



# Chief Executives Board for Coordination

22 November 2010

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## Second regular session of 2010

New York, 5 November 2010

### Summary of conclusions

#### I. Introduction

1. The second regular session of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) for 2010, chaired by the Secretary-General, was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York, on Friday morning, 5 November 2010.
2. Following the conclusion of the session, a CEB private meeting was held on Friday afternoon, 5 November, during which the Secretary-General briefed on political, economic and social issues on the United Nations agenda.
3. A CEB retreat was held on Saturday morning, 6 November, at the Greentree Estate. Executive heads had an exchange of views on the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.
4. The present report covers the outcome of the second regular session of CEB for 2010, which was held during the morning of 5 November.
5. On behalf of the Board, the Secretary-General welcomed Michelle Bachelet, the Executive Director of UN Women; Yury Fedotov, the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and Joan Clos, the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), who were attending CEB for the first time.

#### Agenda

6. The agenda of the second regular session of 2010 of CEB was as follows:
  1. Adoption of the agenda.
  2. Reports of high-level committees:
    - (a) High-level Committee on Programmes;
    - (b) High-level Committee on Management;
    - (c) United Nations Development Group.



3. Issues of system-wide concern: UN Women.
4. Other matters:
  - (a) Chairmanship of the High-level Committee on Management and the High-level Committee on Programmes;
  - (b) Dates and venues of future CEB sessions.

## **II. Reports of high-level committees**

### **A. High-level Committee on Programmes**

7. The Chair of the High-level Committee on Programmes, Juan Somavía, introduced the report of the Committee on its twentieth session, held just days after the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly. The Committee very much welcomed the summit outcome, and agreed to examine how best to bring together the different policy strands in an integrated approach to contribute to the urgent action required over the next five years in supporting individual country efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals.

8. The Committee also reflected on the linkage between the outcome and the broader development agenda. It considered that a significant challenge would be how to balance the specificity and measurability of each of the Millennium Development Goals with the broader policy framework that was needed to address the inequalities that the outcome delineated, and to reinforce a sustainable development approach. The Committee saw the need to cut across and beyond the sectoral approach of the Millennium Development Goals to address the structural obstacles that had prevented and might continue to limit further progress in achieving the Goals. Mr. Somavía stressed that a great deal remained to be accomplished by 2015, and he expected that the Committee would continue to work closely, together with the United Nations Development Group, in a joint CEB effort to support acceleration of the Goals.

9. The Committee also related the obstacles to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals to the need to move towards a fairer, greener and sustainable globalization. Indeed, in the Millennium Declaration (General Assembly resolution 55/2), world leaders had stated that “the central challenge we face today is to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for all of the world’s people”. That goal had become even more important in the wake of the global financial and economic crisis; clearly, this crisis could not be solved through the use of policies similar to those that brought it about in the first place. Mr. Somavía noted that crisis often acts as a catalyst for measurable progress, and that the High-level Committee on Programmes/CEB Joint Crisis Initiatives had proven credible in addressing the pre-existing imbalances that had constrained the economy in moving towards balanced and sustainable growth. The Committee Chair would be convening a technical brainstorming meeting early in 2011 to deepen and broaden the Committee’s work on this issue in the context of intergovernmental processes, including the Rio+20 Conference, the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, the 2013 review of the Millennium Development Goals, as well as activities within member organizations.

10. At its twentieth session, the Committee reflected on the patterns and governance of globalization, looking at the socio-economic imbalances in societies and the global setting, and examining the changes needed in the dominant policies that had led to the current status. It agreed on the need for greater policy coherence among organizations in the advice that they gave to member Governments, governing bodies and the General Assembly, and in their assistance to policy implementation at the country level. It was indeed critical for the United Nations system to exercise its intellectual leadership for greater transformational change on the basis of the needs and expectations of “We the peoples”. Mr. Somavía referred to a number of landmark reports that had just been issued in that regard, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) *Human Development Report* and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development *Trade and Development Report*. He also thanked the Vice-Chair, Elliot Harris, for his contribution to the Committee’s consideration of moving towards a fairer, greener and more sustainable globalization.

