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# OPTIONS ON IMPROVING STRUCTURED FUNDING DIALOGUES

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JOINT BRIEFING TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARDS  
23 JANUARY 2020



- ❑ **Background**
- ❑ **Options to improve quality of dialogues**
- ❑ **Common Funding Considerations**
- ❑ **Responses by Member States**



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# OVERVIEW

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## Why this session?

- Decision adopted at Second Regular Session 2019 of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF and UNWomen Executive Boards:

*“To present, by first regular session 2020, options on improving the quality of the structured funding dialogues”.*

- Opportunity to reflect on several years of dialogues with the Executive Boards on funding issues, as mandated by the QCPR.
- Momentum created by the adoption of the Funding Compact, with agency-specific SFDs expected to inform and facilitate the implementation of the Funding Compact.



# BACKGROUND

# What does the Funding Compact suggest ?

- Mutual commitments and accountability
- Shared understanding and purpose
- Ownership and Leadership by member states
- Embracing Diversity [funding needs, models, structures, rules & regulations]
- **Interactivity**
- Results and Field focus



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## BACKGROUND

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# What do we want to improve ?

“QUALITY OF DIALOGUES”, which depends on:

- **FORMAT**
- **CONTENT**
- **TIMEFRAME**
  - Timeliness of dialogues
  - Regularity of interactions

**Content, Format and Timeframe are interconnected**



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# BACKGROUND

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# CLARIFYING SFDs GOALS

- Securing adequate level of flexible & predictable funding for the SPs through ...
- Improved understanding of funding situations, transparency, trust, and mutual accountability
- Forum for analyzing needs, challenges and finding solutions
- Systematic follow-up to & implementation of commitments / decisions
- Complementarity to UNDS-wide processes

- QUESTION TO MEMBER STATES –

Are there any other goals to be achieved through the SFDs?



# BACKGROUND

# PRINCIPLES INFORMING OPTIONS

- SFDs should be **jointly owned** and led by both member states and UN entities
- Content and format of the SFDs should facilitate **interactive dialogue** to promote learning and understanding
- Content and format should be iterative and shaped by **both member states' and agencies' interests and priorities**
- Content should be **evidence-based and analytical** – both quantitative and qualitative
- SFD **information/documentation** should be **easily accessible**

- QUESTION TO MEMBER STATES –

Any other principles to be applied ?



# OPTIONS TO IMPROVE SFDs

# FORMAT OF SFDs

- A more flexible format: Informal setting, panel discussion, armchair set-up
- Leadership by member states on specific topics
- Engagement of Donors and Programme Countries in discussions
- Broadening the scope of participation, as relevant:
  - Other UN entities, IFIs
  - Private sector & non-governmental organizations
  - Subject experts, Speakers etc.
- Considering some meetings outside the UN Secretariat

## - QUESTIONS TO MEMBER STATES –

- How will member states contribute to making the dialogues more interactive ?
- Are member states ready to lead on selective SFDs ?
- Any suggestions to address inherent limitations, such as:
  - UN Board “traditional” format ?
  - Rotation of Board’s Membership ?



# OPTIONS TO IMPROVE FORMAT OF SFDs



# CONTENT OF SFDs

## CONTENT OF DIALOGUES

- Shaping content to member states' and entities' mutual interests & priorities
- Focusing on concrete country examples and practices
- Addressing common funding considerations in a systematic manner

## CONTENT OF SFD REPORT

- Harmonized improvement of agency-specific reporting on Funding Compact:
  - Improved narrative on progress and challenges
  - Annual milestones
  - Country-level impact

### - Important considerations –

- System-wide guidance expected from DCO
- Avoiding double-reporting
- Taking into consideration agency-specific funding & business models



# OPTIONS TO IMPROVE CONTENT OF SFDs

### - QUESTIONS TO MEMBER STATES -

- Could member states suggest topics for the year ?
- What material is most appropriate for supporting dialogues (formal & informal sessions) ?

# TIMING & TIMEFRAME OF SFDs

## Quality depends on Regularity...

- **Frequency of Dialogues:**
  - One Formal session per year, preceded by an informal session (August-September)
  - Additional informal session(s) during the year
  - One joint-session per year, as needed
- **Relevance of discussion at different points in year**
  - Annual pre-determined calendar
  - Alignment to Board cycle
  - Alignment to other Board agenda items and other UNDS processes (ECOSOC, OAS etc.)

