United Nations Development Programme

18 February 2010

Dear Jeroen,

Formal Response to the Draft Institutional Report MOPAN 2009 for UNDP

Thank you for having shared the final Institutional MOPAN Report for 2009 with UNDP.

First, UNDP wishes to acknowledge the responses by the surveyed development partners and MOPAN members who shared their perspectives on UNDP's work and performance in different areas in 2009. We find this feedback to be extremely valuable in monitoring the progress made by our organization and will help us as we continuously seek ways to improve our performance effectiveness and capacity to serve our stakeholders. Furthermore, we recognize MOPAN's work in the past years in making the Survey more structured and we are confident that the new MOPAN approach, once fully developed, will usefully complement the range of existing multilateral reviews and assessments which UNDP has always been keen on actively participating in over the years. We wish to reiterate, that as we have done with other surveys and assessments, whether external as in the case of MOPAN, or internal, as in the case of our own Partners Survey, the findings of such surveys are subjected to a rather rigorous internal cycle of review, analysis and internalization at all levels of the organization. Please rest assured that the 2009 MOPAN report will also undergo a similar process.

We are pleased to note that UNDP continues to be recognized by the respondents for the role that it plays in supporting coordination. This year's assessment also highlights UNDP's decentralized decision making and its contributions to policy dialogue. UNDP concurs with broad comments that call for increased focus on results, improved dissemination of lessons learned and enhanced harmonization with partners. This is in line with the findings from our own Partner Surveys in 2009. The Administrator announced in her speech to the Executive Board of UNDP on 19 January 2010 that these are among the critical priority areas that UNDP needs to address.

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Throughout the MOPAN 2009 process, UNDP has consistently raised with MOPAN our concerns related to a number of serious methodological issues concerning the exercise. In particular, we feel that it is of great importance for the report's transparency and integrity to present and analyze data as it was collected. We have drawn attention to this because we believe that it is important for such assessments to present an accurate picture of the perception of the performance of each organization being assessed. We understand that these and other methodological issues we have raised are also shared by the other three organizations that were assessed during the MOPAN 2009 process.

In my correspondence early February 2010, I expressed the hope that our concerns as outlined in that letter would be taken into account and that the necessary changes would be made to the final report. This would not have required an extensive revision in terms of additional work, and we are disappointed that our primary concern has not been taken into account.

UNDP takes exercises like MOPAN very seriously, and we look forward to continuing to work with you on MOPAN in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Bruce Jenks
Assistant Administrator
Partnership Bureau