

SUMMARY OF THE RESULTS OF THE ONLINE SURVEYS ON REGIONALIZATION

1. Three Online surveys were conducted on intangible costs and benefits of regionalization; the first from 12 July to 11 August 2006, the second from 15 August to 7 September 2006 and the third from 23 August to 7 September 2006. The first survey (*Survey 1*) involved few selected staff from UNFPA and UNDG Executive Committee agencies; 26 responded out of 36 persons invited to participate in the survey; this was a qualitative survey with possibility for the respondents to provide "comments" for each benefit and cost. The second (*Survey 2*) involved UNFPA Representatives, Deputy Representatives and Assistant Representatives; 94 responded out of 194 invited. The last (*Survey 3*) involved UNDG Executive Committee Regional Directors (UNDP, UNICEF and WFP); 7 responded out of 20 invited. To facilitate the interpretation of the results, benefits with less than 60% of agreement ("*agree or strongly agree*" statements) and costs with less than 60% in disagreement ("*disagree or strongly disagree*" statements) are marked in yellow, because it is assumed they indicate a potential issue. Globally, Survey 2 and Survey 3 confirm the results of Survey 1.

2. Among the respondents, 67% to 89% of Reps, Deputy Reps and Assistant Reps (71 to 86% in Survey 3) agree or strongly agree that the identified intangible or non-financial benefits are likely to materialize:

- Higher quality of programming of UNFPA interventions;
- Increased country ownership and more effective interaction with governments on policy development;
- Better understanding of country and regional issues and therefore more effective planning of programme activities;
- Countries have flexible and timely access to relevant technical expertise;
- Better coherence among UN agencies at regional level; and
- ICPD positioning at the regional and subregional levels strengthened.

3. While in the Panel of Experts Survey only 50% of the respondents agree or strongly agree that the following two benefits will materialize, the intensity of the "agreement" in Surveys 2 and 3 was much higher:

- Integrated technical and programmatic functions will contribute to more effective interaction with governments on policy development and it will progressively increase country ownership (Survey 2: 67%; Survey 3: 71%);
- The provision of technical support through the management of network of consultants will allow countries to have flexible and timely access to relevant technical expertise (Surveys 2 & 3: 71%).

4. A large majority (64 to 74%) of Reps, Deputy Reps and Assistant Reps (86 to 100% of Regional Directors) disagree or strongly disagree that the following foreseen risks/costs will materialize:

- Loss of UNFPA leadership position within the UN system and therefore reduced focus of the UN on UNFPA mandate-related issues;
- Loss of talents and difficulty in hiring new qualified staff; and
- Disruption of country operational activities during the implementation of the regionalization.

5. As expected, there is a clear dividing line between, on one side UNFPA Reps, Deputy Reps and Assistant Reps and, on the other, the Regional Directors on the following "risks/costs":

- Loss of UNFPA "one voice";
- Loss of profile with our stakeholders in New York;
- Creation of "mini-kingdoms"; and
- Creation of additional layers of bureaucracy.

6. Only 43 to 59% of UNFPA staff disagree or strongly disagree that these risks will materialize (versus 71 to 86% of Regional Directors). These are the main issues of concern to UNFPA staff, as 16 to 35% of those who responded agreed or strongly agreed that these risks are likely to materialize (versus 14% of Regional Directors); they need therefore to be addressed by the Senior Management. Appropriate mitigation actions have been identified to this end.