Mainstreaming Anti-Corruption in Development

Update on UNDP Work on Anti-Corruption in 2008

Democratic Governance Group
Bureau for Development Policy
United Nations Development Programme

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Executive summary

This update highlights some of the major achievements of UNDP work on anti-corruption in 2008, particularly the major initiatives of DGG's anti-corruption service area and the activities of regional centres that successfully contributed to building an effective **"Service Delivery Platform (SDP)"** to provide consistent and coherent support to UNDP country offices (COs) and partner countries. The major steps taken to build the SDP were:

- **1. Defining areas of service provision:** The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between UNDP and UNODC defines the functional and thematic services being provided by the anti-corruption service area. The MoU provides a framework for cooperation as well as the mutual assistance arrangements between UNDP and UNODC.

- **2. Defining and updating UNDP approach:** To define the priorities and principles guiding UNDP's support and to clarify its value-added, UNDP published an anti-corruption practice note entitled 'Mainstreaming Anti-Corruption in Development', which provides guidelines on mainstreaming anti-corruption initiatives in development, particularly the prevention measures in United Nations Convention on Corruption (UNCAC). UNDP's global programme on anti-corruption also reinforces UNDP's niche—anti-corruption for development effectiveness.

- **3. Developing content:** To provide programming guidelines to COs and partner countries, UNDP has also published a primer on corruption and development and a guidance note on UNDP's work on anti-corruption.

- **4. Strengthening the Community of Practice (CoP):** Anti-corruption focal points and members of the Community of Practice (CoP) have been identified and trained at global, regional and CO levels. Taking into account new developments in this area, the global anti-corruption CoP also identified the policy priorities and community needs.

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Anti-corruption programming at the global level ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

UNDP memorandum of understanding with UNODC

In 2008, UNDP and UNODC finalized the Cooperation Framework to jointly work on anti-corruption issues and effectively deliver as 'One UN'. The signing of an MOU between UNDP and UNODC solidifies their partnership at the global, regional and country levels in the provision of technical assistance for anti-corruption initiatives and the implementation of UNCAC.

Memorandum of Understanding between UNDP and UNODC.

The MoU recognizes that UNDP serves as the coordinating arm of the UN and has wider presence at the country level to promote human development, while UNODC has both normative and technical assistance functions in relation to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC). Given this complementarity, this MoU seeks to enhance consistency, coherence and quality in the delivery of technical cooperation in anti-corruption to Member States, in response to national priorities.

The agreement provides cooperation at regional and national levels depending on the priorities of the country or region concerned. This is consistent with 'One UN' pilots that encourage joint programming at the country level.

Global leadership, advocacy and coordination

In 2008, both at the global and regional levels, UNDP continued its activities in building and improving strategic coordination with other partners such as UNODC, OECD/DAC, U4, GTZ, UNECA and Transparency International. The cooperation framework with UNODC in particular promoted increased cooperation in anti-corruption assessment missions (scoping missions and gap analysis) and the delivery of technical assistance for capacity development.

UNCAC Conference of State Parties and Working Group on Technical Assistance

UNCAC, which is the first comprehensive convention on corruption with 140 signatories

and 129 parties (as of 23 January 2009), establishes the Conference of States Parties (CoSP) as the implementation mechanism for the Convention. UNDP participated in the 2nd CoSP to UNCAC (held in Bali [Indonesia] from 28 January to 1 February 2008). UNDP also actively participated in and contributed to the Intergovernmental Working Groups on Technical Assistance, Asset Recovery and Implementation Review established under the CoSP.

Launch of UNDP's Asia Pacific human development report on corruption

As part of its commitment to global advocacy, UNDP launched an Asia-Pacific human development report entitled 'Tackling Corruption, Transforming Lives', which calls for a collective effort by all stakeholders—governments, development partners, civil society groups, the media and the private sector—to join hands and fight corruption in order to allow governments to provide the needed services to its people. The report is a UNDP policy advocacy resource as well as an instrument for stakeholders, enabling them to influence policies across countries. The report was launched in Jakarta [Indonesia] by Olav Kjørven, Assistant Secretary-General and UNDP Director of the Bureau for Development Policy (BDP), at a ceremony attended by H.E. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia.

