

## **Accelerating the Implementation of the Standard Operating Procedures for Delivering as One in Latin America and the Caribbean**

Dear Resident Coordinators and UNCT Members of Latin America and the Caribbean,

In its first meeting of the year, the United Nations Development Group for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNDG LAC) agreed to promote the implementation of the UNDG Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) with special attention given to Delivering As One (DaO) countries. To this end, the UNDG LAC encourages you to actively begin the application of the SOPs in your respective countries in response to the call by the Secretary-General and our Member States for full implementation of the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) and for the UN Development system (UNDS) to become 'Fit for Purpose' to deliver on the new Post-2015 development agenda.

As you know, 2015 offers a historic opportunity to shape the future role of the UN development system. Building on our work in support of the MDGs, the UNDG is well positioned to support countries in the implementation of the post-2015 agenda. The SOPs provide a new way of doing business at all levels, and all UNDG principals support their implementation.

The Latin America and the Caribbean region has unique challenges. It is a region consisting of mostly Middle and High Middle Income Countries, and many net-contributing countries, with governments that are actively participating in the debate on UN reform in all relevant global fora. It is also a region where donor funding is dwindling, and where the UN is at a critical moment in positioning itself to continue to be relevant in this changing environment.

These challenges are exactly why the acceleration of the SOPs' implementation is very relevant. Your UNCTs should move from the silo/vertical traditional way of delivering to a more integrated and results-focused one that allows you to deliver better together, strengthen the position of the UN in your country, and improve the capacity of the UNDS to respond to the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

However, a recent analysis conducted by UN DOCO shows that the LAC region is lagging in comparison to the global average in terms of SOPs implementation. When looking at the progress made in the 15 core elements of the SOPs, our region is below the global average in 13 of the 15 core elements. Considering the work ahead for the UN in becoming Fit for Purpose in the Post-2015 era, the UNDG LAC strongly encourages that you all, RCs and UNCTs, work together to make progress in accelerating the implementation of the SOPs.

The UNDG principals and headquarters are fully behind the SOPs' implementation. The SOPs are flexible and can be adapted to different country contexts, and most importantly, they can be implemented internally regardless of the Government's commitment to becoming an official DaO country. Accordingly, we encourage you to hold a strategic discussion within the UNCT on whether and how to adapt the SOPs in your country. Implementation of the SOPs will enable you to better deliver together — optimizing and blending capacities, reach, and expertise, and better allow the UNDS to respond to the Sustainable



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Development Goals (SDGs). It is also important to take into account that starting in July 2015, it is mandatory for all UNCTs to report on the progress made in the implementation of the SOPs via the DOCO Information Management System.

The undg LAC is currently preparing a strategy to support the acceleration of SOPs implementation in the region. This strategy will consist of practice mapping and analysis, training and knowledge management, and policy support and advice to UNCTs. The Peer Support Group (PSG), which has been mandated to accompany and support UNCTs during the UNDAF process, will now also support the implementation of the SOPs when requested. This support strategy will be shared with you shortly, but in the meantime, you will find attached the key elements of the undg LAC SOPs Support Strategy.

In particular, we would appreciate if your UNCT could share with the undg LAC a brief status report on SOPs implementation, together with any relevant information on the envisioned timeline/milestones for accelerating SOPs implementation in your country. Understanding that you have submitted information on SOPs implementation through the IMS, please use the attached checklist to complement it so we can keep better track on progress, as it will help us provide more tailored support in the implementation of the SOPs.

The undg LAC team stands ready to support you as needed. Should require any assistance, or would like to further discuss how the undg LAC, the PSG, and the undg LAC Secretariat can help you, please do not hesitate to contact the undg LAC Secretariat through our Regional Coordination Advisor, Ms. Maria Guallar ([maria.guallar@one.un.org](mailto:maria.guallar@one.un.org)).

In closing, we would like to remind you that the Member States wish to see a strong UN development System that is both relevant and ready to deliver on the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals. It is therefore your responsibility, as UNCTs, to meet these expectations and deliver better together, and it is our responsibility to provide you with the required support.

Sincerely,

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