



Chief Executives Board for Coordination

16 May 2003

English and French only

Summary of the conclusions of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination at its first regular session of 2003 UNESCO headquarters, Paris 25 and 26 April

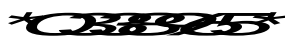
Summary: CEB conclusions requiring specific follow-up

Follow-up to the Millennium Summit: “Strategies for sustainable development”

The United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) addressed the issue of the follow-up to the Millennium Summit, focusing on the theme “Strategies for sustainable development” — one of the themes to be given special attention in the next report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration. The report of the High-level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) on the system’s **follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development** provided the basis for the discussions.

Members of CEB generally concurred with the overall approaches to the follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development developed by HLCP. With regard to the specific recommendations submitted to it by the Committee, CEB asked the Committee to further elaborate them, in the light of the discussions and specific observations in CEB. In so doing, the Committee should focus its further work on the substance of the follow-up to the Summit. This will help ground modalities for inter-agency and other collaborative arrangements, as well as the policy guidance to be provided for technical work and operational activities and further strategic discussions on the matter, in substantive objectives and tasks.

In this regard, discussions in CEB highlighted the need for: coherence and consistency — at operational, regional and global levels — and strong linkages among these levels; country ownership of the follow-up process, coordination support for capacity-building and full use of existing country-level mechanisms; a focus on sustainability and productivity and on natural resources as the engine for sustainable growth; greater attention to the regional dimensions of the follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, given the growing need for cooperation on issues that cut across national borders; implementation to be linked to the broader processes of integrated follow-up to United Nations conferences and



summits, particularly the Millennium Summit; and HLCP to assist in identifying ways of streamlining parallel processes and duplicative reporting.

With regard to **health, agriculture, biodiversity/ecosystem management and adequate shelter**, CEB noted that these areas have a clear institutional focal point within the system, which should be drawn upon to steer follow-up actions and interactions with other partners, avoiding duplication at the international, as well as the inter-agency and secretariat levels.

With regard to **freshwater resources as well as water and sanitation**, extensive work is under way and there are a large number of existing collaborative arrangements. There is, however — in contrast with the situation in other areas — no institutional focal point in the system. Reiterating previous conclusions on the importance of ensuring that effective arrangements are in place to secure organized inter-agency coordination in this area (see CEB/2002/1, para. 38), CEB requested that consultations on substantive inter-organizational requirements be pursued to guide the form and tasks of such arrangements, taking into account existing mechanisms.

With regard to **energy**, noting the diversity of activities in the United Nations system, CEB advocated a similar approach whereby the identification of substantive tasks would guide consideration of appropriate mechanisms, including modalities for engagement with key non-United Nations system actors.

Further consultations should likewise be pursued on coordination arrangements relating to **oceans and coastal areas**.

Concerning the representation of staff from developing countries in resident coordinator positions, the Secretary-General conveyed to the meeting a request for cooperation of all United Nations organizations in making a special effort to present a broad spectrum of candidates from developing countries for these positions and to identify women candidates, especially from developing countries.

Report of the High-level Committee on Programmes

In introducing the report of HLCP at its fifth regular session, its Chairman, Mr. Lennart Båge, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), outlined the main considerations that were guiding the Committee in elaborating its new work programme, which had been developed within a longer-term perspective of its work and contribution, and focused on five priority areas: Follow-up to the United Nations Millennium Declaration: preparations for the 2005 comprehensive review; conflict prevention: nexus between political, humanitarian and sustainable development; HIV/AIDS: linkages with food security and governance; energy in the follow-up to Johannesburg; and international trade and the Doha development round.

Executive Heads noted with grave concern the continuing and extraordinary toll that the **HIV/AIDS** pandemic is taking on human lives and its severe consequences for food security, public-health and educational systems, and on the institutional capacity in the public and private sectors in affected countries, particularly those in Africa. There was a need for much more to be done, individually and collectively, by

the organizations of the system, which between them have the technical and convening capacities required to scale up the response.

Because of both humanitarian and moral considerations, CEB stressed the importance of a multilateral agreement on trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights and public health before the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, to be held in Cancún, Mexico, in September 2003.