11. On climate change, the Committee was finalizing its preparations for Cancún, including side events, publications and messaging. The United Nations system was focusing on responding to the emerging implementation architecture and conveying the message to the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that it was delivering as one on this critical issue. The Chair thanked the Director of the CEB secretariat, Adnan Amin, for his commitment and stewardship of the High-level Committee on Programmes Working Group, and congratulated him on his appointment as interim Director-General of the International Renewable Energy Agency.

12. Mr. Somavía noted that the Committee had taken up a number of other issues that were germane to discussions at CEB, including the system’s interaction with the High-level Panel on Global Sustainability. The Committee voiced its strong support for UN Women and its deep commitment to working collaboratively with its Executive Director and the transition team. Following a very timely request from Dr. Touré, the Committee took up the important issue of cybersecurity. The International Telecommunication Union would take the lead in organizing a meeting to examine at greater depth the critical policy and technology issues involved. The High-level Committee on Programmes was also briefed on developments, under the lead of the High-level Committee on Management, in articulating levels of programme criticality within the guidelines for acceptable risk, in order both to protect staff and ensure that the system was able to deliver to those who depend on it in difficult humanitarian situations.

13. The High-level Committee on Programmes looked ahead to 2011 and considered the elements for a successful Fourth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries. It was expected that this Conference would build on the outcome of the Millennium Development Goals summit and play an extremely important role in setting the development agenda, through the programme of action, for the next 10 years and beyond. Committee members committed to providing the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States with information on their mandates, programmes and perspectives with regard to the Conference, as well as to a joint contribution that the Committee would consider early in 2011. This related also to the Committee’s consideration of how the United Nations system could strengthen South-South and triangular cooperation. Mr. Somavía reminded CEB that

the International Labour Organization was hosting the third Global South-South Development Expo, organized by the UNDP Special Unit on South-South Cooperation, later in November, and he looked forward to welcoming many executive heads there. It was clear, given the increase in requests, that South-South cooperation was an issue of growing importance.

14. Mr. Somavía thanked the Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, Kandeh Yumkella, for his leadership in the area of energy access, through the Committee's own UN-Energy, and through the Advisory Group on Energy and Climate Change. The Committee agreed to lend its full support to UN-Energy for the implementation of the proposed activities to achieve universal access to modern energy services and to reduce global energy intensity by 40 per cent by 2030. He believed that the work of UN-Energy was a major step forward in the capacity of the United Nations system to lead and generate consensus on complex and difficult issues.

15. Mr. Somavía informed the Board that, with the agreement of the United Nations Secretary-General, he would be concluding his term as Chair of the High-level Committee on Programmes. He thanked the Secretary-General and CEB members for having given him the immense privilege of contributing towards reinforcing the system's collective efforts to respond to the many challenges it faced. He also thanked the CEB Secretary, the Director of the CEB secretariat, the High-level Committee on Programmes Secretary and other staff for their support to him in this function.

**16. CEB took note of progress and endorsed the report of the High-level Committee on Programmes at its twentieth session.**

## **B. High-level Committee on Management**

17. The Chair of the High-level Committee on Management, Josette Sheeran of the World Food Programme, briefed the Board on the conclusions of the twentieth session of the Committee, held on 27 and 28 September 2010 in Washington, D.C., hosted by the International Monetary Fund.

18. The Chair recalled that the meeting of the Committee took place on the heels of the Summit on the Millennium Development Goals, which resulted in an important reaffirmation of the world's commitment to tackling some of the greatest challenges facing humanity. The Committee shared some reflections on the discussions at the Summit, namely that never before had so many agencies worked on a common agenda and common platforms, and that the Committee's work was critical in building confidence that the Organization's work is effective, efficient and coherent.

19. The role of the Committee was reaffirmed with regard to putting in place best global practices to maximize efficiency while ensuring the safety and well-being of staff. The only way for the United Nations to achieve the Millennium Development Goals was through coherent and efficient management systems, based on the best public and private sector standards that empower and reward staff appropriately.

20. The Chair also underlined how important it was to make a distinction between harmonization and standardization. In line with the conclusions of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on System-wide Coherence, the goal was to research best practices and ensure that organizations develop a coherent platform of

standards. While upholding the same values, principles and approaches, the actual implementation might vary depending on the nature of organizations' mandates and business models, as well as on their field challenges. Sometimes, as in the case of implementing a common accounting platform such as the International Public Sector Accounting Standards, standardization was the goal. Other times, the objective was to harmonize context-specific standards and processes to suit the particular needs and conditions of the specific agency.

