Second ACC Guidance Note on the Integrated Follow-up by the United Nations System to the Major United Nations Conferences

Approved on behalf of ACC by the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions (CCPOQ) at its 13th Session, New York, 21-25 September 1998
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1. There is a continuing need, as recognized in the outcomes of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the General Assembly as well as the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) and its subsidiary machinery, for the integrated, horizontal and cross-cutting follow-up to the major conferences, particularly at the country and regional levels, since the outcomes of individual conferences already have mandated agency focal-points and structures for vertical follow-up. The present note complements and builds on the earlier guidance note on integrated conference follow-up adopted at the Twelfth Session of the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions (CCPOQ).

2. The inter-agency task forces (IATFs) established by ACC for providing a strategic impulse to integrated conference follow-up, have completed their work and their outputs have been disseminated for use and implementation at the inter-secretariat level as well as at the country level through the resident coordinator system.

3. It is important that the momentum generated by the inter-agency task forces for the integrated follow-up to conferences be maintained and accelerated by the established inter-agency machinery which has been charged with further pursuing the follow-up process.

4. In several thematic areas, electronic information networks have been established which can facilitate real-time follow-up to issues and outputs emerging from the task forces and global agendas. Such networks include the Management Development and Governance Network (MAGNET) and the Network on Rural Development and Food Security.

5. Agencies are urged to provide further information on such networks so that the CCPOQ Secretariat may prepare a compendium of all such computer networks related to conference follow-up so as to promote their use.

6. The main operational tool for the United Nations system to promote its efforts on the integrated follow-up to the conferences at the country level is the Resident Coordinator System, including its thematic groups, field committees and relevant operational activities.

7. Annual work plans of the resident coordinator system as well as the annual reports which document progress against those work plans will henceforth devote considerably more attention to the integrated follow-up to major United Nations conferences in addition to the follow-up to individual conferences, particularly the work of the thematic groups and relevant operational activities, as well as the use of the outputs of the IATFs. These efforts will take into consideration the regional dimensions of integrated conference follow-up as well as the links between regional and country-level operational activities for development.

8. The Development Group Office (DGO) will prepare annually for the consideration of the Spring Session of CCPOQ a report on the integrated follow-up to major United Nations conferences based on all resident coordinator annual reports covering the previous year. Based on its consideration of this report on country level follow-up as well as other assessments and inputs such as updates by secretariats on follow-up to conferences and in-depth country-level evaluations, as well as linkages with other relevant ACC bodies, CCPOQ will continue to provide the Resident Coordinator System with system-wide guidance on the integrated follow-up to the major United Nations conferences. Moreover, the conclusions and recommendations of CCPOQ will serve as important inputs into the report of the Secretary-General on the integrated follow-up to conferences. CCPOQ will also review progress on the development of indicators for and monitoring of follow-up to global conferences in support of intergovernmental consideration of the subject.