### ➤ **Need to factor-in:**

- Financial data availability in the year**
- Entities' capacity to generate data/analysis**
- Missions' capacity to cover multiple SFDs per year**

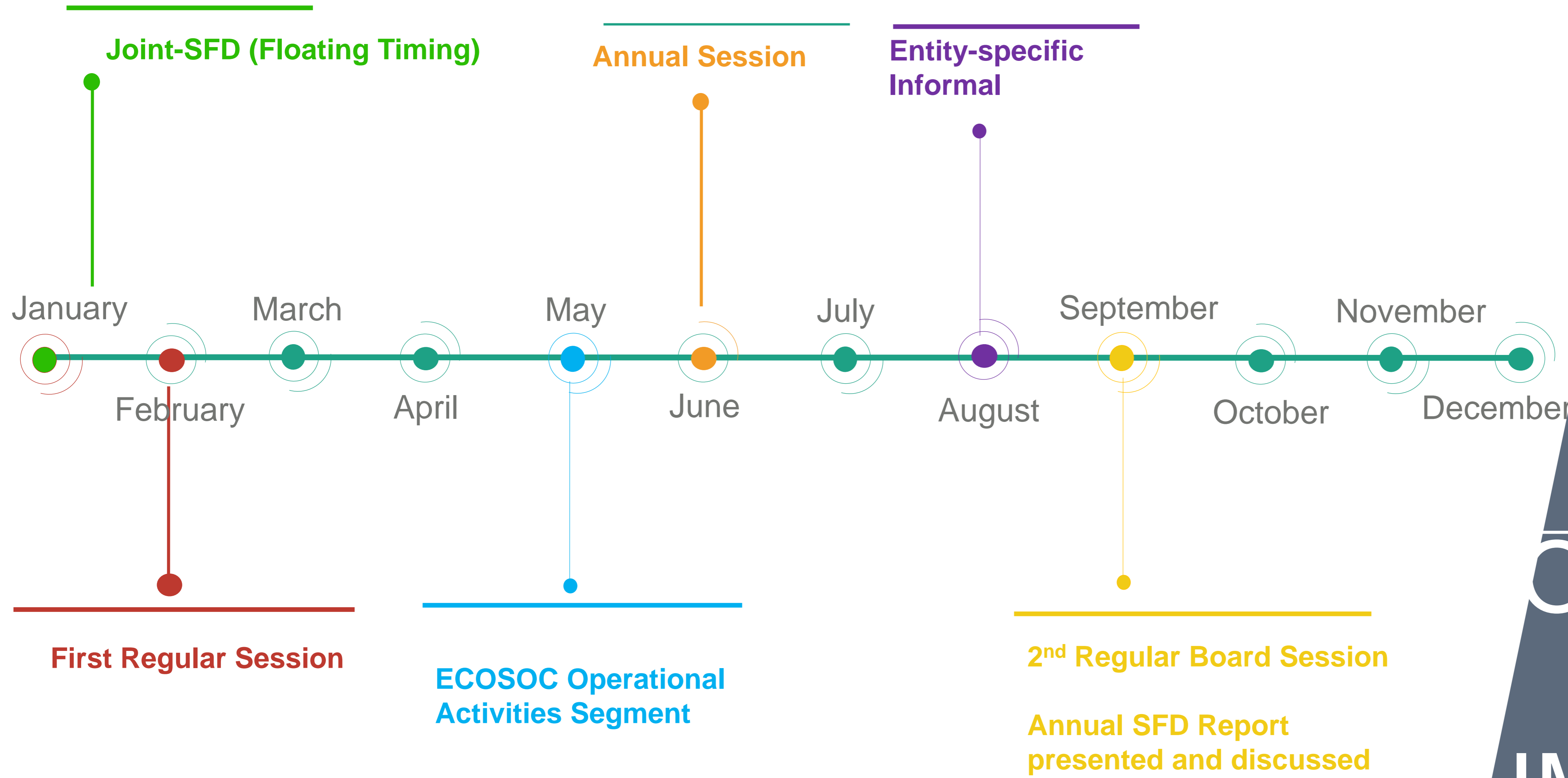


## OPTIONS TO IMPROVE TIMING OF SFDs

### - QUESTIONS TO MEMBER STATES -

- What are member states expectations with regards to frequency & regularity of SFDs ?
- What about one Joint-SFD per year ?

# YEARLY TIMELINE



OPTIONS  
TO  
IMPROVE  
SFDs

Consider additional agency-specific informal session(s) – To be discussed with each agency

# COMMON FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS

- **UN Women** - Flexible & Predictable Funding: A spectrum of funding sources and instruments
- **UNDP** - Planning & Budgeting cycle in a voluntarily funded environment
- **UNICEF** - Gaps: Various aspects to consider



**S**TRUCTURED  
**F**UNDING  
**D**IALOGUE



RESPONSES BY  
MEMBER STATES