21. The Chair focused her remarks on some of the Committee's main areas of work, including: (a) staff safety and security, and the historic progress made in changing the United Nations security system; (b) the joint work on harmonizing business practices, and how it represented "reform in action", and a chance to raise the Organization's standards of ethics and transparency; and (c) personnel and human resources management issues, and a number of challenges the United Nations faced in providing its personnel with adequate benefits.

22. On staff safety and security, the Chair recalled that CEB had adopted in the course of the past two years a number of new mechanisms, procedures and tools developed by the Committee to address the issues identified in the report of the Independent Panel on Staff Safety and Security. All together, these represented an overhaul of the United Nations Security Management System, in response to the complex and shifting security challenges faced by United Nations staff.

23. One of the critical new changes was the new Security Level System, to be launched on 1 January 2011. The new System was de-linked from administrative actions, and was formulated as a systematic, professional, strategic and objective threat assessment system. It formed the core of the new Security Risk Management approach of "how to stay" rather than "when to leave", balancing staff safety with the imperative of reaching people in need.

24. Another parallel process — a working group on programme criticality, led by Hilde Johnson of the United Nations Children's Fund and comprised of representatives of the CEB member organizations with large field operations, was creating a framework to help to ensure that the programmes and personnel that remain in high-risk countries or areas are working on the highest priority functions and programmes, in accordance with the crisis and the strategic objectives of the United Nations system.

25. Pursuing joint activities aimed at improving effectiveness and coherence in the business practices of United Nations organizations continued to be a main theme of the Committee, and it was making real progress in that area. A number of projects were already under way under the framework of the Committee's Plan of Action for the harmonization of business practices in the United Nations system, generously funded by the extrabudgetary contributions of many donor countries, and more projects would come on line over the next few months.

26. Many of these activities really represented "reform in action" — simple but powerful measures that would help to improve the Organization's impact while at the same time increasing efficiency. As an example of initiatives under way under the Plan of Action, the Chair mentioned the Vendor Eligibility Project, which was now nearing completion and would produce a common mechanism for dealing with vendors suspected, accused of or proven guilty after due process of misconduct, in line with the United Nations Supplier Code of Conduct.

27. Other ongoing projects included: a country-level review of contractual arrangements, staff regulations and rules, policies and practices; a feasibility study to put in place Common Treasury Services; a system-wide database of financial statistics; the development and implementation of various tools and policies for the harmonization of procurement in support of field operations; and the development of common standards and costing approaches for information and communication technology services and investments.

28. Ms. Sheeran noted that human resources management issues remained at the top of the Committee's agenda, as they were central to ensuring excellence and a high level of effectiveness among United Nations staff. Progress was reported in several areas, but significant challenges remained.

29. The Committee concluded a mapping of benefits coverage for United Nations staff and personnel in the event of service-incurred injury, death and disability. Building on that analysis, the Committee endorsed a number of positive changes to Appendix D to the United Nations Staff Rules which, if approved by the General Assembly at its next session, would make a difference for all staff in United Nations funds and programmes, and would become the reference model for all other agencies.

30. The Committee would shortly be undertaking an analysis of the subject of "non-staff" personnel, with respect to definitions, statistics, principles and policies regarding organizations' responsibilities and liabilities, to identify possible strategies to cover those personnel more appropriately.

31. The Committee continued to monitor closely the new system for the administration of justice, providing a very useful forum for exchange of experiences on the new system, from the management perspective.

32. The Committee also considered a number of recent decisions of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC), including on the issue of conditions of service in non-family duty stations. The Committee expressed appreciation to ICSC for developing a framework and methodology that would extend benefits to a large group of staff that were not currently covered. However, several organizations also expressed concern for the negative impact that the ICSC decision on the harmonization of conditions of service in non-family duty stations might have on frontline staff and operations, given the abilities of agencies to recruit and retain staff in those difficult duty stations.

33. One final issue concerning human resources that the Committee was addressing was related to the mandatory age of separation. At the request of ICSC, the Committee would be shortly starting a review of all aspects of the issue, including its considerable financial implications, in consultation with the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund. This issue represented a major challenge for the United Nations system, but one that was critical for the long-term structure of organizations as well as the viability of the Pension Fund.

