



**Joint Meeting of the Executive Boards of
UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP
2018
Programme**

1 June 2018

Conference Room 2, United Nations Headquarters, New York

Friday, 1 June 2018	
Morning segment – 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.	
10:00-10:05	Welcoming remarks by the Chair: President Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS <i>H.E. Mr. Jagdish D. Koonjul</i> , Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Mauritius
10:05-10:10	Opening statement by <i>H.E. Mrs. Amina J. Mohammed</i> , Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations
Morning TOPIC 1:	
❖ Joint efforts to strengthen coherence, collaboration and efficiency in the field – effective ways to deliver results together to successfully address programme country priorities in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda	
10:10-10:15	Remarks by Administrator of UNDP, <i>Mr. Achim Steiner</i>
10:15-10:20	Remarks by Executive Director of UNICEF, <i>Ms. Henrietta H. Fore</i>
10:20-11:50	The morning session will spotlight Sudan as a case for working together at the country level. Guest speakers from the UNCT, connecting via video link, will speak to different aspects of collaboration in Sudan and address questions identified in the background note. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Ms. Marta Ruedas</i> (Former Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC) Sudan, currently Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative to Iraq) 2. <i>Mr. Abdullah Fadil</i> (UNICEF Representative to Sudan) 3. <i>Mr. Luay Shabaneh</i> (UNFPA Director for the Arab States Regional Office, Deputy R-UNDG Chair) <p style="margin-left: 20px;">➤ <i>Moderator: President of Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS</i> Interaction/Q&A with the guest speakers</p>
11:50-12:50	Interactive discussion between the Presidents of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP, the Principals of UNDP, UNFPA, UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP, and the membership of the Executive Boards <p style="margin-left: 20px;">➤ <i>Moderator: President of Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS</i></p>
12:50-12:55	Concluding remarks by Executive Director of UNOPS, <i>Ms. Grete Faremo</i>
12:55-13:00	Closing remarks by President of Executive Board of UNICEF <i>H.E. Mr. Tore Hattrem</i> , Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Norway

Lunchtime segment – 1:15 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.	
13:15-13:20	Welcoming remarks by the Chair: President Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS <i>H.E. Mr. Jagdish D. Koonjul</i> , Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Mauritius
Lunchtime TOPIC 2: ❖ Reflecting on the working methods of the Executive Boards	
13:20-14:30	Moderated dialogue between the members of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP, based on the 2017 non-paper from the Presidents: Discussion Note on Executive Board Working Methods ➤ <i>Moderator: President of Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS</i>

Afternoon segment – 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	
15:00-15:05	Welcoming remarks by the Chair: President of Executive Board of WFP <i>H.E. Mr. Zoltán Kálmán</i> , Minister Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative of Hungary to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Agencies in Rome
Afternoon TOPIC 3: ❖ Overcoming inequalities among and within countries, including gender inequality, to achieve the SDGs – reaching the poorest and most vulnerable populations first	
15:05-15:10	Remarks by Executive Director of UNFPA, <i>Dr. Natalia Kanem</i>
15:10-15:15	Remarks by Executive Director of UN-Women, <i>Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka</i>
15:15-16:20	The afternoon session will outline key opportunities and challenges in addressing inequalities to achieve the SDGs and identify critical steps required to tackle these issues. Guest speakers comprising a mix of academic expertise and field experience will present a substantive and practical perspective on tackling inequalities and on how the United Nations agencies can position themselves to address these issues effectively. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Ms. Radhika Balakrishnan</i>, Professor of Women’s and Gender Studies at Rutgers University, and faculty director of the Centre for Women's Global Leadership 2. <i>Ms. Alicia Yamin</i>, Visiting Professor of Law at Georgetown University Law Centre, Programme Director of the Health and Human Rights Initiative 3. <i>Mr. Arnaud Peral</i>, Resident Coordinator of the United Nations system in Ecuador, Resident Representative of UNDP and Representative of UNFPA in Ecuador ➤ <i>Moderator: Ms. Rachel Snow, Chief, Population and Development Branch, UNFPA</i> Interaction/Q&A with the guest speakers
16:20-17:50	Interactive discussion between the Presidents of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP, the Principals of UNDP, UNFPA, UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP, the guest speakers, and the membership of the Executive Boards ➤ <i>Moderator: President of Executive Board of WFP</i>
17:50-17:55	Concluding remarks by Deputy Executive Director of WFP, <i>Mr. Amir Abdulla</i>
17:55-18:00	Closing remarks by President of Executive Board of UN-Women <i>H.E. Ms. Ivana Pajević</i> , Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Montenegro to the United Nations

Debriefing of the Presidents of the Executive Boards – 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.	
18:00-18:30	Debriefing of the Presidents of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP (closed meeting)

TOPIC 1 (Working together)

Rationale – Country case: Sudan

The morning session will focus on Sudan as a case for collaboration between the United Nations agencies and with other partners to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda based on national priorities. The new United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2018-2021, adopted last year, guides the United Nations country team (UNCT) in its support to implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the country.

