



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.



United Nations Development Programme

DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE THEMATIC TRUST FUND

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

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UNDP partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis, and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. On the ground in more than 170 countries and territories, we offer global perspective and local insight to help empower lives and build resilient nations.

United Nations Development Programme
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COVER: Political leaders from around the world attend the 2014 Inter-Parliamentary Union Meeting of Women Parliamentarians (Photo: IPU)

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FOREWORD



We live in a world of exceptionally rapid change. Arriving at the end of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) era, we can celebrate the tremendous achievement of meeting the overall global poverty target. Looking forward to the post-2015 agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we know that our understanding of the complex, multidimensional nature of poverty has evolved. More sophisticated development solutions that connect and cut across these dimensions are in demand. They must tackle inequality and exclusion, build resilience, and aim for environmental, social and economic sustainability.

UNDP, as a leading multilateral development organization, has changed to mirror the world we live in—and to stay ahead of the curve. In 2014, we adopted a new Strategic Plan premised on integrated approaches to development, and we restructured accordingly. The reorganization has brought together the former Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery and the Bureau for Development Policy under one new entity, the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, and created a Crisis Response Unit focusing on immediate crisis response. It offers a more integrated, comprehensive financial and institutional configuration that allows UNDP to seamlessly support countries throughout the entire development continuum, from prevention, response and recovery to, ultimately, sustainable development. It enables the application of multidimensional strategies, including those related to livelihoods, environment and climate change and the rule of law, that contribute to sustained recovery and build resilience. Teams within the Bureau are fully integrated to ensure complementarity, synergy and links to longer term development goals.

UN Member States have agreed that making these connections is at the heart of the post-2015 sustainable development agenda. Doing so magnifies the impact of development actions aimed at creating a more resilient, equal and sustainable world.

UNDP's trust funds are a vital and flexible resource. They allow us to catalyse innovation and to respond rapidly to country priorities. They have long been oriented around particular themes, such as democratic governance, crisis prevention and recovery, and environment and energy, which continued to guide our work during 2014. They too, are undergoing a process

of transition reflecting the drive towards more integrated development interventions. A new funding architecture will debut in 2016. It will reflect this integrated approach, build on the proven effectiveness of the existing trust funds, and emphasize strong connections between resources and results, as well as improved quality assurance and transparency. All of these measures are geared towards effective adaptation to the rapid transformations in the international development architecture.

DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE THEMATIC TRUST FUND

This report highlights 2014 results delivered under the existing Democratic Governance Thematic Trust Fund (DGTTF). Resilient governance systems depend on a robust social contract between the state and society. Governments need to be able to deliver on their promises to maintain people's trust, which in turn underpins stability and protects against vulnerability. This process encompasses capacities to prevent conflict; uphold the rule of law, justice and human rights; ensure inclusive participation; and make institutions fully accountable—with women and men in each case able to play equal roles. All of these areas are essential to Goal 16 of the post-2015 development agenda, which is in turn fundamental to the achievement of all other Sustainable Development Goals.

We at UNDP are grateful to the donors who have supported the DGTTF and are backing its evolution. Their contributions have improved people's lives around the globe, as this report repeatedly underscores, and continue to strengthen the foundation for durable, peaceful development in the post-2015 era.

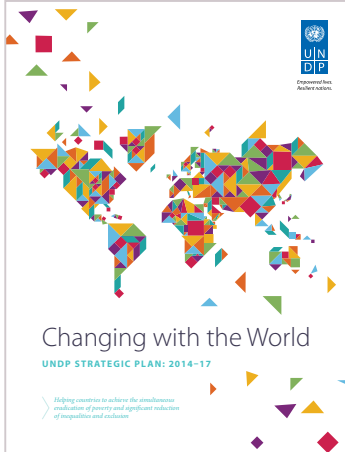
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Magdy Martínez-Solimán

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INTRODUCTION: A NEW APPROACH TO GOVERNANCE IN A RENEWED UNDP



The post-2015 sustainable development agenda is ambitious and potentially transformative, calling for integrated actions to accelerate momentum on all aspects of peace and development. Only this approach can generate lasting progress for all people, by managing the complex risks that exist in the world today.

UNDP recognizes the value of integrated development approaches from over a half-century of supporting states and societies advance their development. Its 2014-2017 Strategic Plan established three cross-cutting themes: sustainability, inclusiveness and resilience. The organisational structure has been aligned accordingly, with the creation of the new Bureau of Policy and Programme Support and an enhanced integration of programming streams, including the establishment of the Democratic Governance and Peacebuilding Cluster. While a historic number of countries have democratic systems of governance, many remain vulnerable to a spectrum of risks, requiring a two-pronged support strategy. Investing in democratic governance helps promote social cohesion, prevent conflict, and ensure safe and peaceful societies that uphold human rights for all. Equally, well-considered investments in conflict prevention and durable peace protect and deepen democratic governance, ensuring that it is resilient even in the face of threats.

At the heart of UNDP's renewed approach is a strong social compact that aims to improve state legitimacy at national and local levels, and that solidifies peaceful and resilient state-society relations. This compact is forged

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