




Interoffice Memorandum

To: Mr. Ad Melkert
Associate Administrator

Date: 18 March 2008

From: Niky Fabian 
~~Deputy Assistant Administrator and Deputy Director~~
Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean

Extension: 5402

Subject: **Request for extension of DEX authorization for
Regional Project "Support to Spain-UNDP Trust Fund,
Towards Integrated and Inclusive Development"
ATLAS # 00046620- DEX
from March 28th, 2008 until March 27th, 2009**

Brief Description and Results Achieved until March 2008

The main objectives of the Project "Support to Spain-UNDP Trust Fund, *Towards Integrated and Inclusive Development*" are to complement efforts in Latin America and the Caribbean to reduce poverty and inequality - in line with the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and to strengthen and consolidate democratic governance in the region.

To achieve these outcomes the project provides direct support to the implementation of projects developed under the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID) Spain-UNDP Trust Fund "Towards Integrated and Inclusive Development in Latin American and the Caribbean." Such support is granted both administratively and technically. Moreover, this project contributes to the development of regional initiatives resulting from this joint initiative.

Most of the work has revolved around the original thematic areas of poverty reduction and democratic governance. In addition, the Executive Committee of the Trust Fund included Human Development Reports and Gender as two more key work areas for the Trust Fund in 2007. The project has been in execution from March 2007 until the present and has had the following main achievements:

A. Poverty reduction, inequality and MDGs:

- Technical assistance was provided to analyze social challenges and to identify indicators for measuring the progress of MDGs in the framework of National Poverty Strategies in Peru, the Dominican Republic, Paraguay, Argentina, Uruguay, Chile and Colombia.
- The 1st Strategic Social Forum was held on June 25th, 2007 in New York with high level participation from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay. Amartya Sen inaugurated the Forum. The articulation of economic and social policies, strategies for progressing towards the

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MDGs, and strategies for working with marginalized youth were addressed. A publication is being prepared with all the works presented at the Forum.

- The active role of civil society in social inclusion and MDG achievement policies were promoted through three international events with private sector, university, and NGO participation. The framework for a regional network of NGOs working towards the MDGs has been created. A website is being designed as a tool to link the NGOs.

B. Human Development Reports:

- Support to the elaboration of the following HDRs has been provided: 1) Regional Human Development Report, on Inequality, 2) MERCOSUR Subregional Human Development Report, on Youth and Vulnerability and 3) Central America Subregional Human Development Report, on Security.

C. Strengthening of democratic governance:

- Alliances have been formed to support the elaboration of the II Regional Report on Governance and Socio-Economic Democratization and the basis for the team's research—on the connections between governance and socio-economic democratization—has been formulated.
- Network of Universities for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) was initiated. The principle papers presented were published. The network's professors and managers were trained by the Virtual School for Latin America & the Caribbean. As a result, a strategic plan has been formulated for the network, focusing on virtual education, research, information, and debate on CSR.
- The first forum on Governance, "Fiscal Reform in Central America" was carried out in Guatemala. Best practices and experiences were exchanged among high-level civil servants and internationally acclaimed experts.
- A project document has been developed detailing the operationalization of the Network of Universities to support research and knowledge creation for the main work areas of the Spain-UNDP Trust Fund.

D. Gender:

- An intense search has been conducted in order to identify an organization to lead the Network of Women in Parliament. The first meeting of the Network's participants is being organized.

The Trust Fund adheres to the framework of the third regional cooperation framework of the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean.



Objectives of the Project until March 27nd 2009

The project solicits an extension from **March 28th 2008 until March 27th 2009**. The overall strategy of the Trust Fund will be to continue to complement efforts in the region to reduce poverty and inequality and to strengthen and consolidate democratic governance, partnering with civil society, private sector, and government actors. In the coming year, additional innovative initiatives will be pursued in order to achieve the Trust Fund's main objective of integrated and inclusive development. An extension is requested due to the following concrete actions and products that will be delivered in Latin America and the Caribbean:

A. Poverty reduction, inequality and MDGs:

- Technical assistance provided for National Anti-Poverty Strategies, in response to the demand of national governments, in order to incorporate MDG indicators in national plans.
- Concrete measures for increasing equality in the region will be discussed at the 2nd Strategic Social Forum.
- Civil society participation in MDG achievement will be increased, with the operationalization of the network of NGOs.
- A new initiative on *Poverty Reduction and MDGs*, approved by the Executive Committee, will be introduced to implement projects on maternal and infant health, systematize and publish best practices.
- Three Human Development Reports will be elaborated: the regional report on inequality, MERCOSUR subregional report on youth and vulnerability, and the Central American subregional report on security.

B. Strengthening of democratic governance:

- Regional Report on Governance and Socio-Economic Democratization will be elaborated.
- Corporate Social Responsibility will be disseminated throughout the region's universities with the solidification of the University Network for Corporate Social Responsibility and the creation of a virtual training-of-trainers course.
- *Forums on Governance* (new initiative approved by the Executive Committee), to promote debate and exchange of experiences and best practices in democratic governance at the subregional and regional level.
- Another new initiative approved by the Executive Committee, *Improving Citizen Security and Violence Reduction Policies* will be carried out to promote a holistic perspective on citizen security.



- *Development of Young Political Leaders* (a new initiative approved by the Executive Committee) will be realized with training programs on inclusive human development for youth leaders in political parties and civil society.
- *Strengthening of Political Parties* (a new initiative approved by the Executive Committee) will be carried out via regional thematic events focused on modernizing political parties.
- *Support to the Virtual School for Latin America and the Caribbean* (a new initiative approved by the Executive Committee) will be provided to enhance both institutions' offerings of virtual courses on human development and governance.
- *Promotion of Dialogue and Deliberation* (a new initiative approved by the Executive Committee) will be pursued via capacity building of strategic development actors at the national and local levels, training workshops, and technical assistance in dialogue processes.

C. Gender

- Network of women in parliaments will be strengthened and the networks first meeting will be held.
- Additional regional initiatives to promote the equitable participation of women in the Executive & Legislative will be undertaken.

As described above, the project's continued activities are responding to the demands generated in the region. Further detail is specified in the 2008 Work Plan (attached).

Justification for Direct Execution

On March 27th, 2007, the Associate Administrator approved the Direct Execution for this project (please see OSG#722 8-8-2007). The justification for the extension is as follows:

- 1.) This project responds directly to the institutional priorities, expressed jointly by both AECID UNDP's strategic plans, to reduce poverty and inequality and deepen democratic governance in the Latin-American region. A DEX 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.** The past year's success under DEX authorization reinforces the need to continue the successful delivery of proposed outcomes.



- 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 garner 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 the 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 necessitates the UNDP execution.

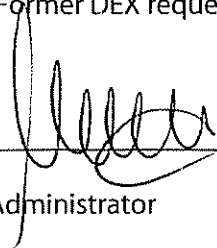
Direct Execution by UNDP RBLAC is thus advisable, since it has the credibility, the capacity (technical and administrative) and the necessary networking resources to carry out the consultations with experts and practitioners throughout the region.

Consequently, I would appreciate your authorization to extend direct execution of this project from 28 March 2008 until 27 March 2009.

Thank you.

Best regards.

Attached: Former DEX request, Project Document, Annual Workplan for 2008 and Progress Report for 2007.



Ad Melkert
Associate Administrator

Date: 18/4/08

Cleared by OSG: Verena L. Amundson Date: 3 April 2008