



Chief Executives Board for Coordination

22 April 2003

Report of the High-Level Committee on Programmes on its fifth session

(Rome, 26 and 27 March 2003)

1. At the invitation of its Chairman, Mr. Lennart Båge, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) held its fifth session at Casa San Bernardo, in Rome, on 26 and 27 March. The agenda of the meeting and the list of participants are attached, respectively, in annexes I and II.

2. In his introductory remarks, the Chairman noted the unprecedented spirit of unity prevailing in the system which needed to be capitalized upon to increase cooperation and coherence in the work of United Nations organizations and to maximize the Committee's support to CEB. The Chairman especially welcomed the concrete outcome of the Committee's recent retreat, held in Manhasset, New York from 27 February to 1 March 2003, which had been a product of constructive engagement of all participants and a strong team spirit which he and the Vice-Chairman, Mr. Mats Karlsson, were determined to consolidate and strengthen.

I. Programme of Work of the High-Level Committee on Programmes for 2003-2004

3. In discussing its programme of work (CEB/2003/HLCP/CRP.1), the Committee recalled the underlying considerations identified at its retreat, which included:

- First, the Committee's key role in helping to support the work of CEB in the programme area and its capacity to lead and contribute to the management of global issues
- Second, that the Committee should be seen as adding real value to the overall effort of enhancing system-wide coherence and effectiveness
- Third, which cut across the other two, the Committee should be able to anticipate new and emerging issues for the future global agenda.

4. In the light of the above, the Committee agreed that its key functions would include:



- Follow-up to the United Nations Millennium Declaration and United Nations conferences, as a core task for supporting CEB
- Addressing topics of system-wide relevance on behalf of CEB
- Identifying and reviewing policy implications of new and emerging issues for consideration by the Committee and CEB
- Provide a platform for information and knowledge sharing.

5. While expressing caution against “automaticity” in introducing items on its agenda and/or overburdening it, the Committee agreed that its programme of work would be a “living” document which would be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure its continuing relevance, and would be updated and complemented as required. It confirmed the five priorities identified at the retreat for its immediate work, as follows:

- Follow-up to the 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
- International trade and the Doha Development Round.

6. In the same context, it concluded that:

- The 2005 comprehensive review of the implementation of the Millennium Declaration would be maintained on the agenda of the Committee at least until such time as the relevant report of the Secretary-General was completed
- The different themes identified in the Secretary-General’s “road map” (A/56/326) for in-depth consideration in the annual progress reports to the General Assembly on the implementation of the Millennium Declaration would likewise continue to be reflected in the HLCP agenda until 2005.

7. The Committee endorsed the basic approach set out in the draft programme of work submitted to it in the light of the outcome of the retreat (CEB/2003/HLCP/CRP.1) and adopted a modified “matrix” in annex III showing its work plan over the next two years.

8. Under this item, the Committee invited the representative of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to brief the Committee on the current status of the Doha Development Agenda negotiations and the proposal formulated at the retreat for a CEB statement in support of WTO efforts. The representative of WTO noted that the current negotiations were at a very delicate phase. Some progress, notably in WTO members putting forward ambitious proposals on market access and the continuing work on services, had been achieved. However, some important 2002 deadlines relating to access to essential medicines, special and differential treatment and implementation issues, had not been met. WTO members were also facing further critical deadlines in March and May 2003 on agriculture, services, market access and dispute settlement. The Fifth WTO Ministerial Conference to be held in Cancun,

Mexico, in September 2003, would be an opportune time for trade ministers to review progress in the negotiations and to provide further political guidance.

9. With regard to the proposed CEB statement, the representative noted that, while WTO would appreciate expressions of support from United Nations system Executive Heads, the timing of such a statement would need to be carefully considered. Following further consultations within his organization, he would report within one week on whether a statement at this time would be helpful and if so, in consultation with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), would provide the Chairman with elements for such a statement. Following consultations in Geneva, elements for a possible CEB statement were provided to the Chairman and are now included in annex IV.

10. Committee members discussed the general question of the outreach or advocacy role of CEB and the usefulness of CEB statements on selected themes issued in the context of the Board's sessions. The Committee considered that such statements could indeed be helpful, either in building on political momentum or in mobilizing support for issues that might risk falling off the global agenda or news media headlines. In addition, the target audience of such statements should not always be the media but also policy makers. However, themes for such statements would need to be very carefully selected and their potential impact carefully evaluated. It was understood that the question of issuing CEB statements should be closely coordinated with the Secretary-General's communications strategy and his office closely consulted. The timely development of elements for such statements would facilitate any consultations with the Office of the Secretary-General.

II. Follow-up to the United Nations Millennium Declaration: preparations for the 2005 comprehensive review

11. In the light of the 6 February 2003 communication from the Secretary-General addressed to CEB members, in which he invited the High-Level Committee on Programmes to begin to focus on how the system should position itself in relation to the 2005 overall review of progress in the implementation of the Millennium Declaration, the Committee considered a note (CEB/2003/HLCP/CRP.4) on the subject prepared by an ad hoc group established at the HLCP retreat. In introducing the note, the task leader noted that, by playing a proactive role, the Committee could help CEB to comply with the Secretary-General's wish that such reporting fully reflect a system-wide perspective on the one hand, and the interlinkages between different aspects of the Millennium Declaration, on the other.

12. In the ensuing discussion, a number of observations were made on the best possible approaches for preparing the review. In the first place, the implementation of the Millennium Declaration was first and foremost the responsibility of Member States. At the same time, the United Nations system should highlight its continuing commitment to supporting these efforts fully. The review should consequently take into account the distinctive but mutually reinforcing roles of Member States and the United Nations system, holding both accountable. Thus, while assessing the work of the United Nations system, it must equally examine what Member States have themselves done to implement the Millennium Declaration.

13. The Committee emphasized that the review should clearly demonstrate how the system as a whole was working together in pursuit of the Millennium Declaration. It was therefore important that the process for the preparation of the review engage the entire system, including the technical agencies, and emphasize areas of system-wide interest covering the whole spectrum of the Millennium Declaration. In order to ensure this, a common reporting framework would need to be developed.

