy Planning and Evaluation, MFA Madrid  
Ms. Sally Fegan-Wyles, Director, Development Group Office  
MDG-F Secretariat