An inter-agency Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) mission (ILO, UNDP, UN-DESA, UNICEF, OECD and WFP) took place in October 2017 to support the country in defining a national SDG framework with Sudan-specific SDG targets and indicators. Sudan is preparing for its Voluntary National Review at the 2018 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

In addition, Sudan provides an example of the New Way of Working. The United Nations has been providing support on peacekeeping, peacebuilding, development and humanitarian assistance in numerous areas of Sudan. It has recently taken steps to align these different strands and identify collective outcomes in order to have greater impact in reaching the SDGs, notably in light of the anticipated drawdown of the United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID). The UNCT hosted two missions in 2017 in support of this – a humanitarian-development-peace-nexus coordination review mission, and a financing strategy mission.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Marta Ruedas

Marta Ruedas has more than 25 years of experience with the United Nations both at headquarters and in the field, spanning four continents. Ms. Ruedas was the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative for Sudan from August 2015 to May 2018. She recently took up her new post as the Deputy Special Representative of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) and the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, and UNDP Resident Representative for Iraq.

Prior to the Sudan Resident Coordinator position, Ms. Ruedas was UNDP Country Director in Afghanistan (2014-2015). She served as Deputy Director of the UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, and as UN Deputy Special Coordinator, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Lebanon (2007 to 2010). Earlier in her career, she served as Deputy Regional Director at the UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (2003 to 2007), Resident Coordinator in Bulgaria (2001 to 2003), and Resident Coordinator in Sao Tome and Principe (1999 to 2001). Previously, Ms. Ruedas also served UNDP in Bolivia, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Georgia, Nepal, Mongolia and Mexico.

Abdullah Fadil

Abdullah Fadil is the UNICEF Representative to Sudan. Before assuming his official duties in Sudan, Mr. Fadil served as Director of the United Nations Humanitarian Monitoring Mechanism for Syria, based in Amman, Jordan.

Working on peace and security, humanitarian aid and development issues for over two decades, Mr. Fadil has served in different leadership positions – as Deputy Head of Mission and Chief of Staff of the United Nations–Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) Joint Mission, based in Damascus, Syria; Chief of Mission Support for United Nations peacekeeping and peace building missions in the Middle East UNTSO (UN Truce Supervision Organization)/UNSCO (Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process), based in Jerusalem; Head of Office for the African Union–United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), based in El Geneina; and Head of Office for the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), based in Nyala. Mr. Fadil has previously worked with the United Nations in Kosovo and Montreal Canada.

Luay Shabaneh

Luay Shabaneh is the Arab States Regional Director of UNFPA. He has held a number of national and international public service positions over the past two decades in the area of official statistics, population census, population and development, monitoring and evaluation, programme management and advocacy, working within the United Nations system, in government, and in the multilateral arena.

He served as chief statistician of Palestine from 2005 to 2009, when he joined the United Nations, first with UNDP/UNCT and UNFPA in Iraq, and since 2015, as the Regional Adviser for Population Data and Policies in the UNFPA Regional Office for Arab States. Within the Arab region, he has served as chair or member of several regional professional and research committees, including as chair of the Statistical Committee of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the Arab regional statistical forum, and as member of the board of the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics. Mr. Shabaneh began his professional career at the Palestine Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) in 1994, and was the second President of PCBS until 2005.

TOPIC 2 (Executive Board working methods)

Rationale

The lunchtime session will be a moderated discussion among the members of the four Executive Boards based on the Discussion Note on Executive Board Working Methods, produced as a non-paper by the Presidents of the 2017 Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP, in consultation with the Executive Board secretariats. The discussion reflects the commitment of the 2018 Executive Board Presidents to continue to streamline and improve the working methods of their respective Executive Boards.

The discussion note was guided by the 2016 QCPR resolution of the General Assembly, notably paragraph 46 under Section IV, on strengthening the governance of the United Nations operational activities for development, which calls for enhancing system-wide coherence and efficiency, reducing duplication and building synergy across governing bodies of United Nations development system entities. Three areas in particular were identified for potential strengthening and streamlining:

- (a) Improving the working methods of the joint meetings of the Executive Boards so that they offer a platform for exchange on issues with cross-cutting impact;
- (b) Improving the working methods of the governing bodies, including the efficiency, transparency and quality of official Board sessions, ensuring more systematic follow-up by the United Nations development system entities on issues raised by their governing bodies, and ensuring timely follow-up on the implementation of the QCPR resolution;
- (c) Improving the reporting processes of the United Nations development system entities, including dissemination of Board documents and draft decisions, thereby allowing adequate time for prior consultation with Member States in their decision-making processes;

The discussion will also offer an opportunity to reflect on the Secretary-General's report on repositioning the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda, released in December 2017, which made a number of proposals, including on:

- (a) Reinvigorating the resident coordinator system;
- (b) Enhancing the United Nations Development Operations Coordination Office (UN-DOCO);
- (c) Integrating the governing bodies of the United Nations development system entities;
- (d) Revamping the regional approach; and
- (e) Creating a more sustainable funding approach.