CEB requested HLCP to pursue further work on the issue of HIV/AIDS and its linkages with food security and institutional capacity, and to report on the matter to the Board at its second regular session of 2003. The Board will revert, at that time, to the feasibility of issuing a statement on the subject.

On system-wide support for **Africa's development and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)**, CEB endorsed the approach recommended by HLCP, in other words, one in which the thematic clusters established in the context of the regional consultations on NEPAD should serve as the main instrument for consolidating United Nations system support for African development.

The Board decided to issue a statement in support of the **Doha Development Agenda** (annex).

CEB welcomed the approach adopted by **HLCP** in elaborating its **work programme** and identifying priority areas for its work, and endorsed the work programme proposed by the Committee. The Board especially emphasized the importance of the Committee's role in contributing to the shaping of the structure and content of the 2005 comprehensive review of the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

Other matters

Education for All

The Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) briefed CEB on progress in the implementation of the education-related Millennium Development Goals and the Dakar Framework for Action: Education for All: Meeting Our Collective Commitments.

Support was expressed for the recommendations contained in the UNESCO note on the subject and, in particular, the need to focus on ensuring that planning processes on education for all are integrated with sector plans, Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and wider development frameworks, as well as for harmonization among donors so as to alleviate the administrative burden of aid on Governments of developing countries.

World Summit on the Information Society

The Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and Chairman of the High-level Summit Organizing Committee for the World Summit on the Information Society briefed CEB on preparations for the Geneva phase of the Summit and on the outcome of the Organizing Committee meeting held on 24 April at UNESCO headquarters.

CEB members reiterated their strong interest and support for the objectives of the Summit, and concurred with the conclusions of the Organizing Committee concerning the role and continued contribution of United Nations organizations in the Summit process, including, in particular, the provision of inputs on contents.

Launch of new security training programme

The United Nations Security Coordinator introduced the system-wide self-administered learning course entitled “Basic Security in the Field: Staff Safety, Health and Welfare” along with a brief presentation of the CD-ROM. The course was welcomed by CEB members. CEB expressed particular appreciation to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for coordinating the inter-agency team that developed the course.

Dates of the CEB 2003 second regular session and the 2004 first regular session

CEB confirmed the dates of Friday, 31 October, and Saturday, 1 November, for its 2003 second regular session at United Nations Headquarters in New York. It also took note of the offer of the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) to host the 2004 first regular session of CEB in Vienna on the proposed dates of 16 and 17 April 2004. The dates of the 2004 first regular session will be the subject of further consultations.

I. Introduction

1. The first regular session of CEB for 2003 was held at United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) headquarters in Paris, on 25 and 26 April 2003, at the invitation of the Director-General of UNESCO.
2. A private meeting of CEB members was held at the Château de Rambouillet in the afternoon of 25 April. It was followed by a “retreat”, on the evening of 25 April and the morning of 26 April, at which CEB members were briefed and had an exchange of views on, among other issues, developments relating to the Doha trade round and the work of the World Commission on the Social Dimensions of Globalization, and concluded the discussion initiated at the regular session on a number of issues in the session’s agenda.
3. The present summary covers the outcome of the regular session of CEB held at UNESCO headquarters and related conclusions reached at the retreat.
4. At the request of the Secretary-General, who was unable to attend and was represented by the Deputy Secretary-General, the meetings were chaired by the Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO).

Agenda

5. The agenda of the first regular session of 2003 of CEB was as follows:
 1. Adoption of the agenda.
 2. Follow-up to the Millennium Summit: “Strategies for sustainable development”.
 3. Report of the High-level Committee on Programmes.
 4. Other matters:
 - (a) Education for all;
 - (b) World Summit on the Information Society;
 - (c) Launch of new security training programme;
 - (d) Dates of the CEB second regular session of 2003 and first regular session of 2004.

