

SDG Fund Steering Committee Minutes – 19 July 2018

1. Welcome and introductions

UNDP Co-Chair, Ms. Gülden Türköz-Cosslett, Deputy Director of the Bureau of External Relations and Advocacy, welcomed all members of SC. She congratulated Co-Chair Secretary of State Juan Pablo de Laiglesia and Director General Gabriel Ferrero on their recent appointments. UNDP Co-Chair acknowledged Spain's legacy with the SDG-F/MDG-F, which should be used as a reference of how the UN development system can work together. Combined, with the generous contribution from Spain, more than 15M people have benefitted, in 173 joint programmes in 58 countries and with 27 UN Agencies. She referred to her own experience as a UN Resident Coordinator in Albania and the important role of the MDG-F's contribution. She noted that the SC decision to wind down the SDG-F was made to ensure alignment with UNDS reform and the new fund for 2030 Agenda. She noted the valuable lessons the SDG-F would provide for new inter-agency pooled funding mechanisms.

Secretary of State Juan Pablo de Laiglesia briefly introduced Spain's commitment to put sustainable development policy at the center of their efforts and noted some initial measures (greater female participation in the government, appointment of two high commissioners on child poverty and for the 2030 Agenda, a review of the 2030 Agenda implementation plan and recovered efforts in multilateralism). Spain confirmed the strong support for UN Reform. He reiterated Spain's commitment to the SC decision to wind down the SDG-F by end of the year and appreciated the efforts made by the team. . A short video was played thanking Spanish society's contribution (around one euro per year for the period 2006-2018, MDGF/SDGF): [link](#).

2. Implementation of decisions Dec 2017 Steering Committee

UNDP Co-Chair informed that a letter co-signed by former Co-Chairs was sent to all RCs and private sector partners informing them of the winding down of the SDG-F by end December 2018. All joint programmes will be finalized by the end of the year.

SDG Fund Director gave an update on the communication of winding down to partners:

- All private sector partners informed. Donors (Sahara and Ebro Foods) have confirmed allocation of their contributions to two projects in 2018.
- The Private Sector Advisory Group members expressed interest in continuing collaboration with the UN.
- Appointments of Special Advisors, including Cesar Alierta of ProFuturo, AD Group and University of Pennsylvania, will be terminated.
- The UNDP Goodwill Ambassadors the Roca Brothers will continue working with UNDP.
- Agreements with universities are being concluded: including SDG Chair (Rey Juan Carlos University of Madrid) and UPenn.
- Group of Public Diplomacy has been informed about the winding down and some lessons learned are being extracted.

Action point

- Spain requested some revisions in the text of the Progress Report which they will present in the word version shared by SDG-F Secretariat.

3. SDGF Progress: Programme implementation, Use of Funds and Remaining Balances

UNDP Co-chair noted that the joint programmes were broadly on track in terms of implementation, with an overall financial implementation of 84%. In total, she noted that some 5.4 million direct and indirect beneficiaries in 22 countries have been reached and that several joint programmes have reported that a second phase is now starting with funds from other donors.

A document of lessons learned is being prepared by the SDG-F Secretariat in lieu of the Fund's final evaluation, as requested by the SC.

She gave the floor to SDG-F Director to provide a more detailed update:

- **No-cost extensions:** Two no-cost extensions (Cuba and Cote d'Ivoire) were approved by SC. JPs in SIDS countries (Samoa and Fiji and Vanuatu) will submit requests for no-cost extensions and the disbursement of the second tranche of their approved allocation, noting that extreme weather events had caused substantive delays in implementation. The Secretariat recommends proceeding with these requests, to allow the programmes to close effectively and evaluations would take place in tandem before year-end 2018.
- All **final independent evaluations** are expected to be submitted by December 2018, with possible challenges expected for Samoa, Fiji/Vanuatu and Nigeria. Of the 15 outstanding evaluations, 14 were submitted and are available on the SDGF website ([link](#)) and MPTF-O Gateway ([link](#)). The Mozambique draft report has been submitted to Secretariat, with the final version pending endorsement from the national SC.
- In addition, all JPs will submit **final narrative reports** following UNSDG guidelines and SDGF's ToRs (during 2019).
- **Food Africa.** The \$500,000 funds have been transferred. In addition, Ebro Foods decided to allocate their \$35,000 contribution to this project (total contribution from SDGF is \$ 535,000).. The UNDP Goodwill Ambassadors, the Roca Brothers will visit Kaduna in 4Q. National partners maintained the original financial commitments to the project. Following the transfer of funds to Nigeria, work has immediately commenced.. The ITC representative confirmed that the organization also contributed to the Food Africa Programme.
- Since no MoU was signed with **Real Madrid, Safari Com and NYC Bar Association**, no further action was taken thereon.
- **UN Partnerships** are ongoing, including the contribution to the Colombian Post Conflict Trust Fund (\$1,500,000). The additional 1M have been transferred. Spain is actively participating in the Steering Committee of this Fund.

