

UNDG LAC Country Liaison Mechanism - Concept Note

What is the Country Liaison Mechanism?

The Country Liaison Mechanism is a mechanism in which UNDG LAC Regional Directors each serve as a liaison for a designated RC/UNCT, to the end of facilitating the adequate and timely policy support provided from the UNDG LAC to the RCs/UNCTs, in accordance with the four core functions of the Regional UNDG Teams and the UNDG Strategic Priorities 2013-2016.

The main objective of implementing the Country Liaison Mechanism is to ensure that the RCs/UNCTs have a direct line of communication to the UNDG LAC, in particular for leadership and strategic issues. Through this mechanism, the RCs/UNCTs can benefit from continuous guidance and dialogue from the UNDG LAC during the course of the whole year, as opposed to communicating and receiving guidance only during the RC Performance Appraisal Meeting.

It aims to improve the value of the support provided to RCs/UNCTs by the UNDG LAC, facilitate the interaction, and provide a closer accompaniment and a more tailored, focused guidance. It does this by improving communication between the UNDG LAC and the RCs/UNCTs by enabling two-way information flow, through the establishment of a channel of communication between the RC/UNCT and a Regional Director.

Liaison Regional Directors Roles and Functions

Within the mechanism, the roles and functions of the Liaison Regional Director include the following:

- Close accompaniment of the RC/UNCT throughout the course of the year, particularly during pivotal periods (e.g. UNDAF Strategic Planning Retreats, following the RC/UNCT Performance Appraisal, and/or challenging situations);
 - Periodical phone calls with RCs
 - Teleconferences with UNCTs
 - Virtual or in-person participation in UNCT meetings
- Ensures policy and technical support required from the RC/UNCT is properly addressed and shared with the UNDG LAC;
 - As deemed necessary, the Regional Director will convey recommendations or comments from the UNCT to the UNDG LAC, directly or through the UNDG LAC Secretariat
- Closely follows the political-economic situation of the country, and leads the ‘trouble shooting’ function of the UNDG LAC in challenging country situations;
 - If needed, the Regional Director coordinates with the RC/UNCT for a teleconference with the UNDG LAC
- Acts in representation of the UNDG LAC as needed, in particular when difficult country situations arise.

✓ *The Country Liaison Mechanism is NOT a mentoring, management, or monitoring tool, but simply a liaison mechanism intended to facilitate communication.*

Country Designations

For the 2016-2017 cycle, Regional Directors are designated as liaisons as indicated in Annex I. Factors considered in the designation of the country liaison included the implementation of key programmes, country presence, and experience working in country, among others.

Likewise, focus was placed on UNDAF roll-out countries, first time RCs, and/or countries with complex situation or within the UNCT.

Resident Coordinators/UNCTs

To the end of maximizing the impact of the Country Liaison Mechanism, the Resident Coordinators are encouraged to periodically converse with the liaison Regional Director, and use the opportunity to convey concerns/challenges to the UNDG LAC, or simply update the UNDG LAC on the country situation. Likewise, it would be beneficial for the RC/UNCT to invite the liaison Regional Director to participate in the UNCT meetings, to the extent possible and as deemed necessary. In particular, the RCs/UNCTs are encouraged to closely engage with the liaison Regional Director during pivotal periods of the year (e.g. UNDAF Strategic Planning Retreats, following the RC/UNCT Performance Appraisal, and/or challenging situations).

Coordination

Liaison Regional Directors will share information with the UNDG LAC as appropriate (i.e. during UNDG LAC Meetings), to which the UNDG LAC Secretariat can provide support. Resident Coordinators and liaison Regional Directors are encouraged to keep the UNDG LAC Secretariat informed of key points of the discussions and copied in the correspondence.

Annex I. UNDG LAC Country Liaison Mechanism Assignations (2016-2017)

Sub-region	Country	Resident Coordinator	Liaison Agency	Regional Director
Caribbean	Barbados	Stephen O'Malley	UNDG LAC Chair to acts as liaison in support to the UN MSDF	Jessica Faieta
	Belize	Christian Salazar		
	Guyana	Mikiko Tanaka		
	Jamaica	Bruno Pouezat		
	Suriname	Richard Blewitt		
	Trinidad & Tobago*	Richard Blewitt		

Latin America	Argentina	René Mauricio Valdés		
	Bolivia	Mauricio Ramirez	UNDP	Susan McDade
	Brazil	Niky Fabianic		
	Chile	Silvia Rucks		
	Colombia	Martin Santiago	UNDG LAC Chair	Jessica Faieta
	Costa Rica	Alice H Shackelford	OCHA	Wendy Cue
	Cuba	Myrta Koulard	UNDP	Susan McDade
	Dominican Republic	Lorenzo Jimenez de Luis	UNAIDS	Cesar Nuñez
	Ecuador	Diego Zorilla	WFP	Miguel Barreto
	El Salvador	Christian Salazar	WFP	Miguel Barreto
	Guatemala	Rebeca Arias	UNOPS	Fabrizio Feliciani
	Haiti	Mourad Wahba	OCHA	Wendy Cue
	Honduras	Consuelo Vidal	UNHCR	Renata Dubini
	Mexico	Antonio Molpeceres	UNAIDS	Cesar Nuñez
	Nicaragua**	Veronica Guerrero – RC a.i.	UNDG LAC Chair	Jessica Faieta
	Panama	Harold Robinson	UNODC	Amado de Andrés
	Paraguay	Cecilia Ugaz	UNFPA	Esteban Caballero
	Peru	Maria del Carmen Sacasa	UNFPA	Esteban Caballero
	Uruguay	Denise Cook	UNEP	Leo Heileman
	Venezuela	Peter Grohmann	UNDP	Susan McDade

*UNEP also liaison for TTO

** RC rotation until 2017