Asmara, 17 November 2014 - A United Nations Development Group for Eastern And Southern Africa (UNDG-ESA) delegation has reaffirmed the UN’s commitment and support to national development endeavours in Eritrea.

The delegation was led by UNICEF’s Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa, and UNDG focal point for Eritrea, Ms. Leila Gharagozloo-Pakkala. “The UN continues its commitment to partnerships and cooperation,” said Ms. Gharagozloo-Pakkala. “We remain results focused and hope to continue to add value in supporting the Government and people of Eritrea.”

Ms. Gharagozloo-Pakkala was accompanied by Mr. Ashraf El Nour, Regional Director of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). They met with high-level officials of the Government of the State of Eritrea (GoSE), communities, civil society and development partners to discuss issues related to development cooperation in the country. The talks focused on the expansion of development work as well as conducive conditions for programme collaboration.

Ms. Gharagozloo-Pakkala commended the Government and people of Eritrea, and all the partners involved, for the progress in achieving health Millennium Development Goals (MDG) in the country. She encouraged the Government and people of Eritrea to build on gains already made, and to use the experiences in health MDGs to help shape the post-2015 development agenda. “The world, and particularly Africa, needs your voice in defining its position in the next development agenda,” she said.

The high level meetings – which aimed to follow-up and build on the last UN Development Group High Level Mission to Eritrea in December, 2013 – sought to further the relationship between the Government of Eritrea, the UN and other development partners.

Commenting on progress so far, Ms. Gharagozloo-Pakkala said: “I am pleased to note that since the last mission in December 2013, the momentum has continued and grown further. The task is to remain focussed on achieving the goals of our strategic cooperation framework.”
The United Nations in Eritrea partners with the Government of the State of Eritrea in the priority areas of Basic Social Services; National Capacity Development; Food Security and Sustainable Livelihoods; Environmental Sustainability and Gender Equity and Advancement of Women under the Strategic Partnership Cooperation Framework (2013-2016). The SPCF capitalises on the collective comparative strengths of the UN system in responding to the identified priority areas and enhancing the overall well-being of the people of Eritrea, including the most vulnerable.