



UN System Principles of Engagement in Bangladesh

We, the heads of the undersigned UN agencies and entities operating in Bangladesh, commit ourselves and our staff to the following principles of engagement:

- to uphold the fundamental principles and standards of the United Nations;
- to ensure that our programmes are aligned with the national development plans and priorities of Bangladesh and are in the best interests of the people of Bangladesh;
- to pursue a rights-based approach to development programming;
- to collaborate constructively, respectfully and in a spirit of one UN System;
- to pro-actively seek opportunities for enhancing UN System coherence, coordination and harmonisation of our programmes and activities;
- to invest time and effort to better understand each others' different agency mandates, activities and operating arrangements;
- to share information in a spirit of cooperation and collegiality;
- to communicate with one another respectfully and courteously;
- to consult each other fully before meeting with Government and development partners when pursuing any matter that relates to other UN agencies' mandates or interests, and particularly in the context of UN joint programming or activities. We will thus deliver common messages to Government and development partners;
- to resolve our differences collegially among ourselves. Under no circumstances will we speak disparagingly of another UN agency, or in any way undermine another UN agency;
- to make it our priority to assist when the reputation of the UN system at large or of specific UN agencies is at stake;
- to avoid pettiness and institutional turf issues in the interest of the common good;
- to be patient and understanding and to pro-actively promote the interests of the whole UN system in Bangladesh;
- to endeavour to ensure internal coherence between our respective country offices, regional offices and headquarters;
- we recognise the high transaction costs associated with large partnerships and agree to carefully weigh the costs and benefits of joint activities so as to avoid the imposition of unnecessary burdens on each other and on our partners.
- To defer to RC guidance in the event of unresolved differences between UN agencies.

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