Title:
ECOSOC Transition Event
Transition from Relief to Development:
Advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Crisis Contexts

Time and Date: Wednesday, 21 June 2017, 10:00–12:45
Room XVII, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Background:

This year’s joint informal transition event will focus on **how the UN and its partners can use Agenda 2030 as a framework for engaging in and accelerating progress in crisis and transition contexts.**

In its resolution 58/114, adopted in February 2004, the UN General Assembly encouraged ECOSOC “to consider the issue of the transition from relief to development in an integrated manner, through a possible joint meeting of the humanitarian and operational segments, during its substantive session in the near future, in view of the importance of getting humanitarian and development organizations, including international and regional financial institutions and nongovernmental organizations, to discuss and review more fully the implications of the transition from relief to development in their programming”. The GA also invited the Council to “take into account, inter alia, the work in progress by the United Nations system to clarify its role in post-conflict transition situations as well as other relevant information in its consideration”. The yearly transition event aims to fulfill this request from the GA. The event is an informal meeting of ECOSOC, and therefore does not result in a resolution.

Proposed discussion:

This year’s event will focus on **how Agenda 2030 is being leveraged in crisis and post-crisis contexts to ensure that the UN and its partners reach those who are hit the hardest by conflict, and fulfill the promise made in Agenda 2030 of leaving no one behind.**

Acknowledging that “there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development”, the event will discuss new approaches and good practices for operationalizing Agenda 2030 at the country level in transition contexts. Panelists will highlight innovative solutions for advancing Agenda 2030 at the country level, and showcase locally driven, context specific programmes. This can also explore the interlinkages between sustaining peace and sustainable development and seek to meet the needs and reduce the vulnerability of those left furthest behind. Discussions will also look at proposed changes to donor funding streams to more effectively support integrated approaches in rapidly changing contexts.

This event will discuss progress in advancing the 2030 Agenda in crisis contexts with a view to reduce risks, vulnerability and levels of need. It will focus on experience at the national level in progressing the 2030 Agenda's vision to "leave no-one behind" and to "reach the furthest behind first". The discussion will highlight the means of operationalizing the New Way of Working to pursue common results that draw on the different capacities of humanitarian and development actors to accelerate progress for the most vulnerable, increase resilience, and advance sustainable development. It will include a discussion exploring field experiences and practical innovations on the ground. It will also explore the interlinkages with the Secretary-General's prevention agenda and sustaining peace.
Format:

The 2017 transition event will take place on 21 June, from 10am to 12.45pm, in the ECOSOC chamber in the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

The discussion will be chaired by the Vice-Presidents of ECOSOC, who will make opening and closing statements. The event will be moderated by a senior representative of a UN Development Group member (tbd). The panel discussion will utilize an interactive format to facilitate greater engagement with Member States.

The panel discussion will include:

Country examples
- First country example, Burkina Faso, showcasing how the New Way of Working can be implemented in the context where the UNDAF is the main planning document. [Presentations will be given via VTC. Proposed panelists include a Government representative from Burkina Faso and the Resident Coordinator.]

- Second country example, Central African Republic (CAR), showcasing cross-UN system collaboration across the siloes, including implementation of the UN-World Bank Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus Initiative in CAR. [Presentations will be given via VTC; proposed panelists include a CAR Government representative and the DSRSG/RC/HC in CAR.]

Presentations on funding in transition contexts:
- A donor presentation on efforts to establish more flexible modalities for funding Agenda 2030 in transition and conflict settings [Proposed Panelist: Representative of Government of Switzerland.]

Panelists will be asked to address their remarks around the following probing questions

- What needs to be done to ensure that development actors involve themselves earlier in crisis contexts wherever development-oriented and sustainable approaches become possible?

- How can the 2030 Agenda be used as an enabler for more partnership across the humanitarian, development and peace nexus?

- To what extent are current financial funding mechanisms enabling or limiting factors to strengthen the nexus between humanitarian, development and peace work? How can innovations on financing help support the implementation of Agenda 2030 in post-crisis transition contexts?

- What are the practical recommendations to enhance better joint analysis, joint-up planning and implementation and better coordinated reporting between humanitarian, development and peace partners in post-crisis transition contexts?