14. Yet another important consideration, in the Committee's view, was the need to improve information sharing within the system on different experiences, identifying in the process what has worked and what lessons could be drawn, leading to suggestions for course correction at both policy and operational levels. A systematic sharing of information was also seen as essential for ensuring linkages among different ongoing efforts, including the Millennium Project, so as to help to avoid duplication and to build synergies among these various efforts for a comprehensive, effective follow-up to the Millennium Declaration.

15. In reviewing the implementation of the Millennium Declaration, the importance of showing actual impact at the country level was considered as crucial. To this end, in addition to quantitative indicators as reflected in current statistical data, it was also necessary to examine qualitative changes by looking for evidence of policy changes and of management and other reforms at the country level relevant to the ability of countries to achieve the Millennium Declaration targets. Further progress can then be reflected, over time, through quantitative indicators.

16. The review should further highlight the importance of partnerships with different actors and identify possible gaps.

17. On the issue of resource requirements for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, it was recognized that, while there was some merit in presenting global figures, both political and substantive considerations suggested that a great deal of caution should be exercised in this regard.

18. The review should be outcome oriented and forward looking: what has been achieved, what were the obstacles and what had been done or needed to be done by the system to overcome them. The review should show the way forward and analyse ways and means to advance implementation of the Millennium Declaration and of the Millennium Development Goals in particular.

19. Having initiated this process at the current session in response to a specific request from the Secretary-General, and with a view to situating the work of the Committee within the framework of the review, the Committee decided that a preliminary paper (annex V) outlining an overall approach to the review should be included in the present report, so as to enable Executive Heads at their spring 2003 session to provide early guidance. The Committee further asked the task leader of the ad hoc group to prepare, in the light of that guidance, a more comprehensive report for its consideration at its September 2003 session.

III. Strategies for sustainable development: follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development

20. The Committee had before it the executive summary (attached as annex VI) of a paper (CEB/2003/HLCP/CRP.5) on the follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, prepared by the open-ended working group established by the Committee at its fourth session, held in Vienna, on 23 and 24 September 2002.

21. The summary, as well as the discussions in the Committee, focused on system-wide follow-up to the Summit. First, it considered the identification of the challenges for the United Nations system arising from the outcomes of the Summit. The Committee recognized that these challenges included, among others, enhanced support to Governments for country-owned implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation; effectively linking normative work with operational activities; strengthening implementation at the regional level; fostering partnerships and inclusive approaches; and promoting synergies among the organizations of the system and between the implementation of the conference outcomes and the overall process of the integrated follow-up to conferences and the Millennium Declaration.

22. Second, the Committee considered a set of guidelines for promoting a coherent, consistent and commensurate United Nations system response to the challenges at the operational level, in the broader framework for follow-up of other United Nations conferences and summits. It stressed that the system's response should take full account of existing United Nations system coordination mechanisms at the country level.

23. Third, the Committee commented on the generic objectives proposed in the summary for future inter-agency mechanisms to replace or redesign the Task Manager System. It was recognized that future mechanisms should be geared towards achieving specific goals or targets at all levels, particularly the national level; integrating the three components of sustainable development, namely, economic growth, social development and environmental protection; and promoting flexible, innovative and inclusive approaches to coordination. Committee members concurred that specific tasks requiring United Nations system cooperation, as well as related inter-agency mechanisms and secretariat support and resources requirements for performing such tasks, should be developed by the United Nations system organizations most directly concerned with the various thematic areas in Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, in the light of agency mandates, capabilities and resource implications. In that context, the Committee recalled the CEB decision to discontinue its subsidiary bodies, which had paved the way for the establishment of more dynamic, action-oriented and flexible coordination mechanisms, including where appropriate, ad hoc, task-driven, inclusive, time-bound mechanisms. The need for system-wide coherence and consistency in relation to the follow-up to the Summit and its integration in the overall conference follow-up process was, however, recognized, and it was agreed that the policy guidance by CEB, with a view to setting the political context for cooperative technical work, should be facilitated by HLCP. The Committee should deal with strategic issues to advance coordination within the United Nations system, rather than technical issues related to specific sectors, which were best handled at the expert level.

24. Fourth, the Committee discussed the WEHAB initiative (which identified water and sanitation, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity/ecosystem management as key areas for action) launched by the Secretary-General in the run-up to the Summit. It was noted that, although the initiative had not been formally endorsed at Johannesburg or at the General Assembly, intergovernmental mandates, including in particular those of organizations with core functions relating to health, agriculture and biodiversity, together with Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, provided a comprehensive framework to guide relevant follow-up activities. Within this framework, the areas of water and energy, as well as cross-cutting issues, would especially benefit from enhanced collaboration. The Committee was also informed that the United Nations Development Group had prepared a paper on linking the follow-up to the Summit and the WEHAB initiative with the strategy for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The outcome would be conveyed to CEB at its spring meeting.

25. Stressing the need for enhancing the reach of United Nations activities and engaging other actors who have comparative advantage in these sectors, the summary before the Committee identified key functions related to WEHAB areas that would serve to advance those objectives, including launching of advocacy campaigns; raising public profile; convening high-level meetings of relevant actors; promoting collaborative programmes and projects; strengthening linkages between global, regional and national level activities; strengthening the knowledge base; and monitoring and evaluation. The summary further noted that a large number of collaborative arrangements were already performing these functions in the areas of health, agriculture and biodiversity/ecosystem management, including, among others, the Global Partnership on Vaccines and Immunization, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and the United Nations Ecosystem Coordination Group, but that there were no such global arrangements performing these functions in the areas of energy, and water and sanitation. It was observed that, as the WEHAB areas corresponded to Agenda 21 chapters, substantial work had been done in those areas by the concerned agencies, as well as at the inter-agency level, and should be taken stock of and effectively pursued. It was explained, in reply, that collaborative arrangements with key non-United Nations actors, particularly in the energy and water and sanitation areas, would not only benefit from existing coordination mechanisms within the system, but would serve to expand the reach of the system and enhance overall impact.

26. It was suggested that further consultations on the matter should be coordinated with those on successor mechanisms to the Task Manager System referred to in paragraph 23 above.

