

UNDG Information Note
for the Resident Coordinators and United Nations Country Teams

World Conferences and Events in 2001

Background

A number of United Nations global conferences and events will take place in 2001. At its meeting in October 2000, the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) suggested that all requests made to United Nations country teams and governments in relations to these conferences and events should be put in perspective and the key priorities/objectives to be achieved should be summarised to assist Resident Coordinators and United Nations country teams to respond to requests made by governments for assistance.

In 2001 World Conferences/Events, which are being organized under the United Nations are listed below¹:

- Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDCs III), May 2001, Brussels;
- Habitat II Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly (Istanbul+5), June 2001, New York;
- HIV/AIDS Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly, 25-27 June 2001, New York;
- World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, 31 August - 7 September 2001, Durban, South Africa;
- Special Session on Children of the UN General Assembly, September 2001, New York;
- Ten-year Review of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED - Rio+10), January 2002²; and
- High-level Consultation on Financing for Development, first quarter of 2002³ (postponed from 2001).

Objective

In light of the above background, the present Note attempts to provide information to Resident Coordinators and UN country teams on how to respond to requests for input and support on the following issues:

¹ There are two more United Nations Conference to take place in 2001, i.e. *Conference in Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapon* (July 2001) and *Diamond Certification Conference* (November 2001). However, activities of these two conferences will take place mainly at headquarters level.

² Preparatory work to take place in 2001.

³ Preparatory work to take place in 2001.

- Relationship between the United Nations Millennium Declaration and goals/objectives of activities of or preparation for each conference/event which will take place in 2001;
- Cross cutting issues to be reviewed/discussed in each conference/event;
- Linkage between issues to be addressed in each conference/event and existing UN programming frameworks;
- Role of UN country teams and the time frame of expected input; and
- References in terms of communications sent earlier from headquarters and sources of detailed information and documents.

The above points as they relate to each conference/event are summarized and annexed as an attachment to this Note. The Note will also facilitate the planning for collective UN country team's support to the country with regard to UN conference follow-up in 2001 and beyond.

The Perspective

The overall perspective, which encompasses the above-mentioned points, is outlined below:

*The United Nations Millennium Declaration*⁴

Major world conferences organised by the United Nations in the 1990s provided an opportunity for the international community to come together and agree on steps needed to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development. The Millennium Declaration renews the commitments made by all Member States in these conferences/events. The Declaration has adopted specific targets which are linked with the above - mentioned conferences/events in the following broad areas:

- Peace, security and disarmament;
- Development and poverty eradication;
- Protecting our common environment;
- Human rights, democracy and good governance;
- Protecting the vulnerable;
- Meeting the special needs of Africa; and
- Strengthening the United Nations.

The conferences/events to be organized in 2001 will directly respond to the Millennium Declaration in an inter-related manner.

Linkage among conferences/events

Goals and targets set by different conferences should be viewed together since they are mutually reinforcing. For example, the Third Conference on the LDCs will address key multi-sectoral issues of poverty,

⁴ Please see the Millennium Declaration at web site: www.un.org/millennium

access to social services, debt relief, market access to all LDC exports, protection of the environment, HIV/AIDS, etc. These linkages are summarised in the attachment. Each country should prioritize its own goals and make its own commitment based on its own path to development.

Linkage with existing development frameworks

The **Common Country Assessment (CCA)** provides a country-based process for reviewing and analysing the national development situation and assessment of the status of national-level, coordinated follow-up to the UN conferences. It helps to facilitate efforts for coherent, integrated and coordinated UN support to government follow-up to the conferences and the implementation of conventions and declarations. The CCA Indicator Framework serves as the point of departure for collecting data. It is intended to ensure that the major global concerns are considered.

The **United Nations Development Framework (UNDAF)** should address, among others, coordinated follow-up to UN conferences and support by the UN country team for the implementation of conventions and declarations.

The **UNDG Poverty Strategy and Action Plan** provide a concrete response to the Millennium Declaration and brings a substantive focus to CCA and UNDAF. The strategy also provides the UN system with a collective tool to engage with national partners in the context of the Comprehensive Development Framework (CDF) and the Poverty Strategy Reduction Paper (PRSP). Similarly, the **Concept Paper for Girls' Education Initiative and Action Plan** assist country collaborative and concerted UN's support to girls' education programmes/projects. The two action plans provide concrete and substantive focuses of both the CCA and UNDAF.

