

TO: Ms. Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary of the Economic
A: Commission for Europe

DATE: 31 December 2021

Ms. Mirjana Spoljaric Egger, Director of the Regional Bureau
for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States,
UNDP

REFERENCE:

THROUGH:

S/C DE:

FROM: Amina J. Mohammed
DE: Deputy Secretary-General



SUBJECT: **Follow-up from the dialogue between the Chair and the Vice-Chairs of the Regional
OBJET: Collaborative Platform in Europe and Central Asia**

1. I want to convey my appreciation for your leadership of the Regional Collaborative Platform (RCP) over the last year and for our constructive dialogue on 5 November 2021 on the work of the RCP thus far. I am pleased by the many accomplishments achieved in 2021. The RCP has provided policy advice on regional priority issues through its Issue Based Coalitions (IBCs), particularly those on sustainable food systems and on gender. You have also created significant opportunities for peer learning and policy discussions under the RCP umbrella in 2021 and your region's progress in terms of preparing high quality Common Country Analysis and Cooperation Frameworks is especially commendable.
2. I also appreciated our discussion of the priority entry points for SDG acceleration in your region – including gender equality and women's empowerment, social protection and green transitions. These will need to be reflected in the RCP workplan for 2022, along with concrete targets and indicators to measure progress and report on results.
3. Now that I have concluded my conversations with RCP Vice-Chairs from all regions, I would like to share some reflections and recommendations – with a view to ensuring the RCPs are well positioned to support the needed acceleration of SDG implementation in the region. With key indicators of progress worryingly offtrack, there is no question that 2022 will demand even more from us. United Nations (UN) regional assets and expertise are a critical recourse for Resident Coordinators (RCs) and UN country teams (UNCTs) to pull from, as they support recovery efforts and SDG implementation in the Decade of Action.
4. In this regard, I would like to highlight the following priority areas that will need a significant lift during the coming year:
 - **Ensuring that IBCs are truly demand-oriented:** We must ensure that we are able to respond to the specific needs of RCs and UNCTs in different settings and equipped to

tap into the considerable expertise located at the regional level. There is significant scope to review the IBCs in the region, to identify those that are best able to meet such needs in a timebound manner and phase out those that are not. I count on your leadership to ensure that every IBC is able to step up with high-quality support for our teams, enabling them to advise UN country teams on the policy and financing options for an effective COVID recovery and an inclusive and just transition needed for SDG acceleration.

- **Mapping and accessing relevant expertise:** Much greater momentum in terms of knowledge management is needed. The knowledge management capacity provided in the region is a good start. We must now focus efforts to unlocking organizational constraints and create incentives to ensure a more targeted and timely response to key challenges the UNCTs face. Two years into the regional review, the mapping exercise in the region must be completed as a matter of urgency, and lead to the establishment of communities of practice that can provide agile and expert support to UNCTs.
 - **Addressing SDG data gaps in the region:** The work of the data and statistics working group in your region, linked to global statistical processes and UN DESA's Statistics Division, is promising. We must now ensure that we see an appreciable increase in the availability and quality of SDG data in 2022, that can also inform analytical exercises at the country-level.
 - **Delivering transformational programming at the country level:** The regional level should augment UNCTs' capacities, responding to the priorities identified in Common Country Analyses and Cooperation Frameworks. With the majority of countries in your region already having designed new programmes, and as implementation gets under way, it is critical to stay attuned to country-level needs and priorities.
 - **Delivering regional efficiencies:** The progress in developing your regional Business Operations Strategy is encouraging. I count on your leadership to ensure regional operational collaboration and deliver tangible efficiency gains during the coming year.
5. I look forward to engaging with the full RCP membership during our 2022 annual meeting. With the RCP architecture and processes now fully established, our focus must turn to ensuring the RCPs provide effective and integrated policy advice to Resident Coordinators and UN country teams. Ultimately, the success of the reform – and of the regional review - will be measured in terms of the results we deliver to advance the 2030 Agenda.
6. In an effort to support the effective operationalization of the reform at the regional level, I have asked the Development Coordination Office (DCO) to commission an independent analysis of the regional review across the five regions, with a view to identify where acceleration may be needed, and support the elaboration of a common accountability framework, to monitor progress on this outstanding area of the reform. DCO will share additional information on the analysis in due course.

7. I look forward to your continued leadership and our continued joint work so that in 2022, the UN development system mobilizes efforts to go to scale, with urgency, ambition and the impact we need to achieve the SDGs in the Decade of Action.
8. I wish you and your families a happy, safe and peaceful new year.

cc: Mr. Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator and UNSDG Vice-Chair
Mr. Robert Piper, ASG for Development Coordination