

Terms of reference for the task force on capacity-building

A. Purpose

1. The purpose of the task force on capacity-building is to support the achievement of deliverables 1 (a) and 1 (b) of the work programme, under which priority capacity-building needs to implement the Platform's work programme are matched with resources through catalysing financial and in-kind support and capacities needed to implement the work programme are developed.

B. Responsibilities of the task force

2. The responsibilities of the task force are as follows:
 - To develop modalities for identifying, monitoring and evaluating capacity-building needs relating to the Platform's mandate and programme of work, and promote their implementation in a consistent and comparative manner;
 - To propose a process for systematic national self-assessment of capacity needs in the context of the Platform, when requested by Governments, working with the secretariat to implement such a process if and when agreed;
 - To provide a draft list of priority capacity-building needs and an indication of associated financing gaps and available sources of funding;
 - To periodically analyse the extent to which priority capacity-building needs identified by the Platform have been addressed and the role that the Platform has played in that process and to identify gaps and recommend ways in which such gaps could be addressed;
 - To support the organization of the forum with conventional and potential sources of funding, in giving advice on the agenda and format of the meeting, participation, and how identified capacity-building needs and opportunities should be presented;
 - To advise on the implementation of a "matchmaking" facility to help to match available technical and financial resources with priority capacity-building needs, seeking and taking advice from the forum as appropriate;
 - To propose means that could be developed for effectively integrating identified capacity-building needs into the policies and programmes of development assistance processes, seeking advice from the forum as appropriate;
 - To develop a proposal for fellowship exchange and training programmes;
 - To support the building of the institutional capacity needed to implement the work programme, particularly with respect to regional and subregional assessments;
 - To assist in addressing the prioritized capacity-building needs agreed by the Plenary, drawing on resources made available through the Platform's trust fund or provided through additional financial and in-kind support;
 - To liaise as necessary with the task force on knowledge and data and the task force on indigenous and local knowledge so as to ensure that capacity-building related to those issues is addressed in a consistent manner.

C. Membership of the task force

3. The task force will comprise two Bureau members and three members of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, between them covering the five United Nations regions, and up to 20 additional experts on capacity-building, selected according to the rules of procedure.

D. Modus operandi

4. The task force will be chaired by members of the Bureau and will consist of experts on capacity-building selected in accordance with the rules of procedure. The task force will work through face-to-face meetings, web-based meetings and other electronic interaction. Products of the task force will be reviewed by the Bureau in consultation with the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and forwarded to the Plenary for consideration. The task force will facilitate collaboration with existing initiatives.
5. In carrying out its work, the task force will also:
 - Ensure that all its activities draw effectively on existing experience, complementing and building upon existing initiatives;
 - Advise on strategic partnerships that could help to deliver improved capacity-building and facilitate other activities that have the same effect;
 - Encourage the direct involvement of its members, as well as that of other relevant organizations, in capacity-building activities that address priority needs agreed upon by the Plenary.