

“There are other worlds, but they are in this one.”

Paul Éluard

Reform Times in Uruguay



Sistema de las Naciones Unidas en Uruguay
UNIDOS EN LA ACCIÓN

A monthly newsletter with news, data, and events on the “Delivering as One” process in Uruguay

“We need to break old ways of doing things”

General Assembly Co-chairs check pilot countries through intensive agenda

On 9th and 10th June 2008, the Co-Chairs on United Nations System-wide Coherence Working Group, visited Uruguay and carried out a tight agenda that included meetings with Government authorities, the United Nations Country Team and the civil society.

Ambassador Augustine Mahiga, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tanzania to the UN, and Ambassador Paul Kavanagh, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the UN, shared updated information about the “Delivering as One” process at global level and in the other pilot countries. They were also informed about the ongoing process in Uruguay and had extensive exchange of views and opinions with the Resident Coordinator, the United Nations Country Team, representatives of the Federation of the United Nations Staff Association, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Gonzalo Fernández, the Director of the Budget and Planning Office, Mr. Enrique Rubio, the President of the National NGOs Association, Ms. Analia Bettoni as well as donors, represented by their Ambassadors or their First Secretary Of Embassy (Spain, Norway, The Netherlands, Italy, France, UK and the European Commission Delegation to Uruguay).

Before leaving Uruguay, both Co-chairs held a press conference that was covered by local media and international press agencies. During the dialogue with the journalists, Ambassador Mahiga said that the UN reform indicated “that the diverse elements of United Nations had to work together in a more coherent way to deliver more effectively the services needed by the ultimate beneficiaries of the cooperation, the population. He also observed that the UN System was becoming more efficient in “responding to the priorities of the country”. He also emphasized the key importance of innovation: “we need to break old ways of doing things”.



Ambassadors Mahiga and Kavanagh at the press conference held on Tuesday 10th June at UN premises.

Both Co-Chairs highlighted that their visit to Uruguay was specially useful in enabling them to better understand the issues related to cooperation needs of a middle income country and what a more cohesive and therefore more effective UN System should deliver in a country like Uruguay.

As a summary of their visit to the pilot countries, Ambassador Kavanagh concluded that “the central issue is that we are re-shaping the UN efforts to demonstrate results in its work. In this moment, we can say that **the reform is moving in the right direction**”.

By the end of June, the President of the General Assembly received the report of Co-Chairs Ambassadors Mahiga and Kavanagh. At the end of 2009, the General Assembly will analyze, on behalf of the results of an independent report, how the “Delivering as One” processes are advancing and later on what impact the “Delivering as One” pilot had on the pilot countries development. ■■

The power of a basket ball
Communication as a
spontaneous and daily
challenge



UN colleagues playing basketball at the open place next to UN premises.

Montevideo, the capital of Uruguay, is a relatively small city, where approximately a million and a half habitants live in. The city has developed along the nearby River Plate (Río de la Plata), a gateway towards the Atlantic Ocean, which gives the city a wonderful resort for all its inhabitants. Although the United Nations System still doesn't have a unique building (One UN House is still on the way...), many UN offices gather in a three floor building, property of the Postal Union of the Americas, Spain and Portugal, where in two of the three floors work the personnel of the Office of the Resident Coordinator, UNDP, UNFPA, UNIFEM, UNOPS and PNUMA.

A few weeks ago, a spontaneous proposal of the Assistant Representative of the UNFPA, Mr. Juan José Calvo, shaken the winter routine. Surprisingly, he appeared with a bright orange colored basket ball and suggested all colleagues to play basketball for at least 20 minutes of the lunch hour. That day, five colleagues followed him and joined an energetic match at an open place next to the office building. The following lunch, more people joined and the same way happened on the next day. Now, the “basket lunch match” has become an unexpected place where people join, play, chat and interchange informally, returning to their usual activities in a better mood and with refreshed enthusiasm. ■■

Support to innovative efforts

Good news in the year of the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The approval of a new Action 2 Project, to be implemented from July to October 2008, will imply a diverse range of activities related to the spreading of a human rights approach in the United Nations System. This project, called "Strengthening the system of promotion and protection of the human rights in Uruguay", includes the realization of activities with key local counterparts in the field of human rights protection. The project received the support of the local Country Team and implies the participation of different Agencies, Commissions, Funds and Programmes so as to achieve its goals. In this context, it is good to remind that the 2007-2010 UNDAF, as well as the One UN Programme, define the protection of human rights as "one of its three overarching goals for development assistance in Uruguay". The aim is to promote the exercise of human rights and deepening of quality of democracy, increasing the civic, political and social citizenship. The designed activities include an international seminar on the creation of the National Human Rights Institute and the strengthening of the "1.000 human rights promoters initiative", an innovative experience being carried out by the Directorate of Human Rights of the Ministry of Education and Culture in Uruguay, that tends to held educative seminars and training in the major cities of the country. The project will also implicate capacity building in relation to the incorporation of a human rights approach, particularly in the projects of the "One Programme" in the implementation and evaluation phase, with support of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. ■

"A broad-based coalition of States, international organizations and civil society has brought a new international standard that will enhance the protection of civilians, strengthen human rights and improve prospects for development."

Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations

Notes and lessons from Sudan

Coffee with ideas

Last 2nd June, at UN premises, was held the first "after hour thematic roundtable", destined to promote face-to-face interchanges among international visitors and the UN personnel.

Mr. Maximo Halty, who has been working for many years with UNDP and IOM, referred to the activities of the Socio-economic Risk and Security Threat Mapping and Analysis (TRMA) team and to the Human Security and Recovery Unit of the UNDP in Sudan. He presented part of his work on human security and socio-economic risk in Sudan and other African countries. The meeting was actively followed by members of the Resident Coordinator's Office and of the different Agencies, Commissions, Funds and Programmes of the UN System.

At the "roundtable", Mr. Halty presented the actions of the mapping process, which aim to cover 25 states of Sudan with geographically orientated information: data collection, data visualization, spatial contextual analysis, scenario building and programme support and impact monitoring. This was defined as a "strategic planning and decision-marking support tool for multiple programs in the security and recovery field". Mr. Halty highlighted that "the team is working as a seamless unit allocating resources to specific tasks based on previously defined priorities", pointing out the connection of this effort with the Delivering as One goal of improving coordination and efficiency in the context of adjusting programming priorities with real demands and needs of the population. ■



Mr. Máximo Halty at the meeting held at UN premises: stories from Africa and policy lessons from a troublesome field

The United Nations System in Uruguay

The United Nations System in Uruguay consists of:

10 Agencies, Funds, and Programmes: FAO, ILO / CINTERFOR, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNIFEM, UNOPS, PAHOWHO;
1 Commission: ECLAC;
1 associated Organization: IOM; and
2 Bretton Woods Institutions: the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, with physical in-country presence.

It also incorporates **19 Non-Resident Agencies:** IAEA, ICAO, IFAD, IMO, ITC, ITU, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNCTAD, UNDESA, UNEP, UN-HABITAT, UNHCR, UNLIREC, UNODC, UNWTO, WIPO, WMO, WTO. ■

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