34. In concluding her remarks, the Committee Chair was pleased to report that United Nations Development Group and the High-level Committee on Management were collaborating closely on connecting their work globally with the country level. The first-ever joint session of the Committee and the United Nations Development Group took place on 27 September, focusing on the joint high-level mission carried out in the first half of 2010 to identify best practices for addressing bottlenecks in

business practices in delivering as one programme pilot countries. The mission, co-led by Jan Beagle of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and Mari Simonen of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), was an opportunity to learn what solutions United Nations country teams had developed to address these bottlenecks at the country level, and what efforts were required at the global level.

35. Together with the agreement on an implementation plan to act on the recommendations produced by the joint mission, the High-level Committee on Management and the United Nations Development Group had launched another area of collaboration — undertaking a joint strategy on results reporting (i.e., how we demonstrate return on investment) in the United Nations system.

**36. CEB took note of progress and endorsed the conclusions of the High-level Committee on Management at its twentieth session.**

### **C. United Nations Development Group**

37. Helen Clark, Chair of the United Nations Development Group, introduced the reports of meetings held by the Group on 4 May and 6 October 2010, as well as the joint report of the meeting held on 27 September between the United Nations Development Group and the High-level Committee on Management. Noting that the key priority for the United Nations Development Group is to step up the development impact in countries, she informed CEB that the Group had started the year by developing strategic priorities, which aim to maximize the United Nations development system's impact at the country level. Following the endorsement of the United Nations Development Group strategic priorities in May, a workplan and new working methods had been put in place. Miss Clark highlighted that accelerating achievement of the Millennium Development Goals is at the core of the United Nations Development Group strategic priorities and emphasized the importance of the catalytic role the United Nations system has in driving acceleration of achieving the Goals.

38. The United Nations Development Group Chair noted that much work had been done in preparation for the High-level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals, both by individual organizations and by the Group as a whole. A United Nations Development Group Millennium Development Goals Task Force had produced a number of in-depth thematic papers on the Goals which contributed to the discussions leading up to the High-level Plenary Meeting in September. She further noted that the United Nations Development Group had supported countries in their work on producing national progress reports on the Millennium Development Goals. In addition, the Millennium Development Goal Acceleration Framework had been piloted with positive results. Miss Clark informed CEB that, through the Acceleration Framework approach, the pilot countries have identified bottlenecks and constraints on achievement of the Goals and put their focus on a particular Goal whose progress was lagging most behind by developing a concrete action plan to accelerate progress.

39. Speaking about the outcome of the High-level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals, she stressed that the challenge is now to translate the outcome document into action on the ground. In that regard, the United Nations Development Group had agreed on a nine-point action agenda at its meeting on

6 October. Miss Clark informed CEB about the central aspect of each of the nine points: (a) strengthening national ownership of and commitment to the outcome document through United Nations country team engagement with national partners; (b) building on the interlinked nature of the Millennium Development Goals and acknowledging that achievement of any of the Goals underpins the success of others; (c) supporting the design, implementation and monitoring of national development strategies; (d) improving the targeting of support to address inequalities, marginalization and discrimination in order to reach the most vulnerable and marginalized communities; (e) identifying best practices and contributing to the sharing of knowledge and expertise; (f) enhancing South-South and triangular cooperation; (g) broadening partnerships for development overall; (h) providing extra support to countries in crisis and post-crisis; and (i) giving special and urgent attention to the needs of young people.

40. The Chair informed CEB that the United Nations Development Group is focusing much of its work on supporting countries designing and implementing United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks that are focused around Millennium Development Goal achievement and closely aligned with national development priorities. She noted that 46 countries are rolling out new United Nations development assistance frameworks (UNDAFs) in 2010. In that regard, the Group with the support of the Development Operations Coordination Office and the United Nations System Staff College, had conducted six regional workshops to build United Nations country team capacities, 19 UNDAF strategic planning retreats, with 20 more being planned before the end of the year, and over two dozen in-country UNDAF workshops. A help desk is also in place to ensure integrated and well-coordinated support to each of the countries rolling out UNDAFs in 2010.