II. Follow-up to the Millennium Summit: “Strategies for sustainable development”

6. Introducing the item, the Director-General of ILO, acting as Chair of the session at the request of the Secretary-General, recalled that strategies for sustainable development, particularly in the perspective of the follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in August-September 2002, will be one of the themes to be given special attention in the 2003 report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on the follow-up to the United Nations Millennium Declaration (see General Assembly resolution 55/2). The Chairman referred to the crucial role of CEB in ensuring that the process

of reporting on the follow-up to the Millennium Declaration fully reflects a system-wide perspective. However, the impact of CEB discussions must go beyond reporting. Those discussions must serve to strengthen the overall capacity of the system to support countries in translating norms and goals into practical action that will further progress in implementing the objectives of the Millennium Declaration. With regard in particular to sustainable development, the system has a set of clear mandates for action. The policy guidance framed in the Millennium Declaration was given added thrust at the Summit, which contributed several specific new goals and targets to further stimulate and focus such action. The action strategies that the system will now develop to chart the way forward should be guided by these goals and targets, and should focus both on strengthening cooperation and coordination within the system itself, and on nurturing partnerships with all relevant actors in ways that will enhance overall coherence and impact. Key to such strategies remain an effective integration of policies and interventions in the economic, social and environmental areas and stronger linkages between normative and operational work. Guided by these approaches, the recommendations of the High-level Committee on Programmes (HLCP), as summarized in the annotated agenda for the session (annex A, Attachment VI), set forth, for the consideration of CEB, proposed guidelines for follow-up action at the field, regional and global levels, highlighting linkages among these levels and focusing on orientations to guide inter-agency coordination and collaborative arrangements in areas such as water and sanitation and energy, which involve a wide variety of actors within and outside the system.

7. The Chairman of HLCP noted that the Committee's work on the follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development had benefited from extensive consultations carried out through an open-ended group, and had focused on six main areas: the identification of the challenges facing the system in implementing the outcomes of the Summit; guidelines for promoting coherent and commensurate United Nations system responses at the operational level; inter-agency mechanisms to replace or redesign the task manager system; functional requirements for Summit follow-up deemed especially relevant to the areas of water, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity (WEHAB); developments and orientations for further work in the areas of water and sanitation, and of energy; and coordination on oceans and coastal areas. The HLCP conclusions and recommendations in all areas had been guided by the twin objectives of introducing system-wide perspectives in addressing relevant aspects of the forthcoming report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and of contributing common approaches through which to guide the United Nations system in responding to the challenges posed by the follow-up to the Summit, within the broader framework of the integrated follow-up to United Nations conferences and summits.

8. Opening the discussions, the Secretary-General of the World Summit on Sustainable Development pointed to the introduction of specific new goals and targets, a renewed focus on implementation, and the related emphasis on partnerships as among the key contributions of the Johannesburg Summit. To be effective, the response of the system had to be tailored to the specific requirements and characteristics of the various areas addressed in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),¹ while being guided by overall strategies that would ensure that policies and interventions in each area were mutually reinforcing and effectively

contribute to the overarching goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration. In all areas, innovative, visible and coherent United Nations system responses will be required to ensure that the overall comparative advantage of the system in promoting and sustaining follow-up actions, consistent with the principles and objectives of the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, is fully exploited; that the United Nations presence and United Nations interventions have credibility and the necessary impact; and that the United Nations system provides an engaging, credible anchor and serves as a coherent interlocutor for partnerships and collaborative arrangements with other actors.

9. The Secretary-General of the World Summit on Sustainable Development further noted that, while enhanced coordination will be required at all levels, it remains crucial at the country level, where a main challenge will be to effectively factor the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs). Monitoring capacity will also need to be strengthened and effectively supported by the system, particularly at the country and regional levels. Specific content and tasks, as well as the relative strengths of the system at both the intergovernmental and inter-agency levels in each area, should guide the design of appropriate follow-up arrangements. In relation to energy management, for instance, the intergovernmental process has so far not been strong, and should be further promoted; also, the United Nations system remains a relatively small player vis-à-vis other actors. In respect of water, the intergovernmental agenda is very extensive; there are globally many collaborative and advocacy arrangements that need to be harnessed; within the system, there is good collaboration in relation to monitoring and assessment, while more intensive and better-coordinated action is called for with respect to integrated water management and development. He hoped that the overall perception that, as a result of this discussion, would be conveyed to Governments when they met immediately after the CEB session, in the first substantive session of the Commission on Sustainable Development after Johannesburg, would be one of a system that was ready to engage in an innovative and coherent way to meet the challenges arising from Johannesburg.

