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United Nations Rwanda

PRESS RELEASE



Rwanda

UNDP Administrator ends a 3 days visit to Rwanda

Kigali, 13 October 2007: The Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, Dr. Kemal Derviş today concluded his African tours which lead him to Tanzania, Mozambique and Rwanda, three of the four African “One UN” Pilots countries.

Mr. Derviş has had discussions with the UN Country Team in Rwanda and the development partners on the status of the implementation of the UN Reform. Rwanda has recorded encouraging progress since the “One UN –Delivering as One” Concept note was signed in April 2007. The Administrator commended the ownership of the process by the Government of Rwanda as this is a driving force for the success of its implementation. He invited the UN system in Rwanda to respond to the priorities of the country. The new United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) in Rwanda is fully aligned with the National Economic Development for Poverty Reduction (EDPRS) and the MDGs and responds to the priorities of the country.

The UN Reform was inevitable, as the UN needs more coherence and coordination in its interventions. Meeting the Staff of the United Nations in Rwanda, the Administrator urged them to adapt with the changing world. “We are in a changing world and we need to adapt with these changes”, Derviş said. “The UN Reform will bring more efficiency in the work of the UN and a more coordinated intervention and will potentially increase resources”, he added.

During his interaction with the parliamentarians on Thursday, Mr. Derviş urged parliamentarians to collaborate with other parliaments in the region and worldwide. The parliament commissions commended UNDP contribution to building the capacities of the parliament of Rwanda. UNDP has supported the parliament since 1998 through capacity building programmes, support to ICT infrastructures and support to the Forum for Women Parliamentarians. “Women play an important role in peace building and I am very pleased that you have such a well organized organization”, Derviş told the Women Parliamentarians.



Mr. Kemal Derviş shaking hands with H.E. President Paul Kagame after their meeting

On Friday, the UNDP Administrator met with President Paul Kagame and the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Mr. James Musoni. According to Mr. Dervis, it is impressive that Rwanda's Economy is growing at 7%. But this still has to go up and that is the right time to help Rwanda speed up development growth through the One UN. He commended the ownership and support of the One UN by the Government of Rwanda and by the President himself.

The last day of his visit took the Administrator to the field. He witnessed the progress made by the population of Mayange, one of the Millennium Villages project supported by UNDP and the Millennium Promise. There, the lives of the people have changed drastically. Once the poorest of the village of the country, Mayange has now become a source of income for its citizens. Malaria rate had dropped drastically, crops have increased significantly, and income generating activities have helped women access the markets and increased their income.

Before concluding his visit, Mr. Derviş also participated to a gacaca (traditional court that judges genocide cases) in Kigali. The gacaca courts contribute to the reconciliation process at the national and community level.

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