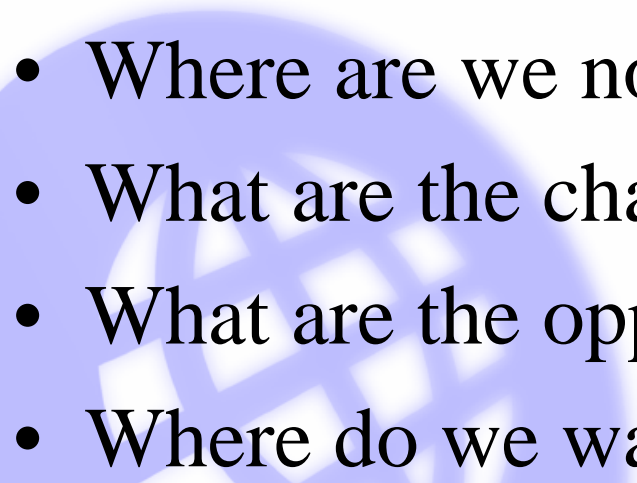


# The United Nations System

Status, challenges, opportunities  
and direction of travel

Simon Burall



- 
- What is the UN for?
  - Where are we now?
  - What are the challenges?
  - What are the opportunities?
  - Where do we want to go next?

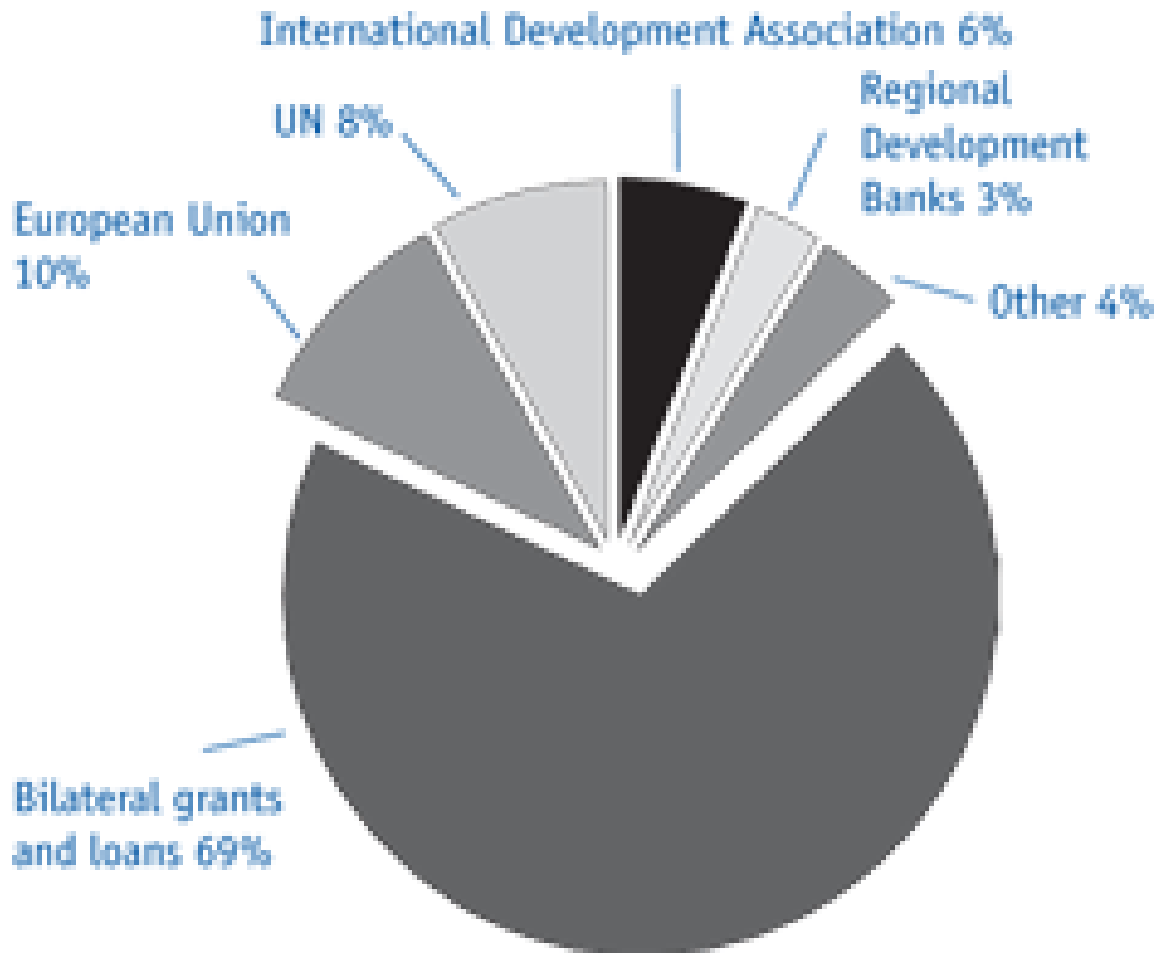
# What is the UN for?