10. Members of CEB generally concurred with the overall approaches to the follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development developed by HLCP. With regard to the specific recommendations submitted to it by the Committee, CEB asked the Committee to further elaborate them, in the light of the discussions and specific observations in CEB. In so doing, the Committee should focus its further work on the substance of the follow-up to the Summit. This will help ground modalities for inter-agency and other collaborative arrangements, as well as the policy guidance to be provided for technical work and operational activities and further strategic discussions on the matter, in substantive objectives and tasks.

11. A number of points were highlighted in the course of the exchange of views:

- Effective system-wide follow-up of the World Summit on Sustainable Development requires coherence and consistency at each level — operational, regional and global — and strong linkages among these levels.
- At the operational level, country ownership of the follow-up process, coordinated United Nations system support to Governments for capacity-building for national implementation of the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and full use of existing country-level mechanisms (common country assessment (CCA), United Nations Development Assistance

Framework (UNDAF), PRSP) for programming, monitoring and reporting, should be the essential components of the strategies guiding the United Nations system.

- A focus on sustainability and productivity, and on natural resources as the engine for sustainable growth, is a crucial condition for a path to development capable of leading to real progress in meeting the goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration.
- Given the growing need for cooperation on issues that cut across national borders, the regional dimensions of all aspects of the follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, particularly the monitoring function and the task of fostering partnerships, should be given greater and more systematic attention by the system. This should be achieved without prejudice to the system's focus on supporting local- and national-level follow-up, and country ownership of the follow-up effort, which should be at the centre of the system's effort.
- At the global level, the United Nations system's contribution to the implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation should be linked to the broader processes of integrated follow-up to United Nations conferences and summits, particularly the Millennium Summit. The shift in focus towards implementation should be geared to ensuring that all aspects of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation are given adequate and balanced attention, and that follow-up actions are sustained and mutually reinforcing.
- Every effort should be made to avoid duplicative reporting and fragmented processes of follow-up to United Nations conference and summits. CEB should maintain a strategic overview of the follow-up processes under way in the system to ensure consistency, coherence and mutual reinforcement. HLCP should assist it in identifying ways of streamlining parallel processes and duplicative reporting. In the same context, inter-agency mechanisms in areas such as water or oceans, which are central to advancing the sustainable development goals of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in addressing both coordination and substantive aspects of their work, should establish linkages with each other and with HLCP, so that strategic issues may be brought to the attention of CEB, through HLCP.
- Factors impinging on sustainable development cited as requiring more focused attention included the challenges of growing cities and demographic shifts within countries and their impact on human settlements, and natural disasters induced by climate change. Along with socio-economic factors, due regard should be given, in the follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to the ethical dimensions of sustainable development.

12. Turning to the key areas of sustainable development — water and sanitation, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity/ecosystem management — covered by the WEHAB initiative, it was noted that, while the initiative, as such, had not received formal intergovernmental approval, its introduction helped focus the discussions at Johannesburg. Actions in each of these areas already formed part of Agenda 21,² and are the subject of current intergovernmental mandates of United Nations organizations and agencies and of specific provisions of the Johannesburg

Plan of Implementation. The same considerations apply to activities in the area of adequate shelter. Implementation in each of these areas should thus be guided by these mandates and provisions. Three of these areas — health, agriculture and biodiversity — as well as adequate shelter, have a clear institutional focal point within the system to steer follow-up actions and interactions with other partners. Duplication at the intergovernmental, inter-agency and secretariat levels should therefore be avoided.

13. With regard to freshwater resources as well as water and sanitation, extensive work is under way and there are a large number of existing collaborative mechanisms. There is, however, in contrast with the situation in other areas, no institutional focal point in the system. Reiterating previous conclusions (see CEB/2002/1, para. 38) on the importance of ensuring that effective arrangements are in place to secure organized inter-agency coordination in this area, CEB requested that consultations on substantive inter-organizational requirements be pursued to guide the form and tasks of such arrangements, taking into account existing mechanisms.