Role of United Nations country teams

The support that UN country teams may be called on to provide to each conference/event and by each organiser are summarised in the attachment. These include assistance for the establishment of national consultative mechanisms, advocacy initiatives, support for the preparation of national progress reports and the review of national action plans, and support for the commemoration of an International Day for a specific event. Each UN country team should engage in a dialogue with national partners/stakeholders in prioritising their collective support.

References

The attachment also provides hyperlinks to relevant web sites, which contain full and detailed information about each conference/event, should they be needed by UN country teams.

UNDGO
December 2000

World Conferences and Events in 2001

Event/Date/ Organiser	Goals/Objective s	Linkage with existing Frameworks	Linkage with other Conferences/Eve nts	Role of UN Country Team/Time Frame	References
<p>Third UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDCs III) - UNCTAD</p> <p>1. Intergovernmental Prep Com, February and April 2001, New York</p> <p>2. Conference, 14-20 May 2001, Brussels</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To assess the progress in the country-level implementation of the programme of Action during the 1990s, adopted at LDCs II • To review the implementation of international support measures, e.g. ODA, debt, investment and trade <p>To consider the formulation and adoption of national and international</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CCA/UNDAF process as well as PRSP/CDF provide mechanisms for follow-up on the implementation of the Programme of Action in a strategic and practical manner • UNDG Poverty Strategy and Action Plan provides a substantive focus to CCA and UNDAF, as well as a collective tool to engage with national partners in the context of CDF and PRSP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Financing for Development:</i> LDCs III will also discuss, issues concerning debt relief, ODA, duty-free and quota-free market access for all LDC exports • <i>Rio+10:</i> LDCs III will address the issue of protecting the environment in LDCs • <i>Special Session on HIV/AIDS:</i> LDCs III will address HIV/AIDS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To assist national authorities in the preparation of their contributions to the new Programme of Action, focussing on country-level implementation by December 2000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNDG's Chair's letters of 15 November 1999 and 14 November 2000 • Jean.nicolas.marchal@unctad.org - in charge of country-level preparation • www.unctad-10.org

	policies/measures for the sustainable development of the LDCs and their progressive integration into the world economy		pandemic in LDCs as one of the critical development issues		
Istanbul+5 Special Session of the UN General Assembly - UNCHS 1. Second Prep Com, 19-23 Feb. 2001, Nairobi 2. Special Session, 6-8 June 2001, New York	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review and appraise progress of the implementation of <i>Habitat Agenda</i> worldwide five year after the Conference in Istanbul 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CCA and UNDAF should take full account of the outcome of Istanbul+5, especially on the issue of urban poverty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>LDC III</i>: Special Parallel Event on City to City Cooperation <i>Special Session on Children</i>: Istanbul +5 will address "Child Friendly Cities" <i>Conf. on Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapon</i>: Istanbul+5 will address and coordinate on "Safer Cities Project" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To revitalize National Habitat Committee To support a national workshop to review plan of action To support the preparation of a country report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> www.istanbul5.org www.unchc.org
HIV/AIDS Special Session of the UN General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review and address as a matter of urgency the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CCA and UNDAF should address HIV/AIDS issue as cross- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>LDCs III</i>: A number of LDCs have over 4% of adults 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure country representation at the special session at the highest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> www.unaids.org

<p>Assembly - UNAIDS, 25-27 June 2001, New York</p>	<p>problem of HIV/AIDS in all its aspects and to secure a global commitment to enhance coordination and intensification of national, regional and international efforts to combat it in a comprehensive manner</p>	<p>cutting issue, as appropriate</p>	<p>living with HIV/AIDS, therefore the issue will be addressed in connection with poverty as well as its impact on macro-economic and social development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Special Session on Children</i> will address the impact of HIV/AIDS on children, orphans, and mother-to child transmission • <i>Financing for Development</i>: the need to mobilize increased resources against the HIV/AIDS epidemic will be a major question for the 	<p>political level by the government, especially for African countries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To encourage active participation by government at regional meetings (dates and venue to be determined) in preparation for the special session • To assist national authorities in the preparation of their positions and contributions to the special session • To facilitate the organization, contribute to and participate in country-level and regional preparatory activities for the special session 	
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			debate at the HIV/AIDS Special Session		
<p>World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance - OHCHR</p> <p>1. International Day against All Forms of Racial Discrimination , 21 Mar. 2001</p> <p>2. World Conference, 31 Aug.- 7 Sept. 2001, Durban, South Africa</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To eliminate all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance To raise public awareness for the issues discussed during the preparatory process, the Conference, and through the implementation of the plan of action To adopt a concrete and action-oriented plan of action addressing issues of utmost relevance today 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CCA/UNDAF should pay attention to the principle of non-discrimination on the basis of race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin, using among other things, the indicators developed in the CCA Guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>World Youth Forum</i>: the question of whether youth suffers from special forms of discrimination could be discussed <i>Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons</i>: the prevention of ethnic conflicts was discussed at one of the regional expert seminars and its recommendations will be submitted to the World Conference on Racism <i>LDCs III</i>; the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To include information about the Conference in their respective public relations and information activities To provide information concerning their activities for inclusion in the OHCHR web site To transmit reports/information materials dealing with issues of racial discrimination at the national level that they might have To pay special attention to the commemoration of the International Day against All Forms of Racial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> www.ohchr.org

