

CEB Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity

Next steps

The reform of the country-level development assistance developed in the context of the United Nations reform has been accelerated and deepened during the year 2007 and 2008 with good results in terms of visibility and cohesion of the UN System ("Delivering as One" process).

At the country level, an increasing number of Governments are asking to apply the One UN pilot mechanism, or similar approaches, in their countries. All the UN entities are introducing adjustments to adapt to the changes stemming from this process by setting new mechanisms and allocating human resources to the monitoring of the UN development assistance frameworks in light of the political and financial opportunities emerging from this process.

UN Chief Executives Board Inter-agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity

Between April 2007 and March 2008 UNCTAD organized six meetings of the Cluster and maintained daily contacts with these organisations.

Actions taken by the Cluster so far are **joint programming operations in the One UN pilots** with operative modalities including inter-agency missions, formulation of programmes and implementation activities adapted to each case. Activities of the Cluster also consist in designing training programmes for Resident Coordinators and selected UN field staff organised in cooperation with the UN System Staff College (UNSSC) in Turin.

Based on the consolidated joint programming exercises undertaken in the eight pilots, the CEB Inter-agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity envisages other interagency initiatives in the forthcoming months:

- Coordination within the Cluster regarding new UNDAFs being prepared in 2008.
- Coordination within the Cluster regarding on-going UNDAFs, as appropriate.
- Pilot Training Workshop for Resident Coordinators based in transition economies (Turin, UNSSC Campus, 19-22 May 2008).
- Training Workshops of Resident Coordinators for Sub-Saharan countries (first quarter of 2009)
- Dissemination of the activities of the CEB Cluster in the context of the ECOSOC session of July 2008, New York, and other dissemination efforts (websites, brainstorming, meetings with member States in Geneva and at the field level).

Next steps on all the "Delivering as One" Pilot Countries also include the implementation of the **One UN budgetary frameworks**, i.e. each agency starts operations with its own resources while donors are mobilized so as to provide additional resources, either directly to agencies within a common coordinating framework, or into a common budget. The so-called "funding gap" will be financed by a joint budget whose resources are allocated by the Interagency/Government steering committees and managed by UNDP at the country level.

The implementation of the joint financial mechanisms of the One UN pilot countries will be a learning exercise for the CEB Cluster and for the donors' community supporting its operations. The major donors, including the European Commission, Germany, Norway, Spain, United Kingdom, Sweden etc., are currently aligning their mechanisms to allocate important financial resources through the One-UN process. The support of donors is crucial to the success and sustainability of the interagency coherence that the Cluster is already demonstrating.