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Item 7 - Coordination, programme and other questions - Report of coordination bodies

**Presentation of the Annual Overview Report of the United Nations
Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2011/2012**

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President of ECOSOC,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

I have the honour to introduce the Annual Overview Report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) for 2011 / 2012 (E/2012/67).

As you may recall, the Chief Executives Board for Coordination is the longest-standing and highest level coordination forum in the UN. The CEB is a unique instrument of the multilateral system. It brings together, under the leadership of the UN Secretary-General, the Executive Heads of the UN specialised agencies, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organisation, and UN funds, and programmes. CEB's key role is to strengthen synergies, identify and reduce duplication and gaps, and promote coherence and coordination among the organizations of the UN system. At the same time, the CEB is a valued mechanism for member states to enhance the impact of their decisions by ensuring system-wide implementation of programmatic, operational, and management mandates.

This year's report gives an overview of major developments in inter-agency cooperation covering the Board's sessions from fall 2011 until spring 2012. The report highlights the activities of CEB and its three pillars, the High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP), the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) and the High-Level Committee on Management (HLCM), in advancing policy, operational and management coherence and coordination of the UN system within their intergovernmental mandates.

As the report is before you, I will briefly highlight salient aspects of CEB's work during the reporting period.

Mr. President,

A key priority of CEB this year has been the development of system-wide contributions to the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in support of Member States' efforts to advance economic growth, social development and environmental sustainability in an integrated manner. Sustainable development is a core objective and a major activity of the UN system, and is of paramount concern to CEB. Building on the extensive experience and expertise of the UN system on sustainable development, CEB issued two joint statements in November 2011 and April 2012, respectively, to provide substantive input to the preparatory process. During the Conference, CEB organized a high-level side event with the participation of the UN Secretary-General and 19 Executive Heads to demonstrate the UN system's collective capacity to advance greater integration and coherence of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The discussion illuminated the particular value-added of the UN system as a knowledge platform through which member states can enhance their capacity to design and implement country-led and owned sustainable development strategies.

CEB also continued its work in follow up of the outcome of the Millennium Summit. To ensure coordinated and integrated implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), CEB prepared the MDG Acceleration Framework (MAF) and launched the Integrated Implementation Framework (IIF) web-platform. The platform provides searchable information on progress made towards MDG commitments and contains measures to enhance greater accountability and coherence in tracking MDG promises.

The Board also accelerated the mainstreaming of cross-cutting issues in the UN system's work. For example, CEB developed practical tools, instruments and processes to step up coordinated system-wide actions in such areas as human rights and disaster risk reduction.

I am particularly pleased to report to ECOSOC on CEB's support for the system-wide action plan for the implementation of the UN system-wide policy on gender equality and the empowerment of women (SWAP). The SWAP is a unified gender framework designed to promote common understanding, enhanced coherence, systematic self-assessment, and a progressive approach to gender mainstreaming. It serves as an instrument for reporting and accountability and is expected to markedly advance gender equality and the empowerment of women in the policies and programmes of UN system organizations.

Mr. President, allow me to further highlight a few additional specific activities of CEB's subsidiary bodies.

Building on intergovernmental mandates, the three subsidiary bodies of CEB have continued to work closely together to strengthen coordination across the system on programmatic, administrative and operational issues.

On programme activities, CEB's High-level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) has continued its system-wide coordination efforts in the areas of climate change, support to Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and addressing population dynamics and demographic transformations. In order to strengthen coordination and coherence in providing input to inter-governmental meetings and conferences, HLCP addressed the issue of joint contributions by the United Nations system organizations to the 2013 High-level Dialogue of the General Assembly on International Migration and Development, and the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014.

On management activities, the High-Level Committee on Management (HLCM) has been responding to increased demands for enhanced efficiency and increased service delivery of the UN system. In all its efforts, HLCM has pursued three major objectives: (1) to improve business models and make management and administrative processes more coherent and compatible across the UN system; (2) to generate cost efficiencies while improving the quality of delivery and (3) to introduce cultural changes required for modernizing the working environment. HLCM has also continued its

consideration of safety and security of UN system personnel while ensuring that security risk management enables programme delivery.

On operational matters, the United Nations Development Group's (UNDG) efforts were firmly focused on maximizing the UN development system's support to country efforts to accelerate achievement of the MDGs. These efforts, over the last year, showed that the development system has been challenged to show its relevance, substance, leadership on normative issues, capacity to deliver results, and ability to do more with less. To this end, the UNDG focused on joint UN system preparations for the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR), including through support for the Secretary-General's report on the subject. UNDG has also begun to reflect on the contours of a post 2015 development agenda, while being cognizant of the need for the system to continue to support the achievement of the MDGs by 2015.

Mr. President, distinguished delegates,

Coordinated action across a wide range of issue areas is essential in order for the UN system to effectively deliver results that meet global challenges. CEB remains committed to ensuring that the system aligns its collective strengths to fulfil the mandates established by Member States. Furthermore, the outcomes and decisions of the governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations system continue to guide and shape the work of CEB and its pillars.

Furthermore, I would like to highlight that CEB has been engaged in efforts to do more with less as a follow-up to calls from legislative and governing bodies as well as the Five-Year Action Agenda of the Secretary-General. For example, UNDG and HLCM have been engaged in efforts to improve effectiveness and efficiency through the harmonization and simplification of business practices and by identifying and replicating best practices to "do more with less".

The CEB also remains dedicated to cooperating with other inter-organizational bodies. The CEB Secretariat continues to work closely with the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) on the development of the JIU annual work plan and in the preparation of reports. Similarly, the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) is regularly invited to contribute its views on relevant issues before HLCM.

Over the reporting period, it has become quite clear that the UN system has benefited from increased and interactive dialogue with representatives of Member States. Over the last year, we held

regular briefings in the Economic and Social Council, in the General Assembly, and in other fora such as the UN Climate Change Conference in Durban. The Board has also striven to enhance the quality and quantity of information provided in official reports and through an ongoing redesign of its website which will be launched later this year.

I trust that the Annual Overview Report before you today reaffirms the continued commitment of Executive Heads of the UN system to working together in a coherent and coordinated manner to ensure an integrated follow-up to the mandates and directives provided by you, the Member States.

Thank you, Mr. President. I appreciate this opportunity to brief you and the membership of ECOSOC on the work of the CEB and will be happy to answer any questions.