



United Nations Industrial Development Organization

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**Aligning the medium-term programme framework
planning cycle with the comprehensive policy review of
operational activities for development of the
United Nations system**

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Note by the Secretariat

The present document outlines the background to proposals for the alignment of the medium-term programme framework with the comprehensive policy review of operational activities of the United Nations system.

I. Introduction

1. The United Nations regularly undertakes a comprehensive policy review of operational activities related to development that are undertaken by the United Nations system. Until recently, this review was carried out on a triennial basis. However, in resolution 63/232, the United Nations General Assembly modified the comprehensive policy review of operational activities so that it would now take place on a quadrennial basis instead.

2. Resolution 63/232 encouraged specialized agencies of the United Nations system to introduce any necessary changes in order to align their planning cycles with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR). At the same time, it was decided that the next QCPR would take place during the sixty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly in 2011-2012. Guidelines for the completion of the review were further provided by the Economic and Social Council in draft resolution E/2011/L.35.

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3. Following consideration of this matter, the Industrial Development Board decided in IDB.38/Dec.9, to recommend to the General Conference at its fourteenth session that the existing medium-term programme framework (MTPF), 2010-2013 (document IDB.35/8/Add.1) remain in force until its scheduled expiry in 2013, but that it be adjusted through a midterm review conducted in 2011 and submitted through the Programme and Budget Committee to the Industrial Development Board (documents IDB.39/8, IDB.39/8/Add.1 and Add.2 refer).
4. In decision IDB.38/Dec.9, the Industrial Development Board also recommended that the General Conference request the Director-General to submit on a quadrennial basis, from 2013 onwards, a draft MTPF for the four years that follow the current biennium, taking into account the recommendations of the QCPR. The draft MTPF would be submitted through the Programme and Budget Committee to the Board in the second year of the biennium.
5. Document IDB.39/8 contained information relating to the main features of the medium-term programme framework (MTPF), 2010-2013, and also outlined how the MTPF was adjusted in the midterm review in order to take account of recent external and internal developments, including the impact of the global financial and economic crisis. The document indicated how UNIDO was introducing certain adjustments in order to better contribute to internationally-agreed development goals and individual country needs.

II. Action required of the General Conference

6. Based on the recommendation of the Industrial Development Board (decision IDB.38/Dec.9), the General Conference may wish to consider adopting the following draft decision:

“The General Conference:

“(a) Recalls its decisions GC.2/Dec.23 and GC.6/Dec.10, providing the mandate for a four-year medium-term programme framework to be submitted by the Director-General to the Board, through the Programme and Budget Committee, in the first year of each biennium;

“(b) Also recalls General Assembly resolution 63/232 of 19 December 2008, changing the comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations from a triennial to a quadrennial cycle, encouraging the specialized agencies to carry out any changes required to align their planning cycles with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, including the implementation of midterm reviews as necessary, and deciding to hold its next comprehensive policy review during the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly in 2011-2012;

“(c) Further recalls Board decision IDB.38/Dec.9, takes note of the midterm review of the medium-term programme framework 2010-2013 (IDB.39/8*) and decides that the medium-term programme framework 2010-2013 (document IDB.35/8/Add.1) remain in force until its scheduled expiry in 2013;

“(d) Requests the Director-General to submit on a quadrennial basis, from 2013 onwards, to the Board in the second year of a biennium, through the Programme and Budget Committee, a draft medium-term programme framework for the four years that follow the current biennium, taking into account the recommendations of the latest comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development;

“(e) Also requests the Director-General to thereafter continue submitting quadrennial midterm reviews of the medium-term programme framework to the Board in the second year of a biennium.”
