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UNDP's engagement with Russia as G20 President (January 2013)

UNDP has traditionally supported G20 chairs on the development issues (especially, the Korean and the Mexican presidency), as part of the division of labor between International Organizations. UNDP represents UNDG in the G20 Development Working Group (at ASG level) and in the Ministers of Finance track (at Administrator's level)

Russian Presidency is no exception, and we have engaged on two main tracks:

- With Ministry of Finance – regarding the agenda of the Development Working Group (discussed at a meeting with the Russian chair of the DWG in Bali in early October 2012. Cihan Sultanoglu expected to represent the UN at the upcoming DWG in Moscow on 26-27 Feb). The focus is likely to be on post-2015 and on inputs into the new Development Action Plan of G20, which will be prepared under the Russian Presidency. Earlier, UNDP has also presented a broad proposal for Russia's consideration.
- With the Sherpa's office – regarding UNDP's support to the Outreach track with the Civil Society, Civil 20. UNDP took part in the G20 related session of St. Petersburg Forum in June 2012 (Haoliang Xu), and subsequently, at the request of the Russian G20 Sherpa Office, provided support to the Civil 20 Group in October – December 2012 (through the New Partnerships Team in Bratislava and Moscow Office).
 - Russia has made Civil 20 one of the hallmarks of its approach to the Presidency – with emphasis on more outreach and broader consultation. Also, the Russian leaders of the Civil 20 group (which in total is over 300 NGO and think tank representatives from all G20 countries) are very close to the Sherpa's office, and Civil 20 acts as a de-facto expert sounding board for the Presidency, especially on "soft" development issues.
 - Specifically, UNDP has supported two Civil 20 reports: a review of the status of implementing G20 decisions; and a review of implementation of G20 Development Agenda.
 - UNDP is supporting the work of the Civil 20 thematic working groups, especially one on the post-MDGs and on energy. These groups will be providing their inputs directly to the Russian Sherpa and the official G20 expert groups.
 - UNDP, in partnership with Civil 20, has also developed an online platform for wide consultations with citizens and civil society that will feed into the Civil 20 discussions with Russia.

As next steps, UNDP and Russia are discussing:

- a) A possible joint event on G20 development agenda at the St. Petersburg Economic Forum in June 2013 (Russia's main global event);
- b) Participation of a senior UNDP official in the Civil 20 Summit in Moscow in mid-June.