The Steering Committee endorsed the agreement of replacing final evaluation with lessons

learned exercise and following UNDP Evaluation Office and MPTF-O's advice that a final evaluation wasn't required. SDG Fund Director explained that since the SDG-F was established as a permanent facility, a final evaluation wasn't initially anticipated.

Decisions taken

- Lessons learned exercise will be finalized by December 2018.
- No-cost extensions for Samoa, Fiji and Vanuatu were approved, provided that RC/country offices send formal request and justification. Secretariat will stress acceleration of implementation, operational closure and final evaluations. MPTF-O will proceed with the release of the second tranche for the JPs of Samoa, Fiji and Vanuatu, once SC has endorsed the no-cost extension via email with the supporting justification. Evaluations will be submitted no later than December 2018.
- Monitoring missions approved for Nigeria, SIDS and one country depending on needs.

MPTF-O Update of the MDG-F and SDG-F finances

MPTF-O Executive Director presented the SDG Fund funding framework, noting that expenditure figures are as of December 2017. She informed that around \$1M could be considered available funds. She recognized that refunds from JPs are expected to be low given the high implementation rates. A clearer picture of the available balance will be after the financial closure next year. The SDG-F Secretariat with MPTFO will be able to present an estimate of Secretariat direct costs around October 2018.

MPTF-O Executive Director informed that the remaining MDG-F balance will be transferred to the SDG-F to facilitate closure of MDG-F. UNDP Co-Chair assured that the SDG-F will not use this balance.

Decisions taken

- MPTF-O/UNDP will provide SC members an estimate of available funds from Secretariat direct costs in October 2018 to allow Spain to decide on allocation of remaining funds.
- All available balances from MDG Fund will be transferred to the SDG Fund

4. Update on the implementation of the Annual Work Plan

UNDP Co-Chair thanked all SC members for their contributions to the AWP. She informed that this document is guiding the SDG Secretariat's for this year. The SDG-F Director explained that significant savings had been made in direct costs, from \$1.3M to approximately \$390,000, which the Director General thanked the team. She informed that after incorporating suggestions from Spanish Co-Chair, the AWP was endorsed by SC members mid-June 2018 and that the Secretariat has accelerated implementation to ensure all targets and results are achieved by year-end 2018. Spain asked that in case of any further deviation from the AWP, that they be informed accordingly.

The SDG-F Director, reiterated her thanks to all SC members for their contributions to the AWP. She provided highlights of the four priorities of the AWP:

- **Priority 1. Management, monitoring and evaluation of the SDGF Joint Programmes Portfolio.** There was agreement on the monitoring missions proposed to Nigeria and SIDS countries. She reminded SC members that a lessons learned exercise will be completed instead of a final evaluation of the Fund.
- **Priority 2. Communication and dissemination of SDG Fund results and lessons learned. Importance of sharing lessons learned and results.** The SDG-F Director asked if Spanish Cooperation wants to organize any joint communication of results and event to disseminate best practices and areas of learning. An option is during the UNGA. Spain noted more time is needed to decide on a high-level event.
- **Priority 3. Disseminate SDG Fund lessons learned to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, with a particular focus on private sector.** Lessons learned exercise to be finalized in 4Q. Implementation of private sector project and sports and development well advanced. Successful launch of toolkit on sports and development with resources from Monaco. With regards to the Rey Juan Carlos University, the SDG-F Director confirmed that there were no funds pending, that the US\$ 225.000 had not been transferred and the total allocation had been reduced already. The LoA with the university is in the process of being amended. Spain Co-Chair requested that all the information on the partnership with University King Juan Carlos be shared with them.
- **Priority 4. Accountability and support with governance structures, particularly the global Steering Committee.** The SDG-F Director mentioned that UNDP's Office of Audit and Investigations published in May a compiled report including the governance arrangements, the administrative agent function and the joint programme in Colombia. She informed that all recommendations on the governance arrangements have been implemented and OAI has confirmed a 100% implementation.