27. Fifth, the Committee specifically took up developments with regard to water and sanitation. Attention was drawn to the recently proposed mechanism for inter-agency coordination on water resources ("UN-Water"), which was already involved in the United Nations system World Water Assessment Programme. The Programme, hosted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), had delivered an assessment to the third World Water Forum. It was observed that enhanced coordination within the system should be sought, not only on water resources, but also on the issue of sanitation.

28. The Committee's understanding was that the proposed "UN-Water" was meant for coordination on technical issues at the expert level. Noting that "UN-Water" would like to have a link with CEB in order to flag policy issues, it observed that such a possibility was open for all such networks and did not imply that the network should be turned into a subsidiary body of CEB. In response to points raised on the differences between technical inter-agency mechanisms such as the proposed "UN-Water" and the global collaborative arrangements outlined in the summary before the Committee, it was observed that the former could contribute to the harmonization of United Nations system positions and activities vis-à-vis the latter, which would need to be both visible and inclusive, and would provide a global platform for pursuing United Nations goals.

29. Sixth, the Committee's deliberations focused on the inter-agency coordination on oceans and coastal areas, as the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation had a specific provision calling upon the Secretary-General to establish an effective, transparent and regular inter-agency coordination mechanism on ocean and coastal issues within the United Nations system. The Committee agreed that inter-agency coordination mechanisms should be consistent with the CEB decision to discontinue its subsidiary bodies. The Committee considered a possible two-tiered approach to coordination mechanisms in this area, articulated along the following lines (a) day-to-day coordination of operational activities or joint projects could be carried out through a contact group or network of experts from relevant core agencies and programmes, as well as non-United Nations actors, whenever relevant; (b) the task of developing system-wide responses to emerging challenges, as identified by the relevant intergovernmental bodies or agencies and programmes, as well as work on new initiatives, could be undertaken through ad hoc, time-bound, broad-based task forces or working groups. Such an approach, it was pointed out, would reflect the broad scope of the system's work in this area, including socio-economic, environmental, political and legal dimensions; given the broad scope of activities in this area, CEB guidance on the overall parameters of coordination mechanisms in this area would be desirable. The Committee concluded that consultations among the most directly related organizations would be necessary for finalizing detailed arrangements, including the elaboration of the specific tasks to be pursued.

30. Finally, the Committee considered the issue of energy on the basis of a note (CEB/2003/HLCP/CRP.2) developed in the light of the initial discussion at the HLCP retreat. The note highlighted the diverse scope and reach of energy-related activities of the organizations of the system.

31. The ensuing discussions highlighted the following issues:

- The political sensitivity of the energy issue and the attendant need to adhere to current intergovernmental mandates and the provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation
- The need to strengthen internal United Nations system coordination
- The importance of engaging external partners that have a comparative advantage in this area; such engagement should be consistent with current practices and existing collaborative arrangements
- Further consideration should be given to the thematic implications (e.g. mobility, transportation, sustainable consumption and production) of the energy issue

- The issue of renewable energy (such as wind, solar, hydropower) should be addressed in the discussion on agency activities and functions.

32. A number of specific comments were offered for the revision of the note contained in document CEB/2003/HLCP/CRP.2, including the need to reflect in the analysis of current agency activities (para. 8) and within the functions outlined in paragraph 15, the assessment and identification of renewable energy potential at the regional and subregional levels.

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33. A draft note prepared on the basis of the executive summary and the above-mentioned discussions (CEB/2003/HLCP/CRP.5/Rev.1) was reviewed by the Committee. The Committee agreed that the note, as revised in the light of further observations by Committee members, should be included in the annotated agenda for CEB.

IV. HIV/AIDS: linkages with food security and governance

34. The Committee's discussion on this issue was based on a note (CEB/2003/HLCP/CRP.6/Rev.1) introduced by the UNAIDS secretariat, which had acted as the convenor of an ad hoc group established at the HLCP retreat to prepare the Committee's consideration of this issue.

35. Committee members highlighted the multidimensional nature and magnitude of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, the multiple challenges posed by the large-scale attrition of productive capacity across all socio-economic sectors and its attendant severe repercussions in undermining agricultural production, on the one hand, and on institutions and public services, on the other. In the latter context, it noted that the projected 10 to 30 per cent reduction of the labour force by 2020 in high-prevalence countries, with the brunt falling on the public sector — typically the largest employer — was particularly telling of the indomitable nature of the threat to public institutional capacity and its far-reaching impact on the ability of the affected States to provide effective governance. The Committee emphasized that HIV/AIDS not only detracted from progress towards sustainable development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, but had undoubtedly emerged as a major security threat at the national, regional and global levels.

36. The Committee noted that food security and deepening poverty were, in turn, exacerbating the more rapid spread of the AIDS pandemic, while erosion of public institutional capacity, especially in rural areas, was debilitating the capacity of many countries to deal effectively with the pandemic and to strengthen food production capacity. The vicious cycle created by HIV/AIDS, food insecurity and weakening governance was impeding development and eroding the capacity of affected nations to govern effectively.

37. While appreciating the actions being undertaken throughout the system on this issue, Committee members expressed concern about possible duplication and the need for closer consultations, and for enhanced harmonization and coordination of activities. In this context, it was noted that a comprehensive overview of ongoing initiatives within the system would be extremely useful to prevent the diversion of scarce resources on duplicative efforts.

38. Some further observations made during the discussion on the HIV/AIDS pandemic included the following:

- The short-term emergency aspects of the problem should be distinguished from its longer-term structural implications
- The concept of emergency operations should be redefined to include HIV/AIDS
- An in-depth analysis of the full implications of HIV/AIDS beyond the effects on food security and governance was needed to underpin support actions taken by the system.

