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'One UN' Steering Committee in Rwanda

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Mandate of the Steering Committee

In November 2006, the UN Secretary General's High Level Panel on System-Wide Coherence produced a set of far-reaching recommendations for UN reform aimed at improving the coherence and effectiveness of the UN system at country level. The report highlights that the UN system is not currently equipped to respond to the challenge posted by the Millennium Development Goals, due to fragmentation, duplication, high overhead costs, and lack of focus.

In January 2007, Rwanda was selected as one of eight pilot countries where the 'One UN' models (one country, 'One Office', 'One Programme', 'One Leader', 'One Budgetary Framework') will be tried out. Around the same time the UN Country Team in Rwanda started elaborating its second Common Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for 2008-2012, thus providing the necessary programmatic coherence for the implementation of the 'One Programme' model in Rwanda.

A 'One UN' consultation workshop was held in Akagera, Rwanda on 27 and 28 February 2007 involving the UNCT, the Government of Rwanda and the development partners/donor community. At this meeting it was decided that a Steering Committee would be instituted to guide the implementation of the 'One UN' in Rwanda.

Composition of the Steering Committee

The membership of the Steering Committee will be limited to 11 representatives from three key stakeholder groups to ensure timeliness and efficiency of guidance and decision-making:

- 4 representatives of the Government of Rwanda, including a representative from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (designated chair);
- 4 representatives of the UN System in Rwanda including:
 - two representatives from the Executive Committee Agencies and
 - two representatives from UN Specialized Agencies;
- 3 representatives of the development partners/donor community;
- the UN Resident Coordinator.

The Steering Committee will be chaired by the Honorable Minister of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN).

The selection of members representing the different Steering Committee stakeholders will be the responsibility of the respective stakeholder groups.

It is imperative that the members of the Steering Committee represent their institutions at a high level due to the importance and sensitivity of the issues addressed. The members of the Steering

Committee are responsible for communicating and sharing information with their respective, larger stakeholder groups.

Purpose of the Steering Committee

The Steering Committee will in the immediate term play a key role to guide the overall design and endorsement of the 'One UN' in Rwanda through the following functions:

1. to arrive at a common understanding of the 'One UN' concept and agree on a roadmap for its implementation;
2. to ensure alignment of the 'One Programme' with national priorities as defined in Vision 2020 and the Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS) and with the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's);
3. to review the One Programme in order to ensure that the One Programme is closely aligned with UNDAF Outcomes;
4. to monitor the progress of the implementation of the 'One Programme' and propose corrective measures, where appropriate;
5. to serve as a forum for the consideration of issues that may impede the implementation of the 'One UN' and propose ways to address the identified obstacles;
6. to provide oversight of the communication strategy and its implementation so that it is aligned with the UN Pilot process as a whole;
7. to liaise, as required, with UN Headquarter-based decision making bodies tasked with overseeing the 'One UN' implementation in pilot countries.

Following the progress made to the 'One UN', the Steering Committees role will change to be one of monitoring and follow up. It will be a forum where on an annual basis monitoring dialogue is set up to help the UN, the Government and the Development Partners oversee the overall progress in the 'One UN'.

Organization of the meetings

- The meetings of the Steering Committee will be convened by the Chair of the Steering Committee;
- The Steering Committee will meet at least every two months;
- The Steering Committee will take decisions by consensus;
- The Office of the UN Resident Coordinator will act as a secretariat for the Steering Committee and will support the Steering Committee in organizing, preparing and follow up of meetings.

Review of the Terms of References

The Terms of References can be reviewed if the Steering Committee deems it necessary.