TOPIC 3 (Overcoming inequalities)

Rationale

The afternoon session will outline key opportunities and challenges in addressing inequalities to achieve the SDGs and identify critical steps required to tackle these issues.

The session will be structured as an interactive panel discussion, moderated by the UNFPA Chief of Population and Development, focusing particularly on leaving no one behind, with the participation of guest speakers, the principals and the Board members. Guiding questions will cover causes for and solutions to entrenched inequality, especially gender equality, inquire examples of successful approaches from guest speakers, and discuss United Nations system-wide solutions to discrimination.

Guest speakers comprising a mix of academic expertise and field experience will present a substantive and practical perspective on the challenge of inequalities and how the United Nations development agencies can position themselves to address these issues more effectively.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Radhika Balakrishnan

Radhika Balakrishnan is faculty director of the Center for Women's Global Leadership, and Professor of Women's and Gender Studies at Rutgers University. She is currently the Chair of the Board of the United States Human Rights Network and on the Board of the Center for Constitutional Rights and the International Association for Feminist Economics.

Professor Radhika Balakrishnan's work focuses on gender and development, gender and the global economy, human rights and economic and social rights. Her research and advocacy work has sought to change the lens through which macro-economic policy is interpreted and critiqued by applying international human rights norms to assess macro-economic policy.

Alicia Yamin

Alicia Ely Yamin is a Visiting Professor of Law at Georgetown University Law Center and the Senior Advisor on Global Health and Human Rights. She is also an Adjunct lecturer on Law and Global Health at the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health and a Global Fellow at the Center on Law and Social Transformation in Norway. In 2016, the UN Secretary General appointed Ms. Yamin to the Independent Accountability Panel for the Global Strategy on Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health.

Trained in both law and public health at Harvard, Ms. Yamin's career spans over two decades at the intersection of health and human rights, bridging academia and activism. Known globally for her pioneering scholarship and advocacy in relation to economic and social rights and rights-based approaches to health and development, she has contributed to and consulted on the drafting of multiple General Comments by United Nations treaty bodies, as well as United Nations Human Rights Council resolutions.

Ms. Yamin currently serves as a Commissioner on the Lancet Commission on Global Health and the Law. Previously, she was a member of WHO task forces on making fair choices toward universal health coverage, and on evidence of impact of rights-based approaches on women's and children's health.

Arnaud Peral

Arnaud Peral is the United Nations Resident Coordinator, and UNDP and UNFPA Resident Representative for Ecuador since March 2017. He has more than 17 years of experience working in Latin America and the Caribbean in the area of sustainable development cooperation, democratic governance, income generation, South-South cooperation, crisis management and natural disasters prevention, conflict resolution and peace building. During his career, he has always been a strong advocate of gender equality and empowerment of women.

Previously, he served as UNDP Country Director in Colombia (2014-2017), UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in Brazil (2010-2014) and in Mexico (2006-2010). Before joining the United Nations, he was Cooperation Counsellor with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, French Embassy in Cuba (1998-2000). He also served as an Assistant Policy Advisor with the French Ministry of Environment (1998) and an Assistant Researcher and Policy Advisor with the Ministry of Agriculture (1997-1998) in Chile. Arnaud began his career as a Junior Financial Advisor, UCB Bank and with the humanitarian NGO EquiLibre. He holds a Master's degree in Development Economics from the University of Paris X – Nanterre, France.

Moderator – Rachel Snow

Rachel Snow is Branch Chief of Population and Development in the Technical Division of UNFPA, leading the Fund's work on strengthening national population data systems and expanding the use of demographic knowledge in development. Ms. Snow received her doctorate in population sciences from the Harvard School of Public Health, and has had a distinguished academic research career at Harvard University, University of Heidelberg, and the University of Michigan before joining UNFPA.

For more than 25 years, Ms. Snow has conducted research on burden of reproductive health in poor countries; contraceptive clinical trials; health system capacity and quality, particularly in areas of reproductive health. She has contributed to improving population data and research capacity in the global South throughout her career. Her global health and population research started in China, proceeded to the South Asian countries of Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan; for the past two decades, she has concentrated on countries of Africa. Ms. Snow has served on numerous expert committees for foundations, civil society and the United Nations, was a founding editor of the *African Journal of Reproductive Health*, and lead author of the UNFPA 20-year review of the ICPD beyond 2014.