39. The Committee requested the UNAIDS secretariat to continue to convene the open-ended group, with the World Food Programme (WFP) as co-convenor. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank were invited to join the group, together with other interested organizations. It asked that the group focus, in the first instance, on the nexus of the three issues of HIV/AIDS, food security and governance, while keeping the broader issue of AIDS undercutting development for later consideration. In addition, the group was asked to take into account the following elements in its work:

- While not ignoring other regions, the group, in pursuing its reflection on the implications of HIV/AIDS on food security and governance, should focus on the area where the triple crisis is most manifest, that is, East and Southern Africa
- The group should provide an overview of relevant initiatives within the United Nations system. For this purpose, agencies were requested to update, as quickly as possible, the information on their ongoing activities as documented in annex I to CEB/2003/HLCP/CRP.6/Rev.1
- On the basis of further work by the group, an analytical policy paper should be prepared and presented to the Committee and CEB for their consideration and/or action in autumn 2003. The paper should provide an analysis of the interlinkages of the triple crisis, develop an overall policy framework in which United Nations organizations, within their own mandates, could contribute in addressing, in a coordinated manner, the interlinked aspects of the crisis.

40. The CEB secretariat was requested to consult with the Office of the Secretary-General on possible approaches to advocacy and outreach in this area, and in particular, on the possible elaboration of a statement for consideration by CEB at its spring 2003 session that would aim at drawing attention to the triple crisis of HIV/AIDS, food security and governance. It would also underscore the system's commitment to work actively and collectively in helping affected countries to address the crisis, and contributing to the necessary work at the country level. The group was asked to develop a matrix of various initiatives under way on AIDS, food security and governance to encourage transparency and information sharing. Following consultations, elements for a possible CEB statement were provided to the Chairman and are now included in annex VII.

V. Conflict prevention: nexus between political, humanitarian and sustainable development

41. The Committee initiated its deliberation on the issue of conflict prevention: nexus between political, humanitarian and sustainable development on the basis of a note (CEB/2003/HLCP/CRP.13) provided by the Department for Political Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat. The note referred to the two ongoing processes, namely the Inter-agency Resource Group on Prevention led by the Department and the United Nations Development Group/Executive Committee for Humanitarian Affairs Working Group on Transition Issues, and provided information on the current status of discussions in the General Assembly. The Committee was informed that the Inter-Agency Resource Group was currently devising a strategy for implementing the recommendations formulated by CEB on this issue at its November 2002 session.

42. The note recalled that the 2001 report of the Secretary-General had, to a large extent, concentrated on intra-State conflicts and observed that some of the greatest threats to peace and security today tended to have strong inter-State dimensions. It was the intention of the Department for Political Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat pursuant to General Assembly resolution 55/281 of 1 August 2001 to consult with organizations of the United Nations system on the possibility of generating within the system a broader discussion, with Member States, non-governmental organizations, regional organizations and others, on the basic approaches outlined in the report, with a view to designing a strategy and practical recommendations which would then form the basis of a future report. The Department invited the Committee to play a role in that process.

43. The representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) briefed the Committee on developments in the work of United Nations Development Group/Executive Committee for Humanitarian Affairs Working Group. The Group, working in collaboration with the United Nations system and relevant practitioners, including Governments, donors, multilateral institutions and civil society organizations, was compiling an analysis of transition issues.

44. Preliminary findings indicated that the need to bridge the resource gap resulting from differentiated donor funding responses to the operational needs of programmes and emergency funding of crisis was among one of the major challenges to be addressed. The Working Group expected to present a progress report in July 2003, together with a country team presentation during the coordination segment of the Economic and Social Council. The intention was to engage a mixed audience from the operational as well as humanitarian areas.

45. The Committee noted that the timing of its own discussion and that of CEB in April in the aftermath of recent political events, heightened the relevance of this issue. Some of the observations made included the need for making a distinction between the symptoms of conflicts and their causes; the importance of understanding root causes of conflicts for establishing work programme priorities and coherence in striving towards common objectives; the need to develop vulnerability indicators in political as well as socio-economic areas that could help to identify root causes and assist in developing preventive strategies; and the fact that there was no "one size fits all" approach towards conflict prevention and each situation demanded specific analysis and tailor-made responses.

46. The Committee concluded that conflict prevention should remain a priority item in its work programme and that its approach should be based on the guidance provided by CEB at its November 2002 session (CEB/2002/2 (paras. 18-20)). Further work should include:

- An analytical element, particularly further analysis of some of the conceptual issues mentioned in the preceding paragraph
- A consensus-building element aimed at contributing to overcoming existing compartmentalization and helping to draw together the political and development work of the system, building on the seminal report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict in Africa and recent advances exemplified by NEPAD
- An operational element, that is, fostering mutual reinforcement of the operational work of the United Nations Development Group with the analytical work of the Committee.

VI. Follow-up to decision of the HLCP

A. United Nations system collaboration with civil society organizations and financing of the Non-Governmental Liaison Service

47. The Committee was briefed on the scope and terms of reference of a study on the collaboration between organizations of the system and civil society organizations that the Committee, at its last session, had decided to undertake (CEB/2003/HLCP/CRP.7). The Committee was also briefed on the composition and mandate of the panel of eminent persons being set up by the Secretary-General to review the relationship between the United Nations and civil society pursuant to his reform proposals contained in his report, entitled “Strengthening the United Nations: an agenda for further change” (A/57/387). In the same context, the Committee was informed of the outcome of the Non-Governmental Liaison Service informal consultations (6 and 7 March) involving some 35 non-governmental organization/civil society organization focal points from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations. At that meeting, the Service had invited United Nations system non-governmental organization focal points to provide, by 7 April, a short note outlining the policy questions and challenges that had emerged from their experience in collaborating with civil society organizations, as well as issues that might benefit from system-wide dialogue. It was expected that these responses would be relevant to the work of the Secretary-General’s panel, as well as feed into the Committee study.

48. In addition, the Non-Governmental Liaison Service intended to convene a consultation with non-governmental organizations in June 2003. On the basis of the outcome of that consultation and earlier inputs from United Nations agencies, a discussion paper would be presented for the Committee’s consideration in September, seeking the Committee’s guidance on areas of focus for its study.

49. In the discussion, a number of issues were raised in regard to the proposed Committee study, that is: the need for more clarity in the statement of the purpose and product of the study; harmonizing the definition of civil society organizations

used in the study (which excludes the private sector) with that utilized in the Secretary-General's panel, which included both the private sector and parliamentarians; and inclusion in the terms of reference for the study of modalities for involving civil society organizations in the delivery of technical assistance. Recognizing the opportunity to enhance the constituency of the United Nations system in the national political domain, the Committee felt that the study would benefit from documenting the experience of agencies in engaging with parliamentarians.

