




Interoffice Memorandum

To: Susan McDade
Deputy Regional Director
Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean

From: George Gray Molina 
Senior Strategic Advisor
Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean

Date: 23 June 2016

Subject: Request of extension of DIM authorization for the **Regional Project**
"Multidimensional Progress Agenda for Human Development in Latin America and the Caribbean" **Project/Output # 00092631**

I am pleased to submit for your consideration a request for extension under Direct Implementation (DIM) modality for the Regional Project "Multidimensional Progress Agenda for Human Development in Latin America and the Caribbean" – Project/Output 00092631 from 1 July 2016 until 30 September 2016.

Brief summary of the project objectives and alignment with UNDP SP and RBLAC RPD

The project is aligned with Expected OUTCOME 1 of the Strategic Plan: Growth and development are inclusive and sustainable, incorporating productive capacities that create employment and livelihoods for the poor and excluded and to Output 1.1. Regional, sub-regional and national policies have the necessary analytical perspective and strategic planning tools to promote Human Development with special emphasis on the structural factors of inequality (Regional output) and Output 1.2. Options enabled and facilitated for inclusive and sustainable social protection (SP output 1.2) of the RBLAC RPD.

The overall purpose of the project "Multidimensional Progress Agenda for Human Development in Latin America and the Caribbean" is to produce and disseminate a set of analytical and policy tools that address the multi-dimensional development challenges of middle-income countries (MIC) and small-island developing states (SIDS) –with a particular focus on the well-being of populations that did not benefit from a decade-long commodity boom, and populations that are today at risk of falling back into poverty.

Through a multi-stakeholder, multi-donor strategy, this initiative already generated a Regional Human Development Report. The report estimates country-specific multi-dimensional indicators of progress –that run parallel to the \$4/day, \$10/day and \$50/day income-based poverty, vulnerability middle class lines. It also provides an analysis of the changes, trends and heterogeneity across countries and the drivers and determinants behind the transformation as well as a new multidimensional and multi-sectorial framework for public policy. A Caribbean Regional Human Development Report, along the same lines, will soon follow with a deeper focus on fiscal burden, youth employment and energy.



As part of the same initiative, the Regional Human Development Report is proposing a multidimensional progress toolkit, which provides a country-specific landing of SDGs based on member-state priorities while promoting engagement from the 24 country offices in the region and government counterparts.

The toolkit is composed of three tools, all of which are currently being elaborated and which will require additional time and funds in order to be completed:

First Tool - Country-specific Metrics & Drivers: Trends of past social, economic and environmental achievement, Multidimensional poverty and progress indicators, Quantitative and Qualitative data, Evidence-based policy inputs

Second Tool - Demand-driven Interlinkage: Cluster construction based on connection across targets and goals, Determinants of going out sliding back into poverty

Third Tool - Fiscal space for SDGs: Fiscal simulation tools which can be based on SDG Planning, Environmental/energy, Conflict Prevention/democratic dialogue, Gender/HIV.

Justification of DIM implementation

In order to achieve the objectives mentioned before, the justification for this request is as follows:

- 1.) This project responds directly to the institutional priorities, expressed jointly by both AECID and UNDP's strategic plans, to reduce poverty and inequality in the Latin-American region. A DIM authorization is needed in order to **provide technical and administrative support in the implementation of this common agenda.**
- 2.) Such political alignment between these actors and the high-level political and technical debates that will include the AECID, UNDP and the LAC region highlights the need for UNDP to manage the project **to ensure effective delivery.**
- 3.) The success of the project will depend on the **coordination** of the individual initiatives and projects that will take off under the umbrella of the Spain-UNDP Trust Fund as well as the support we are able to obtain from a number of regional and national actors in the region.
 - a. Coordination is required among numerous countries, as well as between both regional and national initiatives.
 - b. Coordination is also required among prestigious institutions in the region, UN agencies, and civil society actors.
- 4.) UNDP has a unique **comparative advantage in building networks** amongst leading institutions in the economic and political spheres across the Latin American and Caribbean community, which is a core activity throughout the life of the Trust Fund. The credibility and neutrality of UNDP is key in supporting these strategic alliances



- 5.) In line with donor expectations and to ensure continued results, rigorous **monitoring** of Trust Fund activities is essential; which requires the UNDP implementation.

- 6.) The initial phase of the report successfully achieved 99% implementation of expected project activities for the year 2015. Considering the need to **further carry out actions such as the promotion of key reports' findings and the implementation of the toolkit** it is desirable to extend the life of the project under the DIM implementation modality.

Considering all of the above, I would appreciate your authorization for direct implementation until 30 September 2016.

Attached documentation:

- Annual Work Plan (AWP) 2016
- Regular Budget Revision (ATLAS print out)
- ASL Clearance Slip

Approved and Cleared by: *Susan McDade*
Susan McDade
Deputy Regional Director
Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean

Date: *6-29-2016*