

**UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
FIRST EXECUTIVE BOARD INFORMAL CONSULTATION
ON THE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2010**

Monday, 25 January 2010

3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Conference Room 3 North Lawn Building

Note for the Record

The first informal consultation on the Human Development Report 2010 (HDR 2010) took place on 25 January 2010. The concept paper and tentative outline of HDR 2010 were circulated prior to the meeting.

The Deputy Director of HDRO, Ms. Eva Jespersen, introduced the overall approach of the HDR 2010. As the twentieth anniversary of the HDRs, the HDR2010 will look at: achievements and barriers in a changing world; ways to enhance the HD conceptual and measurement framework; how human development approach matters for development strategies and policies; and towards a new HD agenda.

Ms. Jespersen also provided an overview of the HDR2010 production process, including emphasis on the numerous instructive regional and global consultations that have been held and still planned to solicit local knowledge and scholarship on a variety of HD topics. She also informed that the next two informal consultations with the Executive Board would take place at the end of March and then in June.

Following Ms. Jespersen's presentation, interventions were made by the representatives of Pakistan, Cuba, the United Kingdom, and Egypt.

The Chairperson of the Executive Board began the question-answer period by thanking Ms. Jespersen for her presentation. He noted the relevance and contributions of the work of Dr. Mahbub ul Haq, one of the intellectual founders of the HDR, and his observations on the importance of addressing 'inequalities in opportunities'. He also suggested that in order to ensure its relevance, the report should be sure to address the global financial crisis, the volatility of food prices, and their links to the Millennium Development Goals.

Ms. Jespersen responded that the report would reflect on these topics as part of the assessment of enabling factors and challenges to HD over the recent decades.

Representatives from Cuba, the United Kingdom, and Egypt requested clarification on the Executive Board consultation process, including on ways for Member States to be engaged in discussions of the HDI and other topics, and links to the UNDP HD Platform.

Ms. Jespersen reminded participants of the UN resolution (A/RES/57/264) which addresses the intellectual independence of the HDR, and its Executive Board consultation process. She noted that the next Executive Board consultation would take place at the end

of March, and the third consultation in June. Prior to the March consultation, HDRO will seek to share materials well in advance including a more detailed outline, emerging findings and issues on statistics.

Ms. Jespersen explained that in addition to contributing through the informal consultations, Member States could also participate in discussions at the annual meeting of the UN Statistical Commission to be held in New York in February, where the HDI is likely to be discussed. She noted that the HDI was recently subject of an Arab States regional consultation in Rabat, hosted by the Government of Morocco. She encouraged representatives to take part in the HDRO brown-bag seminars led by commissioned background paper authors and other experts. Representatives can share their e-mail addresses to receive e-invitations.

Ms. Jespersen explained that HDR2010 is involving civil society in part through the UNDP HD Platform, which is a broader UNDP initiative to engage civil society.

The chairman thanked HDRO again for its presentation and participants for the discussion and adjourned the consultation.

Tim Scott
HDRO
25 January 2010