50. It was agreed that the CEB secretariat would present a discussion paper for the consideration of the Committee at its September meeting, taking into account the views expressed at the current session.

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51. The representative of UNDP, in his capacity as the current Chairman of the Non-Governmental Liaison Service Programme Coordination Meeting, drew the Committee's attention to the precarious financing situation of the Service, noting that the evidence of high appreciation throughout its system of the work, as an important body for supporting non-governmental organizations, particularly southern non-governmental organizations, had not been matched by commensurate financial support.

52. The Committee expressed strong support for the Non-Governmental Liaison Service. It stressed the need to ensure a sound financial basis for its functioning and invited agencies to work with the Service to seek expeditious solutions to its financial situation. The Committee supported the appeal of the Chairman of Programme Coordination Meeting and of the representative of the United Nations that agencies' determinations on the financial support they provide to the Service should be informed decisions, based on their appreciation of the value of its role and unique contribution.

53. The Committee urged agencies to work with the Non-Governmental Liaison Service to seek an expeditious solution to its financing problem.

B. System-wide support for Africa's development and the New Partnership for Africa's Development

54. The Committee reviewed progress in implementing the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) in the light of a note (CEB/2003/HLCP/CRP.10) providing information on the work of the five clusters established by the 2002 Regional Consultation to organize United Nations system support for NEPAD.

55. Introducing the paper, the representative of the regional commissions noted that considerable progress had been achieved in developing a framework for the United Nations system's support for NEPAD. Among recent developments was the appointment by the NEPAD secretariat of thematic coordinators to work closely with the United Nations system clusters, as well as the elaboration by the Economic Commission for Africa and UNDP of an implementation framework to foster collaboration among agencies and with the regional economic communities.

56. The Regional Consultations had agreed on modalities for cooperation at the national, subregional and regional levels. At the country level, existing mechanisms

such as the common country assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, poverty reduction strategy papers and other national strategies, particularly the Millennium Development Goal-related strategies, would continue to be used through the United Nations coordinator system and the United Nations country teams. The central role of the regional economic communities at the subregional level was underscored. In this regard, agencies (working through the cluster arrangements) should work closely with the regional economic communities and the NEPAD secretariat to advance joint activities to build the capacity of subregional institutions. At the regional level, it was agreed that regional inter-agency consultations should continue to be convened at least once and possibly, twice, a year. It was also felt that, to encourage inter-cluster cooperation, ECA should periodically call meetings of the five cluster conveners with the NEPAD secretariat around major events.

57. The Committee's attention was drawn to a number of forthcoming events, including the next Regional Consultation scheduled for the first half of May 2003 in Addis Ababa, to take stock of collective actions taken by the clusters and to review the next steps for reporting. (A consultation is also tentatively scheduled for 27 and 28 October 2003, to be chaired by Deputy Secretary-General.)

58. The Committee decided to draw the attention of CEB especially to the importance of:

- Coordinating the United Nations system support for NEPAD around the thematic clusters
- Ensuring that agencies were represented at the regional and headquarters level at all cluster meetings to provide substantive input and effective follow-up.

VII. Other matters

A. Education for all

59. The Committee considered this issue prior to the CEB session, in view of the intention of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to address education for all at the CEB spring session. The representative of UNESCO introduced an advance version of a UNESCO note for CEB on the subject (CEB/2003/HLCP/CRP.11), highlighting the multisectoral nature of the challenge, the current status of progress in the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and Dakar goals on education, the funding gap, demands on coordination and advocacy and the urgency of achieving gender parity in schooling by 2005 and of improving data quality.

60. The Committee's discussion highlighted the linkages between education for all and the issue of creating productive employment for youth and the urgency of delivering on commitments made on the gender parity goal by 2005 if prospects over the attainment of longer-term goals are to be attained. In this connection, it was suggested that the issue of gender parity should be highlighted, both in the introduction and in the challenges section of the note CEB/2003/HLCP/11.

61. The Committee invited UNESCO to finalize its note in the light of the HLCP discussion for presentation to CEB. It also agreed to pursue, in the context of its

own work on the follow-up to the Millennium Declaration, appropriate actions on education, in the light of the guidance to be provided by CEB.

62. The representative of UNESCO informed the Committee that the next World EXPO was scheduled to be held in 2005 in Japan on the theme “nature’s wisdom”. In his capacity as coordinator for the World EXPO, the Director-General of UNESCO had invited CEB Executive Heads to participate in developing a strategic concept for the United Nations system’s participation in the World EXPO and in planning a series of events during the event.

B. World Summit on the Information Society

63. The Committee considered this issue in the light of the request from the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), who would brief the spring 2003 session of CEB on the status of preparations for World Summit on the Information Society. A representative of ITU briefed the Committee on the basis of a note (CEB/2003/HLCP/CRP.8). He drew attention, inter alia, to the various arrangements being planned for the first phase of the Summit (Geneva, 10-12 December 2003), consisting of a core political event and high-level round tables, as well as side and parallel events. He invited United Nations system organizations to contribute actively to organizing and participating in these events.

64. The Committee agreed that organizations of the system should be encouraged to participate actively in this important event.

C. Work of the World Commission on the Social Dimensions of Globalization

65. The Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO) would brief Executive Heads at their retreat to be held in conjunction with the CEB spring 2003 session in Paris, on the work of the World Commission on the Social Dimensions of Globalization. The representative of ILO presented a note (CEB/2003/HLCP/CRP.12), which outlines progress made to date.

66. The Committee welcomed the objectives of the Commission, which aimed at making globalization a positive force for all by articulating a vision for a sustained, inclusive model of globalization that would assist in realizing decent work and greater equity and freedom as well as reducing poverty and fostering growth and development.

