



**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
Coordination Segment, 11 - 14 July 2011**

**Coordination, programme and other questions - Report of coordination bodies
(item 7 (a))**

**Presentation of the Annual Overview Report of the United Nations
Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2010/2011**

**Mr. Thomas Stelzer
Secretary of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination
Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs,
UN-DESA**

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates,

I am honoured to introduce the Annual Overview Report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) for 2010 / 2011 (E/2011/104). The report provides an overview of the major developments in inter-agency cooperation within the framework of CEB during the period covering the Board's sessions from fall 2010 through spring 2011. It demonstrates how CEB and its subsidiary mechanisms, the High-Level Committee on Management (HLCM), the High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) and the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) have advanced their coordination efforts to promote a more coherent and effective United Nations system working together to deliver on intergovernmental mandates.

An important priority of the Board this year has been to enhance dialogue with Member States and increase transparency and accountability of the CEB. I have had the great privilege as Secretary of CEB to meet with you regularly following sessions of the Board, to share the outcomes and to receive your feedback. We have also taken steps to enhance the quality and quantity of information in our official reports and website. We will continue to make all efforts to increase communication with you, and I am always at your disposal for briefings and discussions.

Over the reporting period, the landmark General Assembly resolution on system-wide coherence (64/289) was adopted, which has had an important impact on inter-agency efforts in this area. Another critically important milestone for our efforts has been the Outcome of

the MDG Summit. As the report details, we have been coordinating our efforts to contribute to the urgent action required to support individual country efforts to reach the Goals. These include measures support national strategies through the MDG Acceleration Framework and to enhance accountability and coherence in tracking MDG commitments through an Integrated Implementation Framework (IIF).

In May, CEB issued a statement of support to the Fourth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries. The statement underscored the importance of giving priority to the special needs of least developed countries and supporting efforts to build productive capacity in those countries. This work is in line with the Council's endorsement of the recommendation of the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its 50th session, which requested CEB to enhance its focus on developing countries, including least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, and small island States.

I would also like to highlight the Board's work in preparation for Rio +20. As you know, the Secretary-General remains committed to enhancing the United Nations system's unified and coherent support to Member States towards sustainable development. At CEB's spring 2011 session in Nairobi, he established a dedicated Principals Group to ensure a coordinated United Nations system contribution to the two themes of Rio+20: the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and the institutional framework for sustainable development. This work is now fully under way and we are committed to providing Member States with more details as the work of the Group progresses.

Mr. Chairman, let me know turn to the specific activities of CEB's subsidiary mechanisms.

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

The High-level Committee on Programmes has focused on promoting greater synergy in the policies and programmes of the organizations of the United Nations system so as to enhance the system's overall impact on helping countries meet the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. HLCP has continued to dedicate system-wide coordination efforts to climate change – an area which has been a major priority of CEB since 2007. In taking its work forward, HLCP has worked jointly with UNDG to strengthen linkages between programmatic work at the global level and the work of country teams. This effort is also in response to the MDG Summit Outcome and the Cancun Agreements in ensuring greater coherence and coordination in areas such as climate change and sustainable development. In addition to deepening its work on moving towards a fairer, greener, more sustainable globalization, an area identified in the Millennium Declaration (globalization to become a positive force for all), HLCP has engaged in system-wide efforts in preparation for major conferences and in follow up to their outcomes, as detailed in the report.

The High-level Committee on Management has continued to focus on inter-agency cooperation to reinforce measures for the security and safety of UN system personnel; to promote accountability and transparency across the system; and to disseminate best practices, modern management approaches and partnerships in all areas of management. These include human resources, procurement, security, finance and budget management, legal and medical issues, information and communications technology, and continued efforts on the adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS).

On operational matters, the United Nations Development Group has continued to promote coherence and coordination with regard to country-level operations in accordance with General Assembly resolution 62/208. In taking its work forward, UNDG has drawn on inter-agency networks, task forces and clusters to strengthen linkages between the normative and operational work of the system. UNDG is also making available lessons learned from the Delivering as One Pilots to other countries interested in pursuing the coherence agenda. This is in response to the findings emerging from the country-led evaluations of the Pilots, which recognized that effective co-ordination often is more advanced among funds, programmes and specialized agencies in the Delivering as One countries. The country-led evaluations conducted in seven of the eight pilot countries last year will be an invaluable source of information to this independent evaluation of the pilots, which is being carried out by an Evaluation Management Group under the auspices of the United Nations Evaluation Group. A report of the Independent Evaluation is expected to be presented at the General Assembly's 66th Session. The United Nations system's work under this agenda will continue in accordance with guidance from member states.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates,

As we take our work forward, the CEB will continue to ensure that the system aligns its collective strengths to meet the mandates established by you, the Member States, and that 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 subsidiary mechanisms. The high-level committees, in support of CEB, will actively engage the organizations of the United Nations system within a joint framework to maximize the coordinated use of resources, capacities and expertise at the global, regional and country-levels to deliver across the range of programme, operational and management challenges.

Over the reporting period, it has become quite clear that the United Nations system has benefited from increased and interactive dialogue with representatives of Member States. I trust that, the Annual Overview Report affirms the continued commitment of Executive Heads, members of the Board, to working together in a coherent and coordinated manner to ensure integrated and synchronized follow-up to your directives.

Thank you and I will be happy to answer any questions.