- Norms and standards
- Humanitarian assistance
- International law
- Development finance
- Technical assistance

# Where are we now?

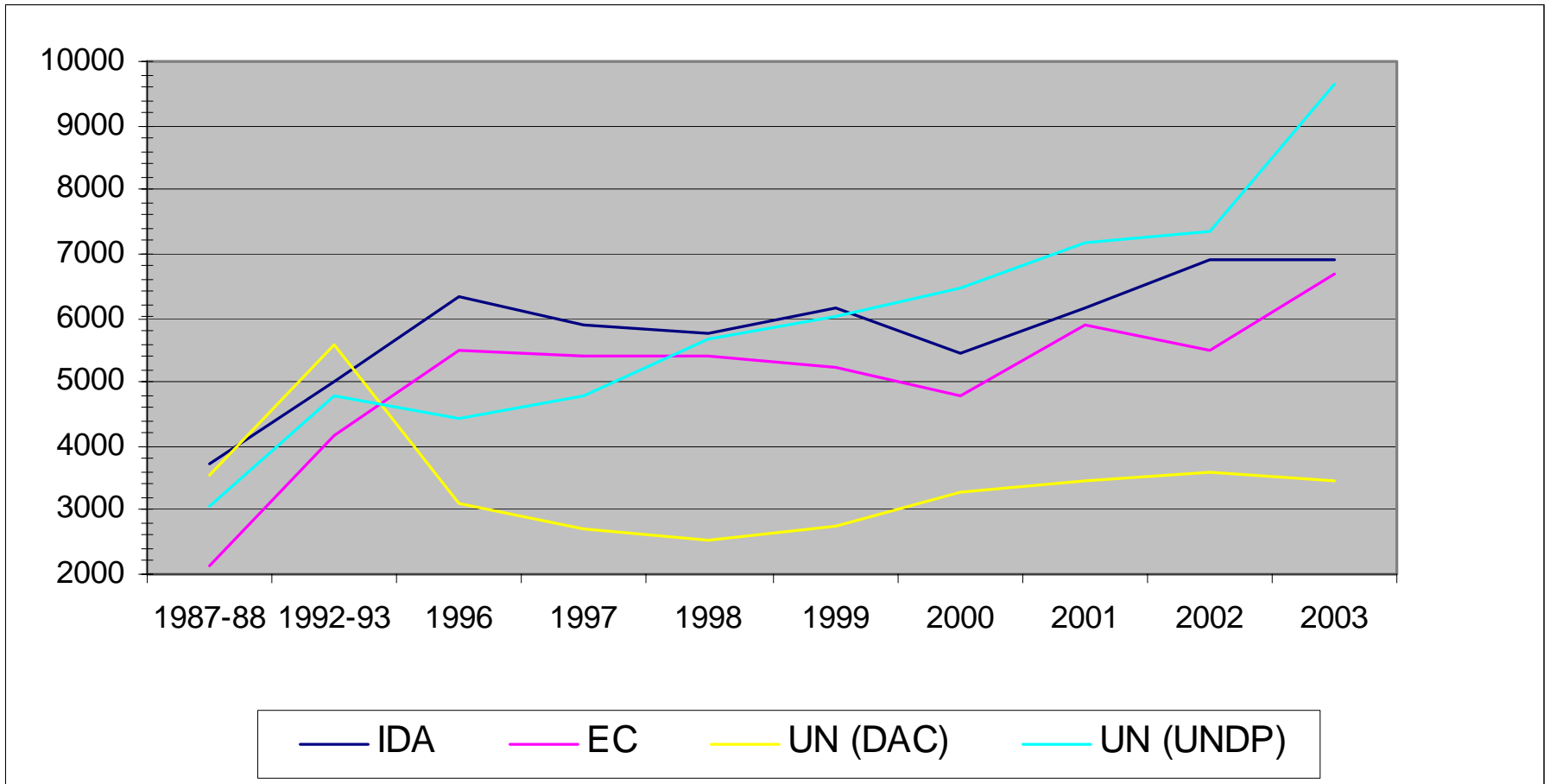
## Channelling aid to developing countries (2002)

(Total Official Development Assistance \$US58.3 bn)



