

## Donors' closing statement

Hanoi, 16 June 2010

I have the honour of speaking on behalf of the donors present here in Hanoi at the High-level Tripartite Conference on Delivering as One.

First let me thank the Government of Vietnam for hosting the meeting and for their warm hospitality.

I would also like to thank the governments, UN country teams and evaluators of the Delivering as One countries. The various country-led evaluations have helped us understand better what progress has been made thus far and how to move forward with Delivering as One.

The donor countries welcome the statement of outcomes of this conference, including the observation that there is no going back on the commitment to make Delivering as One a success.

Delivering as One has improved the way we work at country level. I would like to highlight six examples from the country-led evaluations:

First, it is clear that partner governments here prefer to work with One UN. The Delivering as One approach has strengthened national ownership. The UN's activities are much better aligned with national priorities and reduce the burden across the government and line ministries in engaging with the UN.

Second, cross cutting themes such as gender, environment and good governance benefit from harmonised interventions and joint programmes.

Third, the Delivering as One process has already resulted in some efficiency gains. There is scope for more, provided all partners at country and headquarters level show leadership and vision.

Fourth, speaking with one voice has enhanced the visibility and impact of the UN at country level.

Fifth, Delivering as One has reduced competition and cut time spent by agencies on fundraising. It has increased transparency with regard to resources and capacity between agencies.

And sixth, we heard the One Funds are critical to the successful implementation of Delivering as One. The responsiveness and flexibility of these funds serve to strengthen national ownership and leadership.

At the same time, however, there are areas where more progress must be made. Let me mention four such areas:

First, reforms at HQ level need to speed up, for example on human resources management, business practices and common reporting. Both UN agencies and the members of governing bodies at UN headquarters could develop a better sense of the challenges the UN faces at

country level - and also a stronger commitment to address these challenges so as to make the UN a more effective partner.

Second, the role of the Resident Coordinator should be clarified and strengthened. UN agencies at all levels should do their part to implement the Management and Accountability Framework, build trust between them, and achieve a more fluid coordination between them based on mutual trust and transparency.

Third, reporting on tangible results is a key challenge that needs to be addressed, by enhancing RBM training, better results frameworks and harmonized reporting.

And fourth, while internal UN coordination and harmonisation is of vital importance, it is not enough. Guided by program countries, the UN needs to define its comparative advantages.

We all have a stake in a more effective and efficient UN, a UN that is more responsive to the needs of program countries, that gives more value for money and that contributes to our common goal of reaching the MDG's.

The importance of national ownership and leadership cannot be overemphasized. The statement of outcomes clearly reflects that principle. Donors appreciate the way Delivering as One countries have taken their responsibility in this regard. We as donors stand ready to respond to governments' requests to work through the One Programme.

We are here today because we believe that Delivering as One is the right way to go. The independent evaluation should build upon the findings and lessons learned from the country-led evaluations while focussing on system-wide issues at UN Headquarters and evidence of development impacts. We must work together to ensure that we will have a credible final report delivered to the 66<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly. The momentum should be maintained to drive the Delivering as One process forward.

Let us implement and communicate the conclusions and recommendations of this conference by including them on the agendas of the various boards, and of ECOSOC and the General Assembly. In this way all of us here can promote a swift follow-up at the inter-governmental level.

As donors, we recognise that in order to take the Delivering as One process forward, we need to take a fresh look at how we engage with the UN development system. That includes the issue of the quality of our funding. It is evident that the One Fund has been a key driver for the progress made, and we acknowledge that predictable, multi-year, non-earmarked funding is a catalyst for reform and can enhance the sustainability of the Delivering as One process.

Perhaps the most important conclusion of this conference is that program countries, the UN and donors alike remain firmly committed to Delivering as One and are ready and willing to take the necessary next steps. In doing so, we should keep in mind that Delivering as One is not a goal in and by itself. At its core, it is about maximising the impact of development activities at the country level.