

PRESS RELEASE

Funding to make a difference: Development Partners rally to support UN reform initiative

Dar es Salaam, 10 December 2007 – Monday afternoon Norway, Spain, Netherlands and Ireland became the first countries to contribute to the newly established One UN Fund in Tanzania. With contributions amounting to nearly USD 13 million (5 million from Norway, 4 mill from Spain, 2.4 mill from Netherlands and 1.4 mill from Ireland), the four countries are demonstrating their support to the UN reform initiative, which Tanzania is piloting in 2007-2008. The aim of this pilot is to foster better development results by enabling the UN to 'Deliver as One' in Tanzania in support of national priorities.

A ceremony took place at the joint UN premises in Kinondoni, where the Ambassadors of Norway, Spain, Netherlands and Ireland signed off on the agreement committing the above mentioned resources to the One Fund. The One Fund is a new funding mechanism that simplifies and streamlines UN investment in Tanzania and reduces transaction costs.

" We are pleased to support the UN reform pilot and we are looking forward to seeing the results of the reform on the ground here in Tanzania," said H.E. Jon Lomøy, Ambassador of Norway to Tanzania at the signing ceremony.

"Big international organizations, in order to face the challenges of our times, grow bigger and bigger; but growing bigger sometimes means also diluting its identity and its visibility as one single institution. One initiative programme could correct these imperfections, as it will mean a rationalization of the work deployed by the very same institution. Congratulations to Tanzania for having been chosen as one of the very few pilot countries," noted the Ambassador of Spain, H.E. Germán Zurita y Saenz de Navarrete.

The One Fund is part of the One Budgetary Framework pillar, which is one of the four corner stones of the Delivering as One initiative. The other four pillars are the One Programme, the One Office and the One Leader. All contributions to the One Fund will be used to cover funding gaps of the One Programme that has seven intervention areas including maternal and newborn mortality, capacity for development management and disaster preparedness. Fund allocation is managed by the decision-making Joint Government – UN Steering Committee that has been established to facilitate Government leadership of the pilot. Through this new structure, the Government, the UN and all its stakeholders are jointly aiming to achieve better results for economic growth and poverty reduction.

"By acting as One, the UN gives a much awaited example of rationalization of the donor architecture in Tanzania. I hope that bilateral donors will follow this good example," noted the Dutch Ambassador to Tanzania, H.E. Karel-van Kesteren.

The One UN pilot is an opportunity for the UN in Tanzania to live up to its obligations as a signatory to the Joint Assistance Strategy for Tanzania (JAST). Based on the Paris Declaration's commitment to enhancing aid effectiveness, the JAST requires the UN to foster national ownership and Government leadership of the development process.

"The One UN idea aims to deliver better development results for the poorest citizens of Tanzania. I am delighted that Ireland has made its contribution to this pilot project and am confident that what is happening here in Tanzania will be a model for other countries and for the UN as a whole", said Ambassador Anne Barrington of Ireland at the signing-ceremony.

Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Tanzania

In addition to Norway, Spain, Netherlands and Ireland, Canada, Finland and UK have pledged additional support to the pilot in Tanzania. Realization of contributions is critical in order to immediately commence the implementation of the One Programme.

“I highly commend the commitment that Norway, Spain, Netherlands and Ireland are showing here today. The pilot initiative is not just the UN’s business, it is *our* joint project and its success depends on support from all UN Member States, not only the Government of Tanzania,” emphasized the UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Fernandez-Taranco, as the agreement was being signed.

A total of USD 74 million is required to fully fund the pilot One Programme in 2007-2008. Norway and UK made seed funding available even prior to the establishment of the One Fund, and it is hoped that other development partners will follow in their footsteps as Spain, Netherlands and Ireland have done today.

UN reform at a glance

Tanzania is one of four countries in Africa to pilot the One UN along with Cape Verde, Mozambique and Rwanda. Albania, Pakistan, Uruguay and Viet Nam are also among the first countries to implement the One UN initiative at country level, starting in 2007.

The report of the Secretary-General’s High- level Panel on System-wide Coherence (November 2006) forms the basis of the UN reform. It sets out practical recommendations on how the UN can become more effective and efficient in its delivery of support at the country level (go to <http://www.un.org/events/panel/> for more information on the report and www.untanzania.org for more information about the UN in Tanzania).

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