MPTF-O explained that terminology regarding the closing of MoUs in the AWP should not be confused with those signed by the MPTF-O and the PUNOs.

Decisions taken

- Spain to inform on their decision to organize a high-level event
- Changes in terminology (MoUs, SAA) as suggested by MPTF-O will be reflected in AWP
- Report on activities with University Rey Juan Carlos will be provided to Spain's Co-Chair

5. Transition

UNDP Co-Chair informed that the gradual winding down of the Secretariat staff has started. In the last SC meeting, MPTF-O advised that the staff functions needed in 2019 will likely be limited to reporting and admin/finance to allow for completion of all reporting requirements, consolidation of the Fund reporting and financial reconciliation. She invited comments from SC Members and the MPTF-O.

MPTF-O informed that these two staff positions could be hosted at MPTF-O, even if this is not the most frequent practice. UNDP could also keep hosting it or it could be transferred to the

new Fund should its corresponding body agree to this.

UNDP Co-Chair also informed that SC should take also decisions on the SDGF's assets (including those of the MDG Fund): SDG online library, case studies, partnerships, videos, stories, website etc. The Secretariat's proposal is to keep digital assets alive for the next two years and identify the best recipient of these resources during next SC. One proposal to ensure the use of the assets will be to allocate everything to the new Joint Fund for 2030 Agenda managed by DOCO.

Decisions taken

- Two staff positions for operations (G) and reporting (P) will be needed during 2019 for 6-9 months. To ensure institutional memory and facilitate process, it is recommended these will be current SDG-F staff. Grade, job descriptions and costs will be provided by MPTF-O/UNDP by September 2018.
- MDG-F and SDG-F websites will keep live by UNDP until a decision is made on assets.
- Communication and knowledge products, including library and case studies will be shared with the new Joint Fund.
- Next SC meeting with limited agenda items will be organized late October/early November 2018 and could be held via teleconference.

6. AOB

UNDP thanked Spain and the SDG-F Secretariat for their work and the UN partners for their close collaboration.

FAO thanked Spain, SDG-F Director and the Secretariat team for all their work.

ITC thanked Spain and the SDG-F Secretariat. She noted the SDG-F is being used as a good example and best practice for UNDP's country support platforms.

UNICEF thanked Spain and SDG Fund Secretariat for their work.

MPTF-O thanked Spain for their contribution to the MDG-F/SDG-F.

Spain Co-Chair thanked UNDP and the UN for making a strong impact using the contribution of the government Spain.

SDG-F Director thanked Spanish society for their generous contribution and thanked the Secretariat team's efforts during the complicated and challenging last few months. She thanked UN Agencies, UNDP, MPTF-O, for this joint work with an impact of more than 5.4 million people and 15 million total from MDGF/SDGF.

List of participants of the SDG-F Steering Committee Meeting

Spain:

H.E. Mr. Juan Pablo de Laiglesia González de Peredo, Secretary of State for International Cooperation and Latin-America and the Caribbean (Co-chair)
Mr. Gabriel Ferrero de Loma-Osorio, Director General, Sustainable Development Policies
Mr. Ignacio Díaz de la Guardia, Minister Counsellor, Mission of Spain to the UN
Mr. Fernando Latorre García, Chief of Section, Multilateral Development Organisms, Spanish Cooperation, MOFA

UNDP:

Ms. Gülden Türköz-Cosslett, Deputy Director of the Bureau of External Relations and Advocacy (Co-chair)
Ms. Darah Aljoudar, Partnerships and Coordination Specialist

SDG Fund Secretariat:

Ms. Paloma Durán, SDG Fund Director
Mr. Raul de Mora Jimenez, SDG Fund Communication Specialist
Ms. Catherine Wong, Joint Programme, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist
Ms. Teresa Burelli, Partnerships Analyst
Ms. Deborah Quintana, Operations Associate
Mr. Babatomiwa John Adesida, Private Sector Consultant

UNICEF:

Ms. Shannon O'Shea, Team Leader, Agenda 2030 Team (Public Partnerships Division)
Solome Zemene, Public Partnerships Specialist, UN Partnerships, Joint Funding

ITC:

Ms. Riefqah Jappie, ITC Representative to the UN, New York

FAO:

Mr. Lucas Tavares, Senior Liaison Officer, FAO Liaison Office New York

MPTF-O

Jennifer Topping, Executive Director MPTF-O
Charles Bagabo Tumushabe