um[]ja
making it happen

A once-in-a-generation opportunity to improve the way the UN works!

1 July 2013

Umoja Foundation

Go-Live in

UNIFIL/UNSCOL

The Umoja solution, with its core implementation of an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) solution, as well as a thorough streamlining of UN administrative processes, is proceeding on schedule. By 2016, the United Nations Secretariat as a whole will have transitioned to Umoja as its central administrative solution, leaving behind multiple and fragmented operating models.
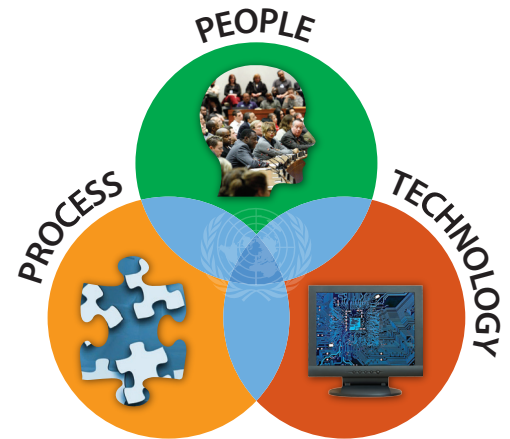
Umoja will provide a harmonized, simplified, and real-time approach to the Organization's management of finances, resources and assets.

Umoja, which means "unity" in Swahili, will ultimately replace UN legacy systems such as IMIS, Mercury, Sun, and many others. It represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity for the United Nations to:

PEOPLE — PROCESS — TECHNOLOGY

- ☐ Streamline fragmented administrative processes, to allow Managers and Staff to focus on value-added work rather than red-tape
- ☐ Comply with or exceed international industry standards (e.g. IPSAS)
- ☐ Upgrade its technology, tools and practices to those appropriate for the 21st century
- ☐ Unify multiple IT and computer systems and platforms to avoid delays, waste and frustration

Why Umoja is needed

In this fast-changing world, the United Nations needs a new way of managing its resources in order to operate efficiently, meet Member State mandates and credibly report results. Umoja is an organizational transformation that will enable high-quality and cost-effective service delivery anywhere in the world. It will modernize the United Nations and allow it to meet increasing demands under growing financial pressure while reducing the costs of re-training due to staff mobility. Umoja will provide better controls and transparency, empowering staff members to more effectively make decisions.

Where are we now?

- ☐ **Design and Build**: The new Umoja Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) solution (Foundation) has been designed and is now in the "build phase".
- ☐ **Assessing Change**: Umoja is working closely with the Process Owners and UN Senior Management to determine changes to roles and responsibilities, policy and processes.
- ☐ **Testing**: Comprehensive testing of the Umoja solution is taking place across multiple sites, including Peacekeeping Missions and HQ. The testing effort will ensure the reliability and performance of the Umoja solution.
- ☐ **Data Collection**: Data is currently being collected from the Pilot and Cluster 1 sites. This data has been and will continue to be used to support the multiple iterations of practice data migrations prior to the actual "go-live" of the true Umoja production system.
- ☐ **Deployment** of the Umoja Solution (Foundation followed by Extension 1 and 2) will occur in phases and clusters. See following page for details on deployment timeline.

[United Nations - Umoja, March 2013]

Deployment timeline

Umoja functionality will be released to the Organization in a phased approach as follows:

Umoja Foundation
Finance, supply chain, project management, and sales & distribution processes

Pilot   **July 2013**
UNIFIL and UNSCOL, Lebanon

Cluster 1   **October 2013**
all other Peacekeeping Operations (PKOs)

Cluster 2   **January 2014**
Special Political Missions (SPMs)

Cluster 3   **July 2014**
UNHQ, UNON, ECA

Cluster 4   **July 2015**
UNOG, UNOV, Tribunals, and other Regional Commissions

Umoja Extension 1 (UE1)
Human resources and travel processes

Pilot   **February 2014**
Location TBD

Cluster 3   **July 2014**
UNHQ, UNON, ECA, PKOs & SPMs (international staff only)

Cluster 4   **July 2015**
UNOG, UNOV, Tribunals, and other Regional Commisions

Cluster 5   **January 2016**
PKOs & SPMs (local staff)

Umoja Extension 2 (UE2)   **2016-2018**
Strategic planning, programme management, budget formulation, grants management, and events management processes

The phased approach will enable the Organization to absorb change at a tolerable rate. It will facilitate a gradual introduction to new ways of working and strengthen organizational acceptance. It will also reduce some of the risks associated with deploying the full solution.

Benefits

Upon deployment, the UN will begin to realize some immediate qualitative benefits. Umoja will deliver:
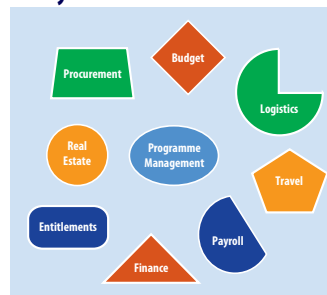
- increased operational effectiveness and timeliness
- improved accountability
- adoption of international best practices and standards
- enhanced transparency
- higher client satisfaction
- better internal controls

Umoja is also projected to deliver potential quantitative benefits in ongoing annual productivity and efficiency improvements as a result of:

- refined business processes
- improved quality and availability of information
- reduced manual effort
- reduced reworking due to manual errors
- streamlined process flows

The methodology and initial plan for benefits realization will be provided in the Umoja progress report to the 68th Session of the UN General Assembly.

Today's UN

Tomorrow's UN

did you know that...

Umoja will move the UN away from outdated ways of working.

- It took 352 Excel workbooks to produce the 2009-2010 UN Peacekeeping and Support Account budget which totaled $7.8 billion? Then figures were typed into Word documents.

  Umoja will eradicate this type of duplicative and manual work and deliver faster, more efficient ways of working to UN finance.

- On-boarding of international staff for field missions is a largely paper-based process that requires 28 major steps, 7 IT systems and it takes an average of 26 days?

  Umoja will replace legacy applications and allow all offices to use a central, integrated information source. Faster on-boarding timeframes and more effective peacekeeping missions will result.

- It takes an average of 76 days to administratively transfer a staff member from one duty station to another because there are eight disconnected versions of IMIS?

Umoja is a cornerstone for organizational change that will integrate with all other UN reform efforts - from accounting and human resources to developing climate-neutral business strategies.

[umoja.un.org]