41. Recalling the High-level Tripartite Conference on Delivering as One, held in Hanoi in June 2010, attended by Governments, donors and United Nations country teams from the delivering as one pilots and voluntary adopters, the United Nations Development Group Chair noted that the participants of the Conference were positive about the progress they had seen thus far. Miss Clark quoted the outcome document, in which the participants of the Conference stated that “Delivering as One is the future for UN development activities”. She noted that this is not a universal view and that the future of delivering as one will depend on the independent evaluation of the approach. She made two reflections on moving forward with delivering as one. First, she stressed that while implementing the delivering as one approach, there is a need to safeguard the Organization’s normative mandates, such as labour standards, good governance and the human rights agenda. Secondly, the efforts of the individual organizations should not be alleviated by the delivering as one approach. Continued visibility and recognition of the individual work of all organizations is essential.

42. In concluding her remarks, the Chair welcomed UN Women as a full member of the United Nations Development Group and emphasized its role in magnifying the impact of the United Nations system’s work on gender equality at the country level. Miss Clark informed CEB that the Group had begun a review of the management and accountability system for the United Nations Development and Resident Coordinator System, which was approved in 2008. The review will be undertaken by independent consultants and is overseen by a senior group of United Nations Development Group Principals. Finally, she stressed the importance of the work the Group had undertaken with the High-level Committee on Management on

the harmonization of business practices and noted that the Committee and the United Nations Development Group are now moving into the operationalization of the recommendations coming out of their joint review. Building on that collaboration, she informed CEB that the Committee and the United Nations Development Group would now commission a review on how the United Nations development system reports on results to identify best practices and an agreed level of standards which could be widely applied to results reporting. She noted that this review aimed to increase clarity between Member States and different parts of the United Nations development system on reporting requirements.

**43. The Board took note of progress and endorsed the United Nations Development Group reports.**

### **III. Issues of system-wide concern: UN Women**

44. The Secretary-General welcomed the first Executive Director of UN Women, Michelle Bachelet, to CEB. He noted that he had made gender equality and women's empowerment a personal priority, and that the establishment of UN Women would boost the United Nations system's ability to support faster progress for the world's women. He thanked the Deputy Secretary-General and her team for their work in shepherding the establishment of the new entity, which enjoyed the support of all Member States. A great deal remained to be done, and the United Nations system now needed to focus on assisting countries in the implementation of resolutions.

45. Ms. Bachelet thanked the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General for their commitment and leadership, and emphasized the sense of urgency in meeting the expectations placed upon UN Women. Assessing the current status of gender equality and women's empowerment, she noted that, although progress had been made since the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, much still needed to be done. The lack of progress under the gender-related Millennium Development Goals, including maternal mortality, was axiomatic of this. Achieving these goals required not only a greater effort, but also political will at all levels.

46. Ms. Bachelet emphasized that the General Assembly, in its resolution 64/289, clearly signalled that the establishment of UN Women did not relieve the rest of the United Nations system from its obligations, but rather made it easier for the whole system to do much more together. In the resolution, the Assembly called for UN Women to take on the "additional role for leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women". There was a widely shared belief among Member States, civil society and within the United Nations system itself that the Organization needed to enhance its work in the area of gender and women. Ms. Bachelet urged each organization therefore to continue to address the challenges of gender equality and women's empowerment within in its own area of expertise. The role of UN Women was to support the ongoing process of working together through existing mechanisms to understand the obstacles for accelerated progress on gender equality and women's empowerment, and to support partnerships to overcome those obstacles together. A coherent approach of the United Nations system in that regard was of utmost importance.

47. Ms. Bachelet underscored the importance of moving quickly to maintain the momentum that had been generated on the issue of gender equality and women's

empowerment. She was developing an action plan that would outline actions and priorities for the first 100 days, beginning in January 2011, and was keen to receive input from all shareholders. The transition process was proceeding smoothly, and new offices had been found for UN Women in the space that had previously been used by UNFPA in the Daily News Building in New York. She invited CEB members to share their views on how UN Women could best cooperate with the United Nations system to produce more impressive results for women and girls.

48. In the ensuing discussion, CEB members thanked the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General for their leadership in establishing UN Women and promoting its agenda. They congratulated Ms. Bachelet and pledged their full support to her.

