

## Special Advisor on Post 2015 Development Planning

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**RCM- Arab Region**

21 November 2013, New York

*This 19th meeting of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) will hold on 26 November, at the Headquarters of the League of Arab States in Cairo, Egypt. The SA's video message will be played during the session on: Engaging with regional and global processes – The post-2015 Development Agenda and UN-LAS coordination. The Expected outcome for this session is “Greater clarity and informal agreement about how to coordinate a regional plan of support to the Arab region’s preparations and contributions to the post-2015 planning and transition between now and 2015.”*

*The Special Adviser has an opportunity to send a strong message for impressing upon all RCM members the necessity of supporting one process and set of goals. This is also an opportunity for the SA to underscore the need to remain politically sensitive and let member states take the lead on the Post-2015 development agenda*

### **TPs for Video Message (10 mins)**

- I would like to appreciate the opportunity to attend this RCM meeting- if only by video- and provide an update on the work of the Secretary-General on the Post-2015 development agenda.
- Permit me start by acknowledging the considerable amount of work done and still ongoing by a wide range of actors to identify regional and national priorities of Arab States in the Post-2015 development agenda. This work has been well received in New York and has served as useful input into the report of the Secretary General *A life of Dignity For All* which was launched during the Special Event of the 68<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.
- The report of the Secretary General, which provides his vision of the Post-2015 development agenda conveys key concerns of the Arab region, including: peace and security; poverty and inequality within countries and within sub-regions; youth and employment; gender equality; human rights, good governance and the rule of law; food, energy and water security.
- Nowhere more than in Arab world the balance of people and planet will need to be achieved. This is a region of huge potential and great challenges and it remains at the very top of the Secretary-General’s priorities.
- The events of the last few years in this region have forced clarity and urgency on many key aspects of development. Young women and men throughout the region have voiced, with great force, their dismay at unemployment and jobless economic growth. Farmers and workers have shown us the stark and multi-dimensional nature of poverty. Water security and land desertification remain critical challenges to the economies and societies of this region.

- Our challenge now is to respond effectively to these imperatives. Clearly the focus on poverty eradication will continue to be most important for this region as we look beyond 2015. Economic growth will continue to be critical. And yet, development cannot be sustainable if only few benefit from it. Inequality remains one of the critical issues for this region to address.

### Going forward

- The debate on the post-2015 development agenda provides the opportunity to address new and existing challenges.
- In September this year, member states, through the outcome document of the MDG Special event have clarified the way forward significantly, asking for one single and cohesive development agenda for post-2015, with sustainable development at its core.
- Specifically, Member States have asked *“for a coherent approach which integrates in a balanced manner the three dimensions of sustainable development. This coherent approach involves working towards a single framework and set of Goals -universal in nature and applicable to all countries, while taking account of differing national circumstances and respecting national policies and priorities. It should also promote peace and security, democratic governance, the rule of law, gender equality and human rights for all.”*
- In addition, Member States also clarified key milestones in the road map towards agreeing a post-2015 agenda, including the launch of the intergovernmental process in the fall 2014, informed by a synthesis report of the Secretary-General, towards a high-level Summit in September 2015, when the new agenda is to be agreed.
- Over the next two years, Member States will be discussing and unpacking a number of critical issues including the concept of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) and means of implementation including the role of trade and ODA. These discussions will be happening in parallel with the negotiations on Climate Change and it will be important to acknowledge how the Post-2015 agenda and the UNFCCC negotiations reinforce each other within the context of a sustainable development agenda that puts poverty at the centre.
- The inter-related post-2015 development and climate processes present an unprecedented opportunity to advance sustainable development. Eradicating poverty as a central objective of a sustainable development agenda alongside building resilience and restructuring the global economy to hold global temperatures below 2 degrees Celsius are mutually reinforcing goals that acted on together can provide prosperity and security for this and future generations.

- Going forward to the intergovernmental negotiations, the voice from the regions need to be heard clearly to enhance ownership and ensure member governments are fit for purpose to implement this integrated agenda when agreed.
- There is a strong need for the Regional Commissions to work in a coordinated and coherent manner including through the RCM as a platform to convey shared regional perspectives and pool efforts and resources to create synergies with ongoing initiatives like the UNDG consultations to feed into the global process in a timely manner.
- Furthermore, building on partnership with the League of Arab States is crucial in support of an intergovernmental process; the RCM is well positioned to provide a common platform.
- However, we need to recognise that the Member States OWG remains the forum where Member States are expected to agree on the next set of goals and all UN agencies need to be seen as supporting a formal process of the Member States.

## Closing

- Colleagues; ours is the first generation with the resources and know-how to end extreme poverty and put our planet on a sustainable development course before it is too late. To achieve this, the United Nations must be fit for purpose to truly deliver as one.
- Indeed, successful implementation of a sustainable development agenda requires the coherent integration of policies across the three dimensions of sustainable development. This is an area the UN Chief Executives Board is working on assiduously.
- We must aspire to eradicate poverty, protect the environment and promote economic opportunity for all. Failure is not an option - we must work together to create a world where all people live with dignity and fulfil their potential.
- I thank you for your attention and wish you all a very constructive Regional Coordination meeting and I look forward to hearing the outcomes. Thank you.

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