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WORKING GROUP ON AGEING

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PLANNING FOR PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Note by the secretariat

Summary

This document gives an overview of the planned performance assessments and self-evaluations for the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme. In line with the decision of the UNECE requesting each Sectoral Committee to conduct biennial evaluations, it describes the framework for such evaluations to be performed in the context of the 2008–2009 biennium. The document also includes the subprogramme's 2010–2011 strategic framework. The Working Group on Ageing is invited to take note of the expected accomplishments and related indicators of achievement for the relevant clusters of activity in this framework.

I. INTRODUCTION

1.   The United Nations, including UNECE, is expected to plan its activities in advance with the participation of stakeholders, enabling the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly to make the necessary funding decisions. After two years, those responsible for a programme should report on their achievements, and be answerable for the results.

2.   In recent years, the United Nations has moved to a results-based management system, where programmes are assessed in terms of results achieved and not just the outputs produced. This necessitates putting in place mechanisms to monitor and report on achievements and lessons learned, which should lead to improved performance.

3.   Generally, there are two formal frameworks for programme planning, performance assessment and reporting:

(a)   The United Nations-wide mandatory assessment system, in compliance with the instructions provided by the General Assembly and Headquarters;

(b)   UNECE biennial performance evaluations, to be implemented by each Sectoral Committee at the request of the Commission.

4.   Each of the two systems has its own legitimate requirements; the challenge is to align all the processes and to streamline the use of resources, for instance by harmonizing planning periods and by using the same methods to assess performance.

II. UNITED NATIONS-WIDE MANDATORY ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

5.   In order to achieve the best possible results, and as mandated by the United Nations, two key tools are employed by all its entities to ensure that the work carried out corresponds adequately to the objectives set and the needs of users and stakeholders:

(a)   The United Nations results-based management and results-based budgeting framework;

(b)   Self-evaluations.

6.   According to the United Nations results-based management and results-based budgeting system, before each biennium all subprogrammes must set up a strategic framework that determines their objectives in terms of "expected accomplishments" and, for each of them, indicators of achievement. The 2008–2009 strategic framework for the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme was approved by the General Assembly (A/61/6 (Prog. 16)).

III. UNECE BIENNIAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS 2008–2009

7.   The UNECE member countries, being committed to the transparency and effectiveness of programme management, agreed at the fifty-ninth session of the Commission in 2004 to place more emphasis on evaluation as a tool in managing the Commission's work and conduct biennial evaluations of subprogrammes. The 2005 UNECE reform further strengthened this approach.

8.   In the context of the biennial evaluations, each subprogramme identifies clusters of activity and agrees on expected accomplishments for each of them, together with the related indicators of achievement and measurement methodologies. This approach, while following the same results-based methodology, is more detailed than the more aggregated United Nations-wide approach (see section II above).

9.   These biennial evaluations should comprise two phases: (a) a planning phase, prior to each biennium as mentioned above; and (b) an evaluation phase, towards the end of any biennium, drawing up an accomplishment account for each expected accomplishment, including lessons learned and recommendations for possible programmatic adjustments.

10.   The proposed clusters of activities of the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme are:

    (a)   Country profiles on the housing sector;
    (b)   Improvement of urban environmental performance;
    (c)   Land administration;
    (d)   Housing modernization and management;
    (e)   Population ageing;
    (f)   Generations and gender.

11.   The draft expected accomplishment and indicator of achievement for the cluster on population ageing for 2008–2009 biennial performance evaluations are presented in annex I.

12.   The Working Group on Ageing is invited to provide inputs for developing the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement related to its programme of work for the 2010–2011 biennial performance evaluation, in autumn 2009, and thereafter to be presented and agreed upon by the UNECE Executive Committee.

IV.   UNITED NATIONS STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2010–2011

13.   In accordance with the UNECE programme planning process, the draft strategic framework has been reviewed by the UNECE Executive Committee before submission to United Nations Headquarters in 2008.

14.   As outlined in annex II, the 2010–2011 strategic framework for the subprogramme contains the following elements:

    (a)   Subprogramme objective;
    (b)   Expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement;
    (c)   Strategy to achieve the subprogramme's expected accomplishments and objective.

15.   The Working Group is invited to provide inputs for the strategic framework for 2012-2013, to be presented to the UNECE Executive Committee in autumn 2009.

Annex I

**EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT
FOR THE HOUSING, LAND MANAGEMENT AND POPULATION SUBPROGRAMME
FOR 2008–2009 BIENNIAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS**

Cluster on population ageing: (e)

Objective of the Organization: To improve the housing and urban governance in the UNECE region as well as the knowledge base on population issues, strengthening the formulation and implementation of policies and developing capacities at the national and local levels.	
Expected accomplishments	**Indicators of achievement**
[…]	[…]
(e) *Population ageing* Enhanced development of policies and actions for adjusting societies to population ageing	Increased number of countries that have adjusted their policies or introduced new measures in the commitment areas of the León Ministerial Declaration adopted at the 2007 UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing

Annex II

PROPOSED STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR THE PERIOD 2010–2011

SUBPROGRAMME 8: HOUSING, LAND MANAGEMENT AND POPULATION

Cluster on population: (c)

Objective of the Organization: To improve housing, urban and land governance in the region as well as the knowledge base on population issues, strengthening the formulation and implementation of policies, enhancing social cohesion and developing capacities at the national and local levels.	
Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	**Indicators of achievement**
[…]	[…]
(c) Enhanced policy formulation on population issues to meet the challenges of demographic change	Number of countries that have adjusted their policies or introduced new measures in the policy areas decided upon at the 2007 UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing in León, Spain

Strategy

[…]

4.   The subprogramme's population component will aim at promoting the implementation of the commitments of the 2007 UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing, inter alia, by meeting the challenges arising from demographic change and releasing the unused potential embedded in some population groups, in particular older persons. A region-wide cooperation programme of data collection and research on issues related to population ageing, intergenerational collaboration, gender relations, family and fertility will continue to be implemented. Good practices will be exchanged and national capacities for policy formulation in response to population ageing will be developed.

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