D. High-level segment of the Economic and Social Council

67. On the basis of the briefing it received from the representative of the United Nations and the information contained in the document before it (CEB/2003/HLCP/INF.1), the Committee expressed appreciation for the broad consultative process being followed in the preparations for the 2003 high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council, the theme of which would be “promoting an integrated approach to rural development in developing countries for poverty eradication and sustainable development”. Members of the Committee were

informed of related preparatory activities and round-table events being organized, which included a Committee panel discussion with the Council on 30 April 2003.

E. United Nations system activities to combat terrorism

68. The Committee discussed United Nations system activities to combat terrorism in the light of a note prepared by the United Nations Secretariat (CEB/2003/HLCP/CRP.9) as a follow-up to recommendation 31 A of the report of the Policy Working Group on the United Nations and Terrorism (A/57/273-S/2002/875) which, inter alia, called for making counter-terrorism a regular (annual) item on the agendas of the Committee and CEB, with the aim of enhancing coordination among agencies, funds and programmes.

69. The Committee called upon United Nations agencies engaged in relevant counter-terrorism activities to provide, as soon as possible, through the CEB secretariat, written updates of their contributions to the initial report of the Working Group.

70. The Committee decided that given the importance of the issue, it would periodically include the item in its agenda, drawing on the contribution of the Department of Political Affairs, as the United Nations focal point on counter-terrorism.

F. Capacity development

71. The Committee was briefed on the report of an inter-agency workshop on capacity development jointly organized by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and UNDP in November 2002 (CEB/2003/HLCP/INF.4). Attention was drawn particularly to section IV of the report, which contained a number of concrete conclusions and recommendations, including suggested follow-up actions by the Committee.

72. The Committee welcomed this joint initiative and expressed agreement with the recommendations contained in the note.

G. Youth employment

73. The Committee considered the issue of youth employment on the basis of a note on the subject (CEB/2003/HLCP/CRP.3/Rev.1), which was introduced by the Head of the secretariat of the Youth Employment Network at ILO.

74. Recognizing that youth employment was both an integral part of the Millennium Declaration and a key contribution to meeting the Millennium Development Goals, including those related to poverty reduction, the Committee confirmed its strong support of the Secretary-General's initiative on the creation of the Youth Employment Network.

75. The Committee noted that the Network provided the United Nations system with an opportunity to influence the international development agenda and policy debate with a positive message in support of the aspirations of the world's young people. Given the political and intersectoral dimensions of youth employment, the

Committee underscored the necessity of an integrated, system-wide approach that would address a range of related issues within the purview of the system, including young people and armed conflict, HIV/AIDS, the root causes of terrorism and gender equality.

76. The Committee called upon its members to contribute actively to Governments' efforts towards the development of national reviews and action plans, as well as to provide inputs for the Secretary-General's forthcoming report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of Assembly resolution 57/165 of 18 December 2002, particularly the provisions contained in paragraph 3.

VIII. Date and venue for the next session

77. The Committee decided to convene an intersessional meeting in early July 2003 at Geneva, on the margins of the 2003 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council. Consultations would be undertaken electronically to decide on the exact date for the meeting.

78. The Committee further agreed to hold its sixth session in Rome on 18 and 19 September 2003.

IX. Other business

79. The representative of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) raised the question of the steps being taken to implement action 15 in the Secretary-General's report on strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change (A/57/387), which provided for the preparation of a report to the General Assembly aimed at introducing greater clarity of roles and responsibilities within the system in the area of technical cooperation. UNIDO was concerned — and its concern was shared by FAO, ILO and UNESCO — that specialized agencies had not been included in the scope of the consultant's study currently under preparation, although they were deeply involved in technical cooperation and had accumulated considerable knowledge and expertise. Given the importance of the exercise for the operational activities of the United Nations system, the representative suggested that the Committee bring the matter to the attention of CEB at its meeting in Paris, on 25 and 26 April 2003, with the recommendation to include the specialized agencies in the relevant report to the General Assembly.

80. The representative of the United Nations explained that the approach to the report to the next session of the General Assembly on action 15 had evolved somewhat from the original intentions and that the plan was now for this first report to be selective and focus on a few areas, particularly emerging areas, where it was felt that it was timely for the United Nations itself to enhance the coherence of its operational work and rationalize the distribution of responsibilities and collaboration among Secretariat entities and between them and United Nations funds and programmes. It remained to be seen whether there would be a further phase expanding the scope of the exercise to other areas and to the system as a whole. In that event, all concerned organizations would, of course, be duly involved. Meanwhile, care would be exercised to ensure that any recommendations in this first

report would carry no implications for the specialized agencies. The representative added that Executive Heads were, of course, free to raise the issue during the CEB meeting in Paris on 25 and 26 April 2003.

Annex I

Agenda

1. High-Level Committee on Programmes programme of work, 2003-2004 — first round of discussions
2. Follow-up to the Millennium Declaration: preparations for the 2005 comprehensive review
3. Strategies for sustainable development: follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development
 - (a) Energy
 - (b) Water
4. HIV/AIDS: linkages with food security and governance
5. Conflict prevention-nexus between political, humanitarian and sustainable development
6. Follow-up to High-Level Committee on Programmes decisions
 - (a) United Nations system collaboration with civil society organizations (and financing of the Non-Governmental Liaison Service)
 - (b) System-wide support for Africa's development and NEPAD
7. Other matters
 - (a) Education for all
 - (b) World Summit on the Information Society
 - (c) Work of the World Commission on the Social Dimensions of Globalization
 - (d) High-level segment of the Economic and Social Council
 - (e) United Nations system activities to combat terrorism
 - (f) Capacity development
 - (g) Youth employment
 - (h) Date and venue for the next session
 - (i) Other business

Annex II

List of participants

Chairman:

Lennart Båge (IFAD)

Vice-Chairman:

Mats Karlsson (World Bank)

Secretary:

Eckhard W. Hein (CEB secretariat)