14. Noting the diversity of energy-related activities in the United Nations system, CEB advocated a similar approach whereby the identification of substantive tasks would guide consideration of appropriate mechanisms, including modalities for engagement with key non-United Nations system actors.

15. It was further noted that, in focusing the contribution of the United Nations system, it was useful to draw a distinction between the demand and the supply side of water and energy. Demand management takes place at the country level while the supply side involves regional and global dimensions. The view was also expressed that a human rights approach to energy questions should be actively promoted.

16. Noting the observations in the HLCP report on coordination arrangements relating to oceans and coastal areas, CEB requested that further consultations on the subject should also be actively pursued.

17. The Chairman pointed out that, as the focus of the system's work shifted towards implementation, the nature of the system's field presence would become even more critical. The Secretary-General has been increasingly concerned about the representation of staff from developing countries in resident coordinator positions. The Secretary-General is counting on the cooperation of all United Nations organizations in making a special effort to present a broad spectrum of candidates from developing countries for these positions and to identify women candidates, especially from developing countries.

III. Report of the High-level Committee on Programmes

18. In introducing the report of the fifth session of HLCP, its Chairman, Mr. Lennart Båge, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), noted that the main considerations that were guiding the Committee in elaborating its work programme included: a renewed emphasis on contributing to policy coherence and operational collaboration throughout the system; adding real value to the work of CEB; and, in that context, defining more sharply the Committee's own role and functioning. These approaches were shaped in the course of a "retreat" convened by the Committee as well as during an informal dialogue on

multilateralism at the last session of HLCP. The Committee's new work programme, developed within a longer-term perspective of its work and contribution, focused on five priority areas: follow-up to the United Nations Millennium Declaration: preparations for the 2005 comprehensive review; conflict prevention: nexus between political, humanitarian and sustainable development; HIV/AIDS: linkages with food security and governance; energy in the follow-up to Johannesburg; and international trade and the Doha development round. It was understood that the work programme should be seen as a living document that would be reviewed and modified periodically as required. The Chairman drew particular attention to the Committee's ongoing work and plans in relation to the 2005 comprehensive review of progress in the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the impact of the AIDS pandemic on food security and governance — two issues that the Secretary-General had singled out for priority consideration by the Committee.

19. With regard to the latter issue, Executive Heads noted with grave concern the continuing and extraordinary toll that the HIV/AIDS pandemic was taking on human lives — particularly those of women and children — and its severe consequences for food security, public-health and educational systems, and on the institutional capacity in the public and private sectors in affected countries, particularly those in Africa. They regretted that, so far, the efforts of the international community had fallen short of addressing this multisectoral and multidimensional challenge. There was a need for much more to be done, individually and collectively, by the organizations of the system, which between them had the technical and convening capacities needed to scale up the response.

20. In shaping policy and approaches towards addressing this crisis, a number of objectives were emphasized during the discussions. These included:

- Ensuring proper nutrition and keeping children in school, as essential components of the strategies and measures to be adopted to deal with the crisis.
- Putting a human face on the crisis.
- Making drugs for treating HIV/AIDS accessible and affordable.
- Devising more creative ways to work with external partners and draw on their capacities and resources, including those of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

21. It was further stressed that, while it is urgent to focus on the immediate humanitarian issues, the need to address, at the same time, the longer-term development crisis should equally receive the focused attention of the system. The necessity to develop a coordinated communications strategy was likewise emphasized.

22. In the same context, CEB reviewed the state of negotiations and the lack of agreement on the implementation of paragraph 6 of the Declaration on the TRIPS agreement and public health adopted at the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization held at Doha in November 2001. Because of both humanitarian and moral considerations, CEB stressed the importance of a multilateral agreement on trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights (TRIPS) and public health before the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, to be held in Cancún, Mexico, in September 2003.

23. CEB requested HLCP to pursue further work on the issue of HIV/AIDS and its linkages with food security and institutional capacity, and to report on the matter to the Board at its second regular session of 2003. It further requested that preparations for CEB discussions should fully take into account the various inter-agency efforts to combat HIV/AIDS currently under way. The Board will revert, at that time, to the feasibility of issuing a statement on the subject.

