


Addressing Capacity Building in the Frame- work of the EMG



Introduction

Capacity building

Scope

A national priority in implementation of national development programs

An international priority in achieving the sustainable development goals, including MDGs

Objectives

At the **sectoral level** to make sure that global environmental issues are taken into account in decision-making.

At the **implementation level** , redesigning the development process, so that global environmental issues are better taken into account

Background

- **Outcome of the HLCP Workshop** *pursuant to GA Res 53/192, 56/201 ECOSOC resolution E/2002/29) which call for greater and more systematic attention by the system to capacity building*
- **WSSD** *called for better resourced, more effective, coordinated and complementary capacity-building activities for poverty alleviation and sustainable development*
- **Interest of the EMG members** *to use the broad framework of the EMG for enhancing their cooperation with other EMG members on specific aspects of capacity building activities.*
- **EMG Teleconference** *in Nov 2003 with MEA's, UNDP, WB, FAO, identify specific needs and concerns of EMG members in the area of capacity building which could be addressed within the framework of the EMG*
- **Draft Note on Capacity Building**

The Teleconference outcome

Definition

CAPACITY BUILDING

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Definition

Capacity building

Implies that capacity is newly created. that external actors play a leading role in this creation of capacity.

Capacity development

Reflects that “capacity” is always available and its development is a matter of degree as well as a primarily endogenous process.

Definition

Result :

Capacity development is the more adequate term to describe the endogenous process of enhancing capacity to which external actors can lend assistance

It reflects that “capacity” is always available and its development is a matter of degree as well as a primarily endogenous process

Issues of concern

- lack of adequate financial resources
- Insufficient communication with national focal points for assessment of needs and evaluation of activities
- Ensuring the effectiveness of services.
building the indigenous capacities or just conceived as ad hoc external services.
- Need for further synergies, information exchange on lessons learnt

Examples of existing cooperation framework

- MEA's Joint Liaison Group
- UNEP-UNCTAD Capacity Building Task Force
- UNITAR –UNFCCC , GEF Initiative

Potential Role of the EMG

- The EMG mandate:

To enhance the UN system-wide inter-agency cooperation related to specific issues in the field of environment and human settlements through its issue management and problem solving approach



EMG potential role

The proposed options

Option 1

- Focus on strengthening capacity building in achieving Environmental Sustainability (MDG 7)

Option 1

The target of MDG 7:

To integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources.

The GA resolution 56/201:

calls for greater and more systematic attention to capacity-building by the UN system

Option 1

EMG could :

Facilitate information exchange

between its Members on capacity building initiatives and good practices related to the implementation of MDG 7 and assist in defining indicators, benchmarks and other practical ways of identifying the needs and verifying the successful contributions of such initiatives to the development of related national capacities.

Develop a “MDG 7 capacity-building strategy” *that could be integrated, as part of each organization’s corporate strategy in achieving MDG’s, could also be another area of EMG focus.*

Option 2

Environmental Capacity Building Resource library or Clearing house to :

- To facilitate coordinated information exchange *on lessons learned, as well as approaches and methodologies in developing capacity building programs with the aim of further improving the effectiveness of such programs.*
- To provide a platform for exchange of information and experience between MEAs and the UN agencies

Option 2

- To access information and to share knowledge and experience in capacity building in the UN system and beyond
- To develop the information and resources
- To produce materials such as capacity building tool kits

Option 3

Developing

**“Model capacity development programs
or Developing ‘conditions for success’**

for specific types of capacity development interventions by pulling together the significant experience of the secretariats and the agencies.

The challenges

- Need to gather and develop the information,
- To establish a database, to appoint contact points,
- To provide the information
- To set up criteria for identifying what kind of information is needed,

The Challenges

- To explore whether similar libraries have been established and if they have been useful.
- Stocktaking of and links with existing initiatives and processes such as the UNEP strategic action plan on capacity building and identification of challenges and obstacles encountered.
- All of which would require sufficient resources

Follow up

- Immediate focus on all of the above areas is not feasible.
- EMG could select one of the proposed areas
- EMG Secretariat to develop a project proposal (*in consultation with members and through electronic means*) specifying clearly the objectives, activities, time frame and the expected outcomes

Follow up

- Establishing an IMG on capacity building and appoint one of the EMG members as its task manager
- Upon the Group's agreement, present the proposal to individual donor countries, particularly during the upcoming UNEP GC/GMEF and CSD 12, to seek their financial support for its implementation