United Nations	Patrizio Civili Navid Hanif
Regional commissions	Sulafa Al-Bassam
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	Carlos Fortin Dimitru Deac
United Nations International Drug Control Programme	Nasra Hassan
United Nations Environment Programme	Adnan Amin
United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)	Daniel Biau
United Nations Development Programme	Bruce Jenks Mourad Wahba
United Nations Population Fund	Mari Simonen
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	Marjon Kamara Martin Loftus
United Nations Children's Fund	Ado Vaher Annamaria Laurini
World Food Programme	Sheila Sisulu Thomas Yanga Francesco Strippoli
United Nations System Staff College	John Machin
Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS	Renu Chahil-Graf Jim Sherry
International Labour Organization	Christophe Perrin Steven Miller
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Florence Chenoweth Wendy Mann
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	Hans d'Orville
World Health Organization	Denis Aitken
World Bank	Eduardo Doryan
International Monetary Fund	Reinhard Munzberg

International Maritime Organization	Olga Bosquez
International Telecommunication Union	Arthur Levin
World Meteorological Organization	Daniel Don Nanjira Workneh Degefu
International Fund for Agricultural Development	Uday Abhyankar
United Nations Industrial Development Organization	Andrey Lazykin
International Atomic Energy Agency	Swaminathan Ramachandran
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization	Bernard Wrabetz
World Trade Organization	Patrick John Rata
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	Mukul Sanwal
CEB secretariat	Qazi Shaukat Fareed Eric Lacanlale Susan Toh

Annex III High-Level Committee on Programmes programme of work, 2003-2004

<i>March HLCP 2003</i>	HLCP Work Programme	Millennium Declaration: Comprehensive review	Follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development Energy Water	HIV/AIDS and its linkages with food security, governance	Conflict prevention
<i>April CEB 2003</i>	HLCP Work Programme	Millennium Declaration: Comprehensive review	Follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development Energy Water		
<i>July HLCP Intersessional meeting 2003</i>	HLCP Work Programme			HIV/AIDS and its linkages with food security, governance	Conflict prevention
<i>Sept. HLCP 2003</i>	HLCP Work Programme	Millennium Declaration: Comprehensive review	Financing for development International trade: the Doha Development Agenda		
<i>Oct CEB 2003</i>		Millennium Declaration: Comprehensive review	Financing for development International trade: the Doha Development Agenda		
<i>Feb. HLCP 2004</i>	HLCP Work Programme	Millennium Declaration: Comprehensive review	Digital divide		
<i>Apr. CEB 2004</i>			Digital divide		
<i>Sept. HLCP 2004</i>	HLCP Work Programme	Millennium Declaration: Comprehensive review	Transnational crime		
<i>Oct. CEB 2004</i>		Millennium Declaration: Comprehensive review	Transnational crime		
<i>2005</i>		Millennium Declaration: Comprehensive review			

Annex IV

International Trade and the Doha Development Round: elements for a possible Chief Executives Board statement

Chief Executives Board Statement on Doha negotiations: draft elements

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 work closely with the World Trade Organization (WTO) 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 to 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 held in Monterrey and Johannesburg.

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 the one posed by 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 and implications for national and international efforts in such areas as health, culture, education, employment, environment, technology, agriculture, rural development, industry and public services, organizations of the United Nations system have a keen interest in supporting a successful conclusion of the Doha negotiations.

In launching the Doha Development Agenda, Trade Ministers 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 accessions of least developed countries to WTO. 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, including in areas of particular interest and concern to developing countries.

We are especially concerned that WTO members were unable to meet the 2002 deadlines relating to special and differential treatment, access to essential medicines for countries lacking capacity to manufacture such drugs themselves, and concerns

of some developing countries about difficulties they are experiencing in implementing existing WTO agreements and decisions.

We are equally concerned that WTO members 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 one billion people in today's world living without enough food to eat, without safe water to drink, without primary schooling or health care for their children. It is urgent because another two billion people are living in conditions that are 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, Trade Ministers 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 solutions can be identified, gaps narrowed and forward momentum injected into the process well before September.

Annex V

Follow-up to the Millennium Declaration: preparations for the 2005 comprehensive review

Note by the High-Level Committee on Programmes

Introduction

1. In its resolutions 55/162 of 14 December 2000 and 56/95 of 14 December 2001, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare annual reports and a five-year comprehensive report in 2005 on progress achieved by the United Nations system and Member States towards implementing the Millennium Declaration.
2. In his letter of 6 February 2003 to CEB members, the Secretary-General invited the High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) to begin to focus on how the system should position itself in relation to the 2005 overall review of progress in the implementation of the Millennium Declaration. He welcomed the intention of the Chairman of the Committee to hold a retreat of members of the Committee to stimulate thinking on how best the United Nations system can work together to maximize progress in following up on the Millennium Declaration.
3. During its retreat held from 27 February to 1 March 2003, the Committee discussed the overall approach to the 2005 comprehensive review of the Millennium Declaration and decided that the review should be a priority issue in its work programme in the next two years. An ad hoc, open-ended task group was assigned to prepare a preliminary note for discussion at the fifth regular session of HLCP, held on 26 and 27 March in Rome. The present note incorporates the comments and suggestions made by members of the Committee in the course of that session.

Key considerations

4. The 2005 comprehensive review should proceed from the premise that the goals and targets of the Millennium Declaration are, first and foremost, commitments of Member States. The role of the United Nations system is to support national Governments in meeting those goals. It is in this light that the Millennium Declaration as the overarching framework and collective agenda of the United Nations system should be understood.
5. The report should include the progress made by Member States in implementing the Millennium Declaration, as well as the contributions by the United Nations system in support of Member States.
6. The 2005 review should adopt an outcome-oriented and forward-looking approach and highlight how the Millennium Declaration has led to changes both in the policies and programmes of Member States and among organizations of the United Nations system, while also taking due account of the changing political, social and economic context.
7. The 2005 report should not only be seen as a reporting requirement, but also as a unique opportunity for the system to engage external partners in a common

endeavour and communicate how the United Nations system is coming together in support of Member States.

8. The five-year review should cover the full range of goals and issues contained in the eight chapters of the Millennium Declaration, that is, peace, security and disarmament; development and poverty eradication; protecting our common environment, human rights, democracy and good governance; protecting the vulnerable; meeting the special needs of Africa; and strengthening the United Nations.

9. The Millennium Development Goals have received special attention in the work of United Nations development agencies. They should not however be treated as a discrete set of goals but as an integral and inseparable part of the Millennium Declaration and the 2005 review should highlight the inherent linkages and synergies between the various goals, as well as between the various chapters and issues of the Millennium Declaration.

