



United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Distr.: General
11 March 2013

Original: English

Industrial Development Board
Forty-first session
Vienna, 24-27 June 2013
Item 6 of the provisional agenda
Medium-term programme framework

Programme and Budget Committee
Twenty-ninth session
Vienna, 22-24 May 2013
Item 8 of the provisional agenda
Medium-term programme framework

Proposal by the Director General regarding the medium-term programme framework

The present document contains information concerning the alignment of the medium-term programme framework with the comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, pursuant to decision GC.14/Dec.18, and proposes that the medium-term programme framework 2010-2013 be extended until 2015.

I. Introduction

1. In decision GC.14/Dec.18, the General Conference decided that the medium-term programme framework 2010-2013 (document IDB.35/8/Add.1) should remain in force until its scheduled expiry in 2013. The decision further requested the Director General to submit to the Industrial Development Board on a quadrennial basis, from 2013 onwards, through the Programme and Budget Committee, a draft medium-term programme framework taking into account the recommendations of the latest system-wide comprehensive policy review of operational activities of development of the United Nations.

2. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (QCPR) was adopted by the General Assembly on 21 December 2012 in resolution 67/226. The resolution creates a mechanism through which the General Assembly can assess the coherence and

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impact of United Nations operational activities for development and establishes system-wide policy orientations for the development cooperation and country-level modalities of the United Nations system in response to the evolving international development and cooperation environment.

3. The QCPR contains requests and recommendations addressed inter alia to the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations development system. In order for the QCPR to be implemented effectively, a number of its provisions require careful consideration by the United Nations system and its constituent entities. To that end, discussions are taking place in the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) and its subsidiary committees, the High-level Committee on Programmes (HLCP), the High-level Committee on Management (HLCM) and the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) with a view to clarifying the range of responsibilities and appropriate responses. At the time of drafting of the present document, a shared view on aspects of the QCPR and its repercussions had not yet been reached.

4. In addition, the Industrial Development Board decided through decision IDB.39/Dec.7 to establish an informal working group on the future, including programmes and resources, of UNIDO. In line with the terms of reference of the informal working group (GC.14/14, annex), the outcome of the working group would be the provision of guidance on the future, including programmes and resources, of UNIDO in the form of a strategic document to be submitted to the General Conference. At the time of drafting of the present document, the informal working group had made substantial progress towards its expected outcome, a strategic document to serve as overarching guidance in the elaboration of future iterations of the medium-term programme framework. However, this document had not yet been finalized or formally adopted by the policymaking organs of UNIDO.

II. Extension of the medium-term programme framework, 2010-2013, to the biennium 2014-2015

5. In order to give meaning to decision GC.14/Dec.18, it is necessary that a shared understanding be reached between entities of the United Nations system concerning the provisions of the QCPR and their application to specialized agencies such as UNIDO. It is also preferable that the expected outcome of the deliberations of the informal working group on the future, including programmes and resources, of UNIDO, be used to inform the Organization's programmatic frameworks.

6. The schedule of meetings of policymaking organs in 2013 prescribes that the proposals of the Director General for the programme and budgets 2014-2015 are to be submitted at the twenty-ninth session of the Programme and Budget Committee, and therefore in advance of any formal adoption of the working group's expected outcome. In order to ensure that the proposed programme and budgets, 2014-2015, exists within a broader strategic framework, and to provide for full consideration of the effects of both the QCPR and of the expected outcome of the working group, it is hereby proposed that the current medium-term programme framework 2010-2013 be extended to encompass the biennium 2014-2015.

III. Action required of the Committee

7. The Committee may wish to propose to the Board the adoption of the following draft decision:

“The Industrial Development Board:

(a) Takes note of the proposal on the medium-term programme framework contained in document IDB.41/8-PBC.29/8;

(b) Recalls General Conference decision GC.14/Dec.8 concerning the alignment of the medium-term programme framework with the comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

(c) Also recalls General Assembly resolution 67/226 of 21 December 2012, adopting the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

(d) Recommends that the General Conference at its fifteenth session decide that, pending consideration of the application of provisions of General Assembly resolution 67/226 to specialized agencies, the medium-term programme framework 2010-2013 remain in force until the expiry of the forthcoming budget biennium, 2014-2015;

(e) Also recommends that the General Conference at its fifteenth session request the Director General to submit from 2015 onwards, on a quadrennial basis, to the Board in the second year of a biennium, through the Programme and Budget Committee, a draft medium-term programme framework for four years, taking into account the recommendations of the latest comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development.”