			efforts to eliminate racial discrimination should be viewed in the context of sustainable development	Discrimination on 21 Mar. 2001, by organizing discussions with representatives of the government, parliamentarians, NGOs, civil society about the impact of racism, etc., and what measures could be taken	
<p>Special Session on Children of the UN General Assembly - UNICEF</p> <p>1. Prep Com, 29 Jan. - 2 Feb. and 11-15 June 2001, New York</p> <p>2. Special Session, Sept. 2001, New York</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review the achievements in the implementation of the World Declaration and the Plan of Action on the Survival, protection and Development of Children in 1990s To undertake a renewed commitment and consider 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CCA and UNDAF should address the issues of basic education for boys and girls, reduction of maternal and child mortality, HIV/AIDS, and assistance to children affected by humanitarian emergencies and arm conflict The UNDG Concept Paper for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority issues to be addressed include HIV/AIDs, housing and sanitation, discrimination and armed conflict. These issues are related to the <i>Special Session on HIV/AIDS, Istanbul+5 and World Conferences</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support the preparation of a national summary report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> www.unicef.org/specialsession/review Governments have been requested by UNICEF to submit, by the end of Dec. 2000, a summary report including an implementation assessment and recommendations

	future action for children in the next decade	the Girls' Education Initiative together with an Action Plan was developed and a general guidance note issued by the chair of the undg to UNCTs. These should be used to help mainstream girls' education initiatives in the CCA and UNDAF	<i>against Racism and on Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons</i>		ons for future action
Preparation in 2001 for ten-year Review of the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED, Rio + 10) in June 2002 - UNDESA , first, second and third substantive preparatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review progress achieved in the implementation of the outcome of Agenda 21 and other outcomes of UNCED 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CCA and UNDAF should take into consideration the implementation of Agenda 21 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>LDCs III</i>: will address the issues of sustainable development and protecting the environment in LDCs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote system-wide support to national reviews and assessments as soon as possible To promote further commitment to sustainable development as an overarching policy framework To help countries to set up national preparatory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UN/DESA and UNDP joint letter of 18 July 2000 to RRs/RCs, The UN General Assembly is working on a resolution to provide guidance on the review process www.un.org/ri

<p>sessions to be held in Jan., Mar., and May 2002 (venues and dates to be determined)</p>				<p>committee in 2001</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support the participation of national experts and representatives in sub-regional/regional meetings 	<p>o+10</p>
<p>High-level Consultation on Financing for Development - UN/DESA, first quarter of 2002</p>	<p>To focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> mobilizing domestic financial resources for development; mobilizing international resources for development, including FDI and other private flows; trade; increasing international cooperation for development through, inter alia, ODA; debt; <p>enhancing coherence and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financing for development issues concern the availability of national and international public and private resources for development and constitute a frame of reference for UN resource mobilization in support of national development priorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>LDCs III</i>: the issue of financing for development will be one of issues to be addressed in light of the declining trend of ODA, debt relief initiatives, flows of FDI, trade and aid, etc <i>Other major UN Conferences of the 1990s</i>: mobilization of financial resources for the full implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support the preparation of national background studies, in consultations between all concerned stakeholders to identify key issues to present at the Prep Com sessions or at the High-level event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNDP Administrator's letter to RRs dated 6 October 2000 www.un.org/esa/analysis/ffd

	consistency of the international, financial and trading systems in support of development		of the outcome of the major UN conferences/summits of the 1990s will be a major issue		
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