24. On system-wide support for Africa's development and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) (A/57/304, annex) — another subject addressed in the HLCP report — CEB endorsed the approach recommended by HLCP, that is to say, one in which the thematic clusters established in the context of the regional consultations on NEPAD should serve as the main instrument for consolidating United Nations system support for African development. In so doing, CEB reiterated the importance for the organizations of the system to work within the framework and institutional structure of NEPAD.

25. The Board decided to issue a statement in support of the Doha Development Agenda (annex).

26. CEB welcomed the approach adopted by HLCP in elaborating its work programme and identifying priority areas for its work. In endorsing the work programme proposed by the Committee, the Board especially emphasized the importance of the Committee's role in contributing to the shaping of the structure and content of the 2005 comprehensive review of the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration. Further consideration should also be given by the Committee to the context and arrangements for the elaboration of CEB statements.

Item 4. Other matters

1. Education for all

27. The Director-General of UNESCO briefed CEB on progress in the implementation of the education-related Millennium Development Goals (see A/56/326, annex) and the Dakar Framework for Action on education for all.³ He highlighted the multisectoral nature of the challenge, the funding gap, the demands on coordination and advocacy, the urgency of achieving gender parity in schooling by 2005, and the need for improving data quality.

28. Current assessments with regard to progress on three time-bound quantitative goals relating to universal primary education, gender parity and adult literacy in 154 countries highlight the need for concerted and coordinated action by both Governments and the United Nations system. Governments need to live up to their stated commitments in Dakar and scale up their support for all six goals in respect of education for all. Special efforts are also needed to accelerate progress on girls' education, build capacity in developing countries to plan and implement education for all, and alleviate the administrative burden of aid on Governments of developing countries. For its part, the United Nations system needs to sustain partnerships, support inter-agency coordination and mutual reinforcement between the goals of education for all and related United Nations system initiatives, strengthen advocacy and improve the quality of data for the monitoring of progress.

29. Support was expressed for the recommendations contained in the UNESCO note on the subject, and, in particular, the need to focus on ensuring that education

for all planning processes are integrated with sector plans, PRSPs and wider development frameworks, as well as for harmonization among donors so as to alleviate the administrative burden of aid on Governments of developing countries.

2. World Summit on the Information Society

30. The Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and Chairman of the High-level Summit Organizing Committee for the World Summit on the Information Society briefed CEB on preparations for the Geneva phase of the Summit and on the outcome of the Organizing Committee meeting held on 24 April at UNESCO headquarters. He reported on the outcomes of the second meeting of the Preparatory Committee (17-28 February 2003) and regional preparatory conferences. During the Geneva phase, the Summit is expected to adopt a political declaration and plan of action for the purpose of establishing a clear vision of the information society and practical steps aimed at bridging the digital divide and meeting many of the Millennium Development Goals. CEB members reiterated their strong interest and support for the objectives of the Summit, and concurred with the conclusions of HLSOC concerning the role and continued contribution of United Nations organizations in the Summit process, including, in particular, the provision of inputs on contents.

3. Launch of new security training programme

31. The United Nations Security Coordinator introduced the system-wide self-administered learning course entitled "Basic Security in the Field: Staff Safety, Health and Welfare" along with a brief presentation of the CD-ROM. The course, which is aimed at educating United Nations system staff on how to deal with various security situations, was welcomed by CEB members. It was explained that the course is intended to be mandatory for all staff and constitutes an essential part of the Minimum Operating Security Standards (MOSS). CEB expressed particular appreciation to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for coordinating the inter-agency team, composed of the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator, the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights that developed the course.

4. Dates of the CEB 2003 second regular session and the 2004 first regular session

32. CEB confirmed the dates of Friday, 31 October, and Saturday, 1 November, for its 2003 second regular session in New York. It also took note of the offer of the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) to host the 2004 first regular session of CEB in Vienna. The Executive Director proposed for this purpose the dates of 16 and 17 April 2004. The dates of the 2004 first regular session will be subject to further consultations.

