

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE (SPI)

#### Evaluation Expert for DFID/UNDP Strategic Partnership Initiative Mid-term Review

#### Background

1. DFID supports UNDP's efforts to focus and deepen its focus in supporting Viet Nam's efforts to realize the Millennium Declaration and its goals.
2. DFID has committed £5 million over the period 1<sup>st</sup> August 2004 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008 for UNDP work in the areas of (i) governance, (ii) social and economic transition, (iii) environment and (iv) emerging national priorities. Six principles underpin this support (a) fostering national ownership and leadership by engaging directly with Government's own systems (b) supporting up-stream policy and advocacy work (c) funding transformational projects (d) collaborating with other development actors to avoid duplication and reduce transaction costs (e) drawing on the strength of UN presence through greater UN collaboration and (f) focussing efforts only in those areas where UNDP has a clear comparative advantage. The Specific Objectives and Principles are set out in the Strategic Partnership Initiative (SPI) Project Memorandum (attached).
3. The SPI was developed out of a number of pre-existing funding arrangements between DFID and UNDP. DFID is, in effect, providing local core funding for UNDP programming in Vietnam. However, this funding is largely directed to programmes agreed and implemented by the Government of Viet Nam, and therefore does not amount to 'budget support' for UNDP. Nevertheless, the SPI represents a departure from project-by-project funding in that it enables UNDP and Government counterparts to make marginal adjustments without opening new negotiations with the donor, in this case DFID. It also provides some resources for new initiatives, and in particular policy research projects, that can be funded immediately by UNDP without the need for additional administrative steps.
4. Annual reviews by UNDP and DFID are carried out to assess progress in the implementation of the SPI. A 'first year' independent evaluation was also conducted in 2006 in order to evaluate the start-up of the initiative. The SPI Project Document specifically calls for a mid-term review, which is the subject of these terms of reference.
5. UNDP has developed a similar programme of support with Spain also called an SPI. These initiatives have, in effect, anticipated the UN reform process which has now take off in Vietnam and which will supersede this kind of in-country core support to a single UN agency in favour of core support to a more unified UN system.

#### Purpose

*Due*

6. The expert will carry out a mid-term review of the DFID/UNDP Strategic Partnership Initiative to assess implementation of the SPI and generate lessons for the final 18 months of the project.

### **Tasks**

7. The expert will conduct a review of the following aspects of the SPI:

- initiatives funded under the SPI to date for their conformity to Specific Objectives and Principles;
- the programme's results and consider likely IMPACT on the country in the future;
- planned and actual disbursement levels;
- the impact of DFID core funding on the capacity of UNDP to attract other additional sources of funding;
- any effect on other UN agencies in Vietnam of DFID core funding of UNDP; and,
- channels of communication between UNDP and DFID on strategy and financing in terms of their effectiveness, proportionality and transaction cost; and

In addition, the consultant will also discuss with and seek confirmation from UNDP that the weaknesses highlighted in the various audit reports for individual sub projects are being adequately addressed to ensure as much as possible is being done to secure the success of this Initiative.

8. On the basis of the review, the expert will:

- develop recommendations to DFID and UNDP to improve implementation over the remaining 18 months; and,
- Explore the implications for the One UN Initiative in Viet Nam. Of lessons learnt from the SPI approach.

### **Methodology**

9. The expert will:

- study project documentation including the Project Memorandum, and the reports of joint DFID/UNDP Annual Review meetings held in January and June 2005, February 2006 and February 2007;
- interview key staff in both UNDP and DFID;
- consult with relevant Government agencies.
- consult UN staff in Vietnam more widely;
- consult the staff of other international development organisations in Vietnam (IFIs, INGOs, NGOs, other bilateral donors); and,

The expert will be briefed by and report to Subinay Nandy of UNDP and Phil Harding, the DFID Project Officer.

*One*

## **Outputs**

10. The expert will organise a workshop towards the end of the mission to discuss with key UNDP and DFID personnel the ideas emerging out of the mission and facilitate a discussion which can inform the content of the final report.

11. The expert will produce a brief Main Report including Executive Summary with key Findings and Recommendations on implementation and impact. Any detailed analysis should be presented in the form of Annexes to the Main Report.

12. The Main Report should be produced in both hard copy and electronically

## **Duration**

13. Seven person days are allocated for the review with an additional three days (in-country) for the finalisation of the Main Report.

## **Timing**

14. The work is to be complete by the end of April 2007.

*me*