

The Future United Nations Development System (FUNDS) project supports and helps accelerate change in the UN Development System (UNDS), to strengthen its capacity to respond effectively to existing and emerging global developmental challenges in the post-2015 global development agenda.

The UN's development pillar is now its largest in terms of professional staff and resources. It encompasses some 30 development organizations, head-quartered in 16 different cities, with about 50,000 staff and almost US\$20 billion in annual expenditures.

There is an urgent need for radical reform to address three related UNDS challenges: lack of coherence, undefined capacity, and increased competition both within and beyond the UN. Such reform would allow the UN to draw more effectively on its unparalleled collective wealth of experience, pool its expertise and resources, and boost its development impact.

Realizing that many frustrations have accompanied UN reform efforts in the past, FUNDS – which was launched in 2009 – will be a multi-year process, designed to help build consensus around the necessary changes. The UNDS's role, functioning and performance, and the opportunities for and obstacles to reform, will all be thoroughly examined in the light of the rapidly changing global environment.

The UN We Want for The World We Want



FUTURE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

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FUTURE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

*Accelerating
Change in the
United Nations
Development
System for the
Post-2015 World*

**The UN We Want for
The World We Want**

www.FutureUN.org

"The world needs a strong UN. There is a vast, complex, and multifaceted development agenda with many critical domains that can only be addressed by a global, value-driven organization. Twenty-first-century concerns call for new approaches and responses from the United Nations rather than a tired regurgitation of past successes and explanations for failures. The world body's own internal shortcomings, however, hamper innovation. We need to MAKE CHANGE HAPPEN!"

Stephen Browne and Thomas G. Weiss, *Making Change Happen*, 2012

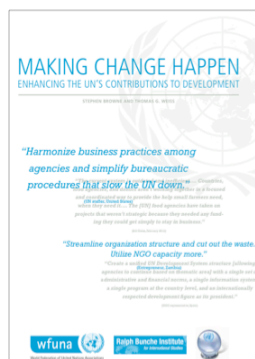
FUNDS Project Activities

Global Surveys

Global perception and expert surveys on the relevance and effectiveness of the UNDS.

Research and Publications

- Monthly briefing papers and regular reports by international experts on current and future challenges for the UN in global development.
- Books, including *Post-2015 UN Development* (Routledge, 2014).



International conferences

Events have been held in Brazil, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK and US, and more are planned.

Outreach

Development of a global exchange network and community of practice.

All FUNDS publications are available at www.FutureUN.org.

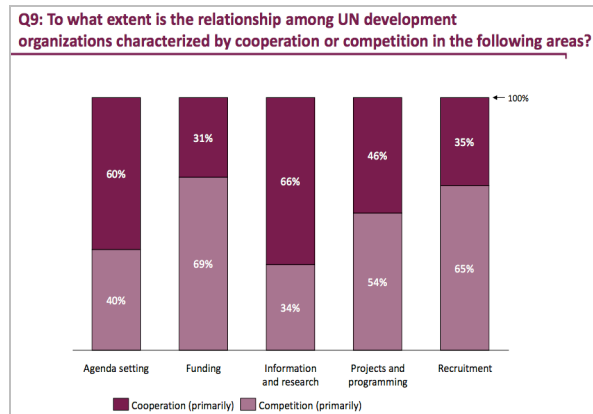
"Institutions of global governance are weak by design not default Since humanity at large is becoming better educated and more reasonable as a result of the great convergence, we can now apply these powers of reason and common sense to create a better UN and a more effective UN development system."

Kishore Mahbubani, Dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore., FUNDS Briefing Paper No. 4.

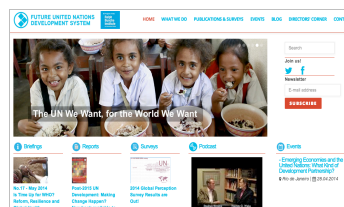
Making Reform Happen

The FUNDS project is shining a light on the shortcomings and strengths of the UNDS itself, and building a consensus on the need for its reform.

One of the project's most important activities is the biennial Global Public Perception Survey, so far completed in 2010, 2012 and 2014. In the latest edition of the survey, over 3,200 people from more than 150 countries and a wide range of backgrounds shared their views on the key challenges facing the UNDS, and on what its future priorities should be. Respondents also revealed which UN development organizations they consider most effective and relevant to meeting today's global challenges – and which are the least. More than twice as many people surveyed in 2014 think there is more competition over funding among UNDS organizations than cooperation.



FUNDS has also carried-out international Expert Surveys on the role of emerging economies in the UNDS and on the Post-2015 UN Sustainable Development Goals.



Full results and analysis of all FUNDS global surveys are available at www.FutureUN.org.

Expected Outcomes

A revitalized UN reform process that draws on the strengths of the system but responds more effectively to the complex, changing development needs of beneficiaries.

A strong consensus across all "three UNs" on the need to implement these reforms.

A blue-print for a new, more-efficient UNDS institutional architecture and a plan for achieving it.



"The real test of existing international institutions is their political, economic, and social adequacy to command the support, exercise the leadership and take the initiatives required for a more humane, more peaceful, and better functioning world economy."

Sir Richard Jolly, former UN assistant secretary-general, co-director of the UN Intellectual History Project, FUNDS Briefing Paper No. 13.