Along with the launch of the report in Jakarta, several Asia-Pacific UNDP COs

Olav Kjørven, Assistant Secretary-General and UNDP Director of Bureau for Development Policy, handing over the Report to H.E. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia.

together with national anti-corruption institutions also organized events to sensitize the public on anti-corruption. The findings of the report were widely covered by the media.

The 13th International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC)

The 13th International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC) was held from 30 October to 2 November 2008 in Athens [Greece] under the theme 'Global Transparency: Fighting Corruption for a Sustainable Future'. The IACC brought together 1,400 leading practitioners and experts from the private, public and non-profit sectors to collectively formulate innovative and effective solutions, as well as forge partnerships, to better tackle the increasingly sophisticated challenges posed by corruption. The participants discussed how corruption undermines all facets of sustainability: fostering conflict and violence, increasing the exploitation of natural resources, aggravating climate change and deepening global inequalities. In particular, the conference focused on the following topics:

- Corruption, Peace and Security
- Corruption in Natural Resources and Energy Markets
- Climate Change and Corruption
- Sustainable Globalization

At the 13th IACC, UNDP organized four workshops on 'Human Rights and Corruption', 'Tools for Governance and Corruption Analysis', 'Creating Synergies for Technical Assistance', and 'Corruption and Human Development in Asia Pacific'. These workshops increased UNDP's visibility as one of the key players in the area of anti-corruption. All the workshops were well-attended with high interaction, and there was a lot of interest by participants of IACC on UNDP products, strategy and approach. Moreover, UNDP had its own exhibition booth at the workshops, with publications and knowledge

UNDP's booth for displaying its knowledge product in the 13th IACC, Athens, Greece, October to 2 November, 2008

products from the HQ and various regions. Finally, UNDP was approached throughout the IACC by different stakeholders to establish partnerships and share knowledge.

UNDP contribution to other international seminars, conferences and workshops

To increase UNDP's visibility as an active actor in the field of anti-corruption, DGG/BDP made presentations at various international conferences, seminars and workshops. UNDP's participation and contribution in the following fora helped clarify anti-corruption as a developmental issue, increase outreach and build partnership with relevant stakeholders.

- UNDP has been a part of OECD/ Development Assistance Committee (DAC) pilot projects on harmonizing donor activities, including joint assessments of anti-corruption activities at the country level. In 2008, UNDP participated in meetings of OECD/ DAC GOVNET, and provided input and feedback to its synthesis report on joint responses to corruption.

- In February 2008, UNDP participated in the international conference entitled 'Together we are stronger? Harmonising the fight against fraud and corruption

in Europe' held in Cologne, Germany. About 300 anti-corruption practitioners participated in the conference. The objectives of this conference were to provide an up-to-date overview of anti-corruption and anti-fraud practices in Europe and to exchange information and best practice examples among the various actors involved.

- In July 2008, in coordination with UNODC and OECD, UNDP Programme on Governance for Arab Region (POGAR) organized a regional conference, 'Preventing Corruption and Strengthening Cooperation between Anti-Corruption Bodies in the Arab Region' on 29-30 July 2008 in Amman, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. About 140 practitioners, government officials and members from various anti-corruption agencies attended the conference. The conference focused on the role of preventive anti-corruption frameworks and tools under UNCAC and witnessed the launch of the Arab network of anti-corruption practitioners called 'Supporting UNCAC Implementation in Arab Countries'. DGG/BDP shared UNDP experiences on supporting preventive anti-corruption bodies including anti-corruption commissions, and introduced UNDP's approach to anti-corruption programming including building strategic partnerships at global, regional and country levels.

- In October 2008, UNDP contributed to the international conference, 'Institutions, Culture and Corruption in Africa', organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) from 13 to 15 October 2008. UNDP participated in a roundtable discussion on combating corruption in Africa. The other members of the roundtable were representatives from the World Bank, UNECA,

CODESRIA, the Kenyan Anti-Corruption Commission, and the Government of Gambia (Attorney General). The conference, which was organized to mark the 50th anniversary of UNECA, was attended by 150 academicians, practitioners, government officials and members from various anti-corruption agencies and civil society.