# Where are we now?

Evolution of gross disbursements for IDA, EC and expenditures for UN (1987-2003 in million US dollar)



# Where are we now?

Allocation of UN Development Expenditure – 2004

Afghanistan	7%
Iraq	15%
Sudan	7%
West Bank and Gaza	8%
Other Low income countries	33%
Other Countries	30%

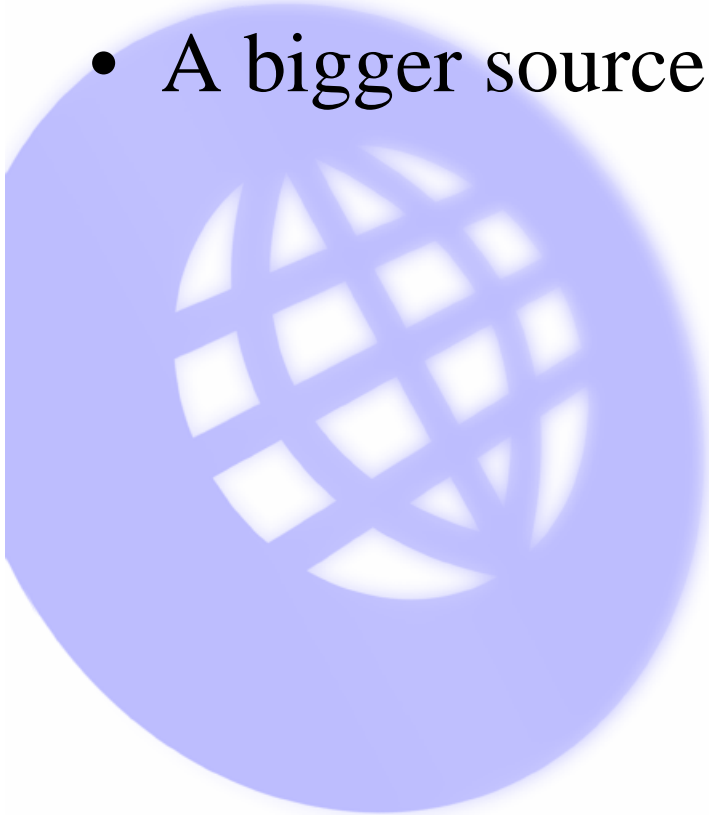
# Where are we now?

## UN Development Spending by Agency – 2004

WFP	31%
UNDP	19%
UNICEF	10%
WHO	10%
UNRWA	5%
FAO	3%
UNFPA	3%
Other agencies	3%
UNESCO	2%

# Yet the UN could be much more

- Much greater coordinating role
- A bigger source of ODA



# What are the Challenges?

- Relationship between core and non-core
- Maintaining its share of ODA
- Increased fragmentation
  - → increased transaction costs and inefficiency

# What are the opportunities

- Major reform process since 1997
- The MDGs
- The UNDG
- Strengthening the Resident Coordinators
- The Executive Committee of the UNDG

# What are the opportunities

- High Level Panel on Threats Challenges and Change
- In Larger Freedom Report
- Millennium Review Summit
  - Three pillars
  - Peacebuilding Commission
  - Human Rights Council
- High-level panel on UN System-wide Coherence in areas of Development, Humanitarian Assistance and Environment

# What are the opportunities

## *High-Level Panel Members*

- **Shaukat Aziz** (Co-Chair), Prime Minister, Pakistan
- **Gordon Brown**, United Kingdom, Chancellor of the Exchequer
- **Luísa Dias Diogo** (Co-Chair), Prime Minister, Mozambique
- **Mohamed T. El-Ashry**, Egypt, Senior Fellow, United Nations Foundation
- **Robert Greenhill**, Deputy Minister, International Cooperation, Canada
- **Ruth Jacoby**, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Sweden
- **Ricardo Lagos Escobar**, President of the Republic of Chile
- **Louis Michel, Belgium**, European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid
- **Benjamin W. Mkapa**, Former President, United Republic of Tanzania
- **Jean-Michel Severino**, France, Director General, French Development Agency
- **Josette S. Shiner**, United States Department of State
- **Jens Stoltenberg**, (Co-Chair), Prime Minister, Norway
- **Keizo Takemi**, Former State Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Japan

## *Ex Officio Members*

- **Kemal Derviş**, Turkey, Administrator of UNDP
- **Lennart Båge**, Sweden, President of IFAD



# Where do we want to go?

- Which parts of the UN System currently work well? – Why?
- Which parts don't work well? – Why?
- If you could change one thing tomorrow, what would it be?
- Is a strengthened UN the right way?
- What should the UN look like in 20 years?
- How can we get there from here?