



**UN Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development in Jamaica
Kingston, Jamaica
22 to 23 October, 2013**

Aim:

The activity proposes an organization of a country level round table on communication for development (C4D) in Kingston, which would involve the participation of the UNCT, UN Resident Coordinator and other partners including academia, civil society and government.

Objectives: The UN Interagency Roundtable will bring together UN agencies and international non-UN partners to discuss and debate the very broad, challenging, and crucial role and practice of communication in development in Jamaica.

Background:

UN definition of communication for development

In 1997, through Article 6 of General Assembly Resolution 51/172, the United Nations adopted the following formal definition of Communication for Development:

Communication for development stresses the need to support two-way communication systems that enable dialogue and that allow communities to speak out, express their aspirations and concerns and participate in the decisions that relate to their development.

Since then, other definitions of C4D have been advanced that reflect increased understanding of the role of C4D in development processes. In 2006, the Rome Consensus from the World Congress on Communication for Development defined Communication for Development as:

...a social process based on dialogue using a broad range of tools and methods. It is also about seeking change at different levels, including listening, building trust, sharing knowledge and skills, building policies, debating and learning for sustained and meaningful change

What is UN Inter-Agency Round Table?

UN Resolution 50/130

In its resolution 50/130, the General Assembly recognized the important role of communication for development programmes in the United Nations system in enhancing the transparency of system-wide coordination within the United Nations system, and also recognized the need

further to facilitate Inter-Agency cooperation and to maximize the impact of the development programmes.

The United Nations Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development has provided a mechanism for sharing experiences and elaborating joint activities among United Nations system organizations and with United Nations country teams. Policy coherence, capacity-building, and monitoring and evaluation support the core value of sustainable communication in development interventions.

UN resolution 51/172

In resolution 51/172, the General Assembly stressed the need to support two-way communication systems that enable dialogue and that allow communities to speak out, express their aspirations and concerns, and participate in the decisions that relate to their development.

In the same resolution, the General Assembly recognized the relevance for concerned actors, policymakers and decision makers to attribute increased importance to communication for development and encouraged them to include it as an integral component in the development of projects and programmes.

How C4D evolved?

The Inter-Agency Round Tables on Communication for Development began in 1988. At the time, UN agency designated communication staff were “rarely aware of each other’s objectives largely due to their focus on individual policies that reflected their work and guided their operational programmes and projects.”

The initial impetus behind the Round Tables (RTs) was to exchange ideas and experience in the area of communication for development (C4D) and promote cooperation among UN agencies.

Changes that prompted the Round Table

The first key organizational change was the emergence of new strategic planning/programming instruments - the Common Country Assessment (CCA) and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) as part of the 1997 reform process. Guidelines for this new strategic planning approach were introduced in 1999 in response to the call from the Secretary General to articulate a coherent vision and strategy that allowed for a unified approach towards common goals.

One UN, the second key change, emerged from the recommendations of the High Level Panel (2006) which was invited to explore how the UN system could work more coherently and effectively.

Global C4D Roundtables

UNESCO in collaboration with other UN agencies coordinates the United Nations Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development, which is held biennially and hosted on a voluntary and revolving basis by United Nations system organizations.

- The 1st RT was organized by UNICEF in New York in March, 1988
- The 2nd RT was organized by CIDA/IDRC in Ottawa in July 1989
- The 3rd RT was hosted by FAO in Rome in September 1991
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- The 8th United Nations Round Table on Communication for Development hosted by UNFPA in Managua, Nicaragua, 26-28 November 2001
- The 9th UN Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development hosted by FAO held in Rome 6–9 September 2004
- The 10th UN Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development, hosted by UNESCO in Addis Ababa on 12-14 February 2007
- The 11th UN Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development hosted by UNDP & The World Bank- 11-13 March 2009, Washington
- The 12th UN Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development Round Table was hosted by UNICEF in New Delhi from 14 to 17 November 2011
- 13th UN Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development Round Table will be hosted by FAO, Rome in 2014

How C4D round organized globally?

- It is generally 2-day event participated by all UN agencies, Civil societies groups involved in development, Academia, Government authorities. Some distinguished practitioners and thought leaders who provided key-note address.
- Agenda provides an opportunity to report some of successful C4D initiatives by the all UN and other organizations and showcase publications, information materials and DVD/CDS.
- Many times it was open to public with invitation

How UNESCO plans to organise the round table in Jamaica?

2-day in-country event will be participated by

- All UN agencies
 - Civil societies groups involved in development
 - Academia
 - Government authorities
 - Some distinguished practitioners and thought leaders who provided key-note address
- The round table will provide platform for all UN agencies to highlight some of the successful initiatives

Which organisations should take part in the Round Table? (A separate sheet is attached)

Expected outcomes ;

- Some joint activities planned
- Some C4D indicators agreed for next round of UNDAF and CCA (eg. Media Development Indicators)
- Joint strategies and plan of actions approved for future with validation from all stakeholders

Proposed dates

Proposed dates: 22-23 October, 2013 (just before the United Nations Day celebrations)

Structure of the agenda

The structure of the agenda will be evolved after close consultations with all stakeholders. All organizations will find space to speak. There will be space for working groups to evolve recommendations, declaration, strategies, and plan of actions

An provisional agenda is attached separately for your consideration

Role of all UN Organisations

All UN organizations will have equal stakes and will play actively in planning and execution of the event. Any contributions (cash or kind) will be welcomed

Budget

The budget (seed money) is available for the organization of the event which will be spent on conference facilities, Coffee breaks and lunches. UNCT Country coordinator may be approached for any supplementary funds