■ UNDP also attended and actively participated in the International Group for Anti-corruption Coordination (IGAC) Meeting in October 2008. Among other things, UNDP suggested strengthening its collaboration with member organiations by expanding membership and setting up an effective mechanism for knowledge sharing.

■ In November 2008, DGG/BDP participated in the World Urban Forum 4 (WUF4), which was hosted by the Government of China and held in the ancient city of Nanjing from 3 to 6 November 2008. The forum is a biennial gathering organized by UN-HABITAT and attended by a wide range of partners including non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, urban professionals, academics, governments, local authorities and national and international associations of local governments. The WUF4, whose theme was 'Harmonious Urbanization: The Challenge of Balanced Territorial Deve - lopment', witnessed the participation of more than 7,000 people. DGG/ BDP actively participated in both training and networking events. DGG/BDP organized a training session on 'Corruption in Local Governments'. 50 participants registered for the course and 35 participants participated in the training. The training modules and reference documents were distributed at the event.

■ In 2008, DGG/BDP also strengthened its partnership with GTZ and U4 by participating in and contributing to their

workshops. In November, DGG/BDP and Regional Centre Bangkok presented its experience on gender and corruption at the GTZ-organized workshop entitled 'Gender and Corruption in Development Cooperation'. Similarly, in December 2008, DGG/BDP provided a resource person to the training workshop organized by U4 entitled 'Current Approaches to Corruption Control: Options for Nepal'.

■ In October 2008, at the request of the UNDP Chile CO, the DGG/BDP participated at the international forum 'UN Convention against Corruption—challenges for its application in Chile'. The forum was attended by over 100 participants from Chile and other countries in Latin America and beyond. The seminar was organized by the UNDP CO in Chile and GTZ in collaboration with the General Controller's Office of Chile, to help support the new anti-corruption efforts in Chile by bringing in regional and international actors with whom the government of Chile could share good practices. The forum was high level, and dignitaries included H.E. Michelle Bachelet, President of Chile, Ms. Inga-Britt Ahlenius, the UN Under Secretary General for Internal Oversight, seven ministers, diplomats and over 100 participants. The DGG/BDP presented its global experience on what had worked and what had not and also shared information on resources.

UNDP global programme on anti-corruption

In order to respond to the growing demand from UNDP COs and national counterparts for technical cooperation in anti-corruption, DGG/BDP developed the UNDP global programme on anti-corruption entitled 'Global Thematic Programme on Anti-Corruption for Development Effectiveness (PACDE) 2008-11', which aims at increasing state

and institutional capacity to engage more effectively in reducing corruption, to improve governance and sustain development.

Through PACDE, the anti-corruption service area of the DGG under BDP is currently concentrating on developing the internal capacity of UNDP COs to provide quality anti-corruption technical assistance—this includes training, providing knowledge tools that articulate UNDP policy, and guidance on implementing UNDP anti-corruption mandates within the norms and standards provided in UNCAC.

The 3rd global anti-corruption Community of Practice (AC COP) meeting

UNDP held its 3rd global anti-corruption Community of Practice (AC COP) in Athens [Greece] on 28 and 29 October 2008, back to back with the 13th International Anti-corruption Conference (IACC). The overall theme of the AC CoP was 'Refocusing UNDP's Anti-Corruption Work in the Context of UNCAC and UNDP Realignment Process'. The CoP gathered 44 UNDP anti-corruption practitioners from COs, Regional Bureaux/ Centres and the HQ. In addition, representatives from UNODC, NORAD and an anti-corruption expert from the Northeastern University were invited.

The global CoP meeting, organized by the DGG/BDP, was primarily devoted to policy development and identification of community needs and priorities. In addition, it focused on enhancing synergies among CoP members and managing knowledge on anti-corruption.

More specifically, the three policy issues discussed in greater detail were:

- How to use UNCAC as a framework for UNDP's work on anti-corruption?
- How to build synergies between global, regional and country levels in the context of UNDP realignment process?
- How to programme anti-corruption activities as a cross-cutting issue?

Most of the participants acknowledged that the COP meeting had positive outcomes: it clarified how UNCAC could be used as a framework for UNDP anti-corruption programming; improved their understanding of the UNDP regionalization process at the global, regional and

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