33. CEB expressed appreciation to the Director-General of UNESCO for hosting the 2003 first regular session of CEB and to the staff of UNESCO for the excellent meeting arrangements.

34. CEB paid tribute to the Director-General of WHO, Dr. Gro Brundtland, for her outstanding leadership, and to the Secretary-General of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), Mr. Renato Costa Pereira, whose terms in office will

end before the next session of CEB. CEB also thanked Mr. Nitin Desai, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, and Mr. Eduardo Aninat, Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), who were attending the session of CEB for the last time, for their important contribution.

Notes

¹ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* and corrigendum (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and Corr.1), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

² *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* and corrigendum (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and Corr.1), resolution 1, annex II.

³ See *Final Report of the World Education Forum, Dakar, Senegal, 26-28 April 2000* (Paris, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 2000).

Annex

CEB statement on international trade: Doha development round

We, the Executive Heads of the organizations of the United Nations system, affirm our support for the Doha Development Agenda. We affirm as well our commitment to working closely with the World Trade Organization to help deliver on the promise of Doha.

We believe that while trade is only one element in the complex developmental equation, a successful and timely conclusion of the Doha negotiations, producing a positive and balanced result and contributing towards the developmental objectives of developing and least developed countries, will help raise living standards and make a significant contribution to meeting the goals and targets for global development established by world leaders at the Millennium Summit and at recent United Nations conferences in Monterrey, Mexico, and Johannesburg, South Africa.

We believe as well that in these times of growing global uncertainty, profound challenges to multilateralism, widespread and persistent poverty and increasing socio-economic threats such as that posed by the spread of diseases, progress on the Doha Development Agenda towards its timely conclusion can make a much-needed contribution to confidence, stability, poverty reduction and the developmental efforts of developing and least developed countries.

The Doha work programme is ambitious and wide-ranging. Given the multidisciplinary nature of the negotiations, organizations of the United Nations system have a keen interest in supporting their successful conclusion.

In launching the Doha Development Agenda, ministers of trade placed development issues and the concerns of developing countries at the heart of the negotiations; they made commitments on technical assistance and capacity-building to help developing countries participate effectively in the negotiations; they also established time frames and a final deadline for concluding the negotiations. It is crucial that all these commitments be fully realized.

We note the progress achieved in certain areas of the negotiations and welcome, in particular, the decision to facilitate and accelerate accession of least developed countries to the World Trade Organization. At the same time, the two factors that are vital to success in the Doha negotiations — political commitment to the overall endeavour, and willingness to compromise — have been too little in evidence to date, inter alia, in areas of particular interest and concern to developing countries.

We are especially concerned that members of the World Trade Organization were unable to meet the 2002 deadlines relating to special and differential treatment, access to essential medicines for countries lacking the capacity to manufacture such drugs themselves, and concerns of some developing countries about difficulties they are experiencing in implementing existing World Trade Organization agreements and decisions.

We are equally concerned that members of the World Trade Organization were unable to meet the March 2003 deadline for agreeing modalities for reductions in support and protection in agriculture. Agriculture is vital. A large number of

countries have made clear that without progress on agriculture, overall progress in the Doha negotiations will not be possible. This is a critical area for most developing and least developed countries. Indeed, no single change would make a greater contribution to development and poverty alleviation than fully opening the markets of prosperous countries to goods produced by poor ones.

The present disappointments must be converted into renewed political commitment and a determination to negotiate in earnest. We urge negotiators to address the immediate obstacles so that progress can be achieved in all areas of the Doha Development Agenda, as required by the single-undertaking commitment.

Progress is urgent. It is urgent because there are still more than 1 billion people in today's world living without enough food to eat, without safe water to drink, and without primary schooling or health care for their children. It is urgent because another 2 billion people are living in conditions only slightly better. It is urgent, too, because we have to respond to the devastating and global impact of HIV/AIDS and other diseases and lend our help and support particularly to the 30 million Africans now living with HIV.

In less than five months, ministers of trade will assemble in Cancún, Mexico, to review progress in the negotiations and guide the round towards its timely conclusion. We urge negotiators to address the difficult political decisions now so that solutions can be identified, gaps narrowed and forward momentum injected into the process well before September 2003.