49. CEB members acknowledged their own high expectations of the new gender entity in normative and operational work at the global, regional and country levels. They looked to UN Women for leadership in such areas as violence against women and girls, the conditions of poor rural woman smallholder farmers, internally displaced people, and in legal and structural challenges to the advancement of women. On achieving the gender-related Millennium Development Goals, the work of UN Women was perceived as irreplaceable. Indeed, focus on gender equality was a critical element in the achievement of all the Goals. CEB members also counted on the new entity to take the lead on gender in United Nations country teams. As part of the coordination effort, each organization needed to review its own work to identify potential areas of duplication and, in a disciplined manner, to release such programmes to UN Women. This effort would also allow each entity to focus more intently within its own mandate. For example, the World Health Organization had restructured its gender department so that normative guidance on the area of gender, including on human resources policy, would derive from expertise within UN Women.

50. At the same time, CEB members recognized the responsibility of each organization to mainstream gender into all programmes, underscoring the criticality of gender as a cross-cutting issue in the work of the United Nations system. Furthermore, it was acknowledged that gender was at the core of many organizations' mandates. CEB members therefore welcomed the enhancement of the coherence and effectiveness of the United Nations system response, led by UN Women, on such issues as HIV/AIDS, health, children, rural women, slums, access to land tenure and urban women's safety, human trafficking, refugees and women in conflict situations. UN Women was also invited to contribute its expertise to preparations for the Rio+20 Conference, the fiftieth anniversary of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, and in efforts to empower women in the maritime sector, among others.

51. In addition to the strategic guidance of CEB, several members offered practical tools in support of the work of UN Women. In order to save costs, WFP offered UN Women access to its country offices and infrastructure. The regional commissions would share observational, statistical and analytical findings from the regions. With regard to assessing and supporting implementation of UN Women's normative framework, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights offered the mechanisms of the Human Rights Council, including the Universal Periodic Review, special rapporteurs dealing with gender equality and violence against women, and the jurisprudence of its treaty bodies. Several members

noted the current resource constraints in the United Nations system, and pledged their support to assisting in mobilizing resources for UN Women. The model of UNAIDS was mentioned as a framework that allowed for resource mobilization and advocacy around a single issue. It was also noted that the inclusion of civil society and the private sector in the governing board of UNAIDS gave the organization greater dynamism. The joint normative and operational mandate of UNICEF was also highlighted.

52. Ms. Bachelet thanked CEB for its support and commitment to cooperation on the issue of gender equality and women's empowerment. She was looking forward to receiving the ideas of Board members for UN Women's Strategic Vision, and to reviewing their 2011 gender strategies with an aim of enhancing system-wide coherence on this critical issue. She looked forward to collaborating closely with colleagues to ensure gender equality and gender mainstreaming within countries and institutions, including the United Nations system itself.

#### **IV. Other matters**

##### **A. Chairmanship of the High-level Committee on Management and the High-level Committee on Programmes**

53. The Board recalled that the current two-year term of Ms. Sheeran, Chair of the High-level Committee on Management, would conclude at the end of the year. In the light of that Committee's ongoing work on the harmonization of business practices, which was at a critical point, and in order to ensure continuity until this task was completed, **the Board approved the Secretary-General's proposal to extend Ms. Sheeran's term.**

54. Mr. Somavía's term as Chair of the High-level Committee on Programmes was also coming to a close. Following earlier consultations, the Secretary-General proposed, and the **Board endorsed, the nomination of Achim Steiner, as new Chair of the High-level Committee on Programmes, for a two-year term, starting in 2011.**

55. The Secretary-General, on behalf of the Board, thanked Ms. Sheeran for her continuing commitment and Mr. Somavía for having so ably led his Committee at such a pivotal time for all, referring in particular to the global financial and economic crisis in particular. He also congratulated Mr. Steiner and thanked him for agreeing to take the helm of the High-level Committee on Programmes.

##### **B. Dates of CEB spring and fall 2011 sessions**

56. Further to earlier consultations, **the Board confirmed the dates of Friday, 1 and Saturday, 2 April 2011, for the holding of the first regular session of CEB in 2011, to be hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi.**

57. CEB members would be consulted shortly on the dates of its fall 2011 session.