

DESA

Note to the Secretary-General

Framework paper on strengthening the development pillar



As promised, please find herewith a copy of DESA's Vision and the Xinhua News Story.

Kept by SG.

沙祖康

Sha Zukang  
28 December 2007

cc: Chef de Cabinet  
Mr. Kim Won Soo

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#28-00003

CdC		SG	
For SG's approval	<input type="checkbox"/>	Approved	<input type="checkbox"/>
For SG's attention	<input type="checkbox"/>	Noted	<input type="checkbox"/>
For SG's information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>by</i>	Seen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>by</i>
For SG's signature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Signed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Date	<u>01.01.2008</u>	Date	
Comment (if applicable):			

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ECOSOC / CENTRAL

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## DESA's Vision in strengthening support to the UN's Development Agenda

DESA was at the center of defining the UN's Development Agenda. DESA is also at the center of the Agenda's operationalization. In fact, DESA serves as the custodian of the integrity of the Agenda, by ensuring the link between its normative, policy and capacity development dimensions. To support this role, the Department has multiple capacities in the economic, social and environmental field which are used in inter-connected ways.

The Department can put its cross-cutting capacities to strategically advance the Organization's priorities as defined by Member States, and by the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General. Three specific areas which need to be addressed on a priority basis are:

- addressing the challenge of climate change;
- realizing the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDG's; and
- promoting coherence of the UN system, particularly in its field work.

The Department is fully committed to strengthen its support to these priorities.

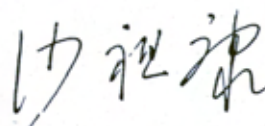
- Climate change is a sustainable development issue as it has economic, social and environmental components. DESA, through the support it provides to ECOSOC and the functional commissions of ECOSOC, especially the Commission on Sustainable Development is uniquely positioned to support the Secretary-General by providing cross-cutting analysis, backstopping advocacy and facilitating intergovernmental agreement on a broad range of issues of sustainable development. For example, the issues of finance and technology as they relate to climate change can be addressed in the Commission on Sustainable Development, in ECOSOC (where the theme for 2008 is sustainable development) and in the 2008 Doha Review Conference on Financing for Development.
- On the internationally agreed development goals, including MDG's, the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) and the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) in ECOSOC, as well the Doha Review Conference on Financing for Development, will provide important opportunities to push implementation of these goals forward.
- Promoting system-wide coherence may be substantially enhanced by a better, more efficient use of the joint expert capacities of the entities comprising the EC-ESA. In addition to coordination of work programmes, joint programming may be strongly explored in some cross-cutting areas, possibly to include some relevant members of the UNGG. The implementation of the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review (TCPR), directly supported by DESA, is the main avenue for promoting the coherence of the UN's operational activities at the field level.



Supporting these priority areas will require a series of related actions which include:

- Strengthening the development pillar of the United Nations as requested by Member States in the GA 2008-2009 budget resolution, initially by addressing a limited number of critical gaps as identified in the framework paper submitted to the Secretary-General;
- Substantially raising the level of strategic planning in support of the Secretary-General/Deputy Secretary-General on developmental issues, particularly through the enhanced EC-ESA mechanisms;
- Strengthening the programme collaboration, including through joint policy development and joint products, within the group of the EC-ESA (particularly DESA, UNCTAD and regional commissions) as well as stronger partnerships with the World Bank and the IMF, and other UN System entities, especially by taking advantage of the CEB mechanisms;
- More strategic use of the Development Account and other technical cooperation which is complementary to DESA's normative and analytical responsibilities, to better respond to urgent development needs of developing countries; and
- More extensive use of intra- and inter-departmental task forces to support the Secretary-General/Deputy Secretary-General, in policy development and policy coordination.

All in all, strengthening of the UN development pillar and supporting the Secretary-General's development priorities will be at the core of DESA's vision for 2008.



Sha Zukang  
Under-Secretary-General  
28 December 2007