

**SUBJECT:** Virtual Project Appraisal Committee to review the Project Initiation Document  
"Equitable Human Development in Latin America and the Caribbean"

**FROM:** Alfredo Gonzalez, Programme Specialist, RBLAC, UNDP

**TO:** Susan McDade, Deputy Regional Director, RBLAC, UNDP

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Note to the File

**Minutes on the Virtual Project Appraisal Committee to review the Project Initiation Document "Equitable Human Development in Latin America and the Caribbean"**

- On September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014 a Virtual Project Appraisal Committee (virtual PAC) was constituted in order to review the project initiation document of the initiative denominated "Equitable Human Development in Latin America and the Caribbean". This initiative aims at providing continuity of currently ongoing activities throughout the transition process derived from UNDP's structural change, within the framework of the new LAC Regional Programme 2014-2017. The overall purpose of the project 'Equitable Human Development in Latin America and the Caribbean' is to continue the production and dissemination of knowledge and policy tools aimed at fostering debate and policy alternatives for a more equitable human development in the region, previously developed within the 2008-2013 programmatic framework.
- The virtual PAC was constituted by 21 members, which were selected in compliance of UNDP rules and procedures, involving specialists from other Regional Centers, BDP and BCPR advisers and CO colleagues, as well as officials from national or regional institutions, and honoring the commitments arising from OAI and the audits cards regarding the formulations and implementation of the regional programme initiatives.
- Members of the virtual PAC included the following:
  1. Roberto Valent, UNDP Resident Representative (RR) in El Salvador;
  2. Antonio Molpeceres, RR in Chile;
  3. Diego Zorrilla, RR in Ecuador;
  4. Valerie Julliand, RR in Guatemala;
  5. Rebeca Arias, RR in Peru;
  6. Lara Blanco, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative (DRR) in Barbados;
  7. Stefano Pettinato, DRR in El Salvador;
  8. Igor Garafulic, UNDP Country Director in Guatemala;
  9. Mauricio Ramirez, UNDP Deputy Country Director in Guatemala;
  10. Cynthia Valdés, Poverty National Officer, UNDP Mexico;
  11. Gustavo Arriola, Human Development Report Office, UNDP Guatemala;
  12. Freddy Justiniano, Director, a.i., UNDP Regional Center for Latin America and the Caribbean (Panama RC);
  13. Richard Barathe, Chief of Country Office Oversight & Support, Panama RC;

14. Carmen de la Cruz, Practice Coordinator, Gender, Panama RC;
  15. Pablo Ruiz, Practice Coordinator, Crisis Prevention and Recovery, Panama RC;
  16. Pedro Conceição, Chief Economist, UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa;
  17. Michael Thurman, Practice Coordinator, Crisis Prevention and Recovery, UNDP Regional Centre for Europe and the CIS;
  18. Nathalie Bouché, Poverty Practice Leader, Arab States, UNDP Regional Center in Cairo;
  19. Shantanu Mukherjee, MDG Team Leader, UNDP Bureau for Development Policy;
  20. Diego Antoni, Policy Specialist on Gender, Governance and Crises Prevention and Recovery, Gender Team, UNDP Bureau for Development Policy, and
  21. Blanca Lilia García, General Director, International Affairs, Ministry of Social Development of Mexico
- Comments from members of the virtual PAC were received from September 16 to September 24 (formal deadline was set for September 22), and may be summarized as follows:
    1. Members of virtual PAC deemed the initiative relevant and well located at the core of both Latin America and the Caribbean's present and future policy agenda and UNDP's strategic and programmatic priorities;
    2. Although the inequality-based rationale on which the proposed initiative is based was considered adequate, it was requested to be further developed to include in a more explicit manner both income- and non-income-based inequality;
    3. Mentions on gender perspective as being insufficiently incorporated in key elements of the initiative were received;
    4. It was suggested that special attention should be devoted to the way in which this initiative will be operationalized in order to server to policy decision making;
    5. According to other members of the PAC, the document needed to better specify the phases it comprises as well as its time horizon, including the corresponding further efforts in resource mobilization and management arrangements;
    6. Clarifications on the role for the current and continuing Regional Program Thematic Advisory Panel for Poverty and MDGs were requested;
    7. A comment on better specifying the role of UNDP Country Offices both as partners and as beneficiaries was also received, particularly in the case of those that have already been participating in the initiative within the 2008-2013 programmatic cycle, and
    8. The absence of a Quality Assurance Matrix was observed.
  - These comments were addressed as follows>
    - i) The document now better specifies the fact that the initiative considers both income- and non-income-based inequality;
    - ii) Gender perspective has been further specified as part of the core components of the initiative, in a transversal fashion;
    - iii) Operationalization aimed at serving policy decision making has been and will continue to be a priority of this initiative in the specific area of micro-simulations for fiscal equity;
    - iv) It has been better specified that this document is aimed at providing continuity of currently ongoing activities throughout the transition process derived from UNDP's structural change, within the framework of the new LAC Regional Programme 2014-2017, and that the overall purpose of the project 'Equitable Human Development in Latin America and the Caribbean' is to continue the



production and dissemination of knowledge and policy tools aimed at fostering debate and policy alternatives for a more equitable human development in the region, previously developed within the 2008-2013 programmatic framework. Also, it has been clarified that any further stages of this initiative beyond the first quarter of 2015 will belong to the Sustainable Development cluster located at the Panama Regional Hub;

- v) The document now clarifies that the Regional Program Thematic Advisory Panel for Poverty and MDGs is an ad-hoc entity that until today has served the same initiative within the previous 2008-2013 programmatic cycle, and that will continue to serve during the timeframe of this new initiative with the same formal attributions;
  - vi) A number of Country Offices have been added to the document in terms of both strategic advisers and continuing beneficiaries of this initiative, given the fact that they have participated in the same initiative within the previous 2008-2013 programmatic framework.
  - vii) A Quality Assurance Matrix will not be included in this document given that this document will become a full-fledged project document with a longer time horizon, once the transition derived from the structural change process has been completed.
- On September 23, a communication was sent to the members of the virtual PAC in order to notify them that the time for receiving comments had concluded, and that once these were fully incorporated into the document the project would be deemed approved by the virtual PAC and submitted for signature. No further comments or requests were received from the virtual PAC.
  - All the comments, suggestions and requests were duly addressed and included in a revised version of the project document as described above. The document was then submitted for signature of RBLAC Regional Director, thus concluding the process related to the approval of the corresponding project initiation document. A copy of the revised document is attached to these minutes and will be utilized in order to formalize the use of the corresponding financial resources according to UNDP rules and regulations.