Building on ongoing processes

10. The review should be guided by ongoing work at the intergovernmental level, both of the central intergovernmental bodies, that is, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, and the governing bodies of organizations of the system. Of particular importance is the work being undertaken by the open-ended ad hoc working group of the General Assembly on integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, including the Millennium Declaration. At the same time, the review process should make a substantive contribution to the deliberations of the intergovernmental bodies.

11. In order for the review to reflect a truly system-wide perspective, every effort should be made to draw on work and reporting processes being carried out by United Nations agencies, funds, programmes, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization, especially those entrusted with the follow-up to specific goals and targets emanating from United Nations conferences and summits which later became part of the Millennium Declaration.

12. Duplication in reporting and new reporting mechanisms should be avoided. The contribution of HLCR should be to bring together the various ongoing reporting processes and provide a strategic overview of progress made both by Member States and the United Nations system as a whole.

13. The review should also build on inter-agency work relating to the implementation of the United Nations core strategy for the Millennium Development Goals, in particular to its four main components: Millennium Development Goal Monitoring and Reporting, Millennium Project, Millennium Campaign, and operational support at the country level.

14. Finally, it is essential that the review take full account of the work being carried out by organizations of the United Nations system at the global, regional and country levels.

Elements of the review

15. A major part of the 2005 review should focus on both the quantitative and qualitative dimensions of progress made by Member States in implementing the Millennium Declaration. It is important to highlight the experiences of Member States in laying the foundation for the implementation of the Declaration.

16. Another component of the review is the contribution of the system in support of Member States at the global, regional and country levels. The component could include how the Millennium Declaration has influenced:

- (a) Programme priorities in the United Nations system;
- (b) Programme collaboration among organizations of the system;
- (c) Advocacy, communication strategies and resource mobilization in the United Nations system;
- (d) Building of alliances beyond the United Nations system, for example, civil society organizations and the private sector;
- (e) Identification of gaps in the Millennium Declaration and in its implementation, including remedial action required to fill the gaps.

Issues to be addressed

17. In helping advance an overall approach to the system-wide 2005 review, special attention should be given to the resource implications of implementing the goals and targets in the Declaration. Due account should also be given to the contribution of appropriate policies and programmes in advancing the implementation of the Millennium Declaration.

18. Equally important are issues relating to constraints in reporting on progress achieved by the system. These involve incomplete and uneven data, validity of indicators for measurement, compatibility of country and global level reporting, overcoming duplicative reporting to intergovernmental bodies, how to incorporate the outcomes of the review conferences into the Millennium Declaration reporting, and how to ensure comprehensive reporting on all eight chapters of the Millennium Declaration.

19. A related issue is how to monitor and measure progress in the other “chapters” of the Millennium Declaration. While the Millennium Development Goals provide an effective way to track the goals and targets under chapter three, “Development and poverty eradication”, the assessment of progress in the other chapters, for example, on peace and security, human rights, democracy and good governance and protecting the vulnerable, presents challenges. Progress monitoring for goals that were not, by and large, stated as definite time-bound targets would need to be improved.

20. Adequate attention should also be given to the contributions that smaller technical agencies are making to the attainment of the Millennium Declaration.

Next steps

21. The Committee emphasized the importance of early preparations for the review and system-wide involvement in this process. To this end, it decided to

establish an open-ended ad hoc group of its members to formulate suggestions, from a system-wide perspective, on the structure, inter-agency process and timetable for the preparation of the 2005 report. It also decided to submit this note to CEB and revert to a fuller discussion of this item at its autumn 2003 session.

Annex VI

Strategies for sustainable development: follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Executive summary

I. Introduction

1. At its fourth session, held in Vienna on 23 and 24 September 2002, the High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) held a preliminary discussion on the way the United Nations system could best respond to the World Summit on Sustainable Development. It was recognized that the inter-agency follow-up to the Johannesburg Summit should be guided by two considerations. First, renewed emphasis on implementation in the agreed outcomes^a of the Summit, the water, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity (WEHAB) frameworks for action and the partnerships initiatives. Second, the need to effectively integrate conference follow-up processes, that is, the new round of trade negotiations launched at the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, the International Conference on Financing for Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, so as to ensure mutual reinforcement among these and to optimize the contribution of these processes towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, which remained the overarching objective.

2. To develop a system-wide strategy for inter-agency cooperation as well as for engagement with other development actors, the Committee decided to establish an open-ended Group. The Group, led by Patrizio Civili, held four meetings and videoconferences from October 2002 to March 2003.

3. The Chairman of HLCP presented a preliminary report on the work of the Group to the second regular session of CEB held in New York on 8 and 9 November 2002. CEB generally shared the Group's assessment of the Johannesburg Summit and requested (CEB/2002/2) the Group to focus its future work on promoting new policy orientations in the system and supporting the achievement of specific goals and time-bound targets, as well as encouraging the integration of conference follow-up processes. The CEB members also underscored the need for bold approaches that could give more visibility to implementation processes in the WEHAB areas, particularly with respect to water and sanitation and energy. The Group appropriately reflected the views of CEB in the final draft of the paper.

II. Assessment of the outcomes and implications for the United Nations system

4. While reviewing the outcomes of the Summit, the Group identified six major implications of the Johannesburg Summit for the United Nations system. First, the United Nations system should assist Governments to focus sharply on implementation based on a coherent framework of action embedded in the goals agreed at the Millennium Summit, in Monterrey and in Johannesburg. Second, enhanced coordination and collaboration among the United Nations system organizations at all levels should be promoted, particularly in the field, as a means of building synergies with the outcomes of other United Nations conferences. Third, it should be ensured that implementation plans of United Nations system agencies, which are usually part of the common country assessment-United Nations

Development Assistance Framework and the poverty reduction strategy paper processes, are consistent with country development and poverty eradication strategies, have demonstrable outcomes and are linked to long-term sustainability. Fourth, regional implementation should be enhanced through United Nations regional commissions and regional frameworks of United Nations organizations. Fifth, all relevant stakeholders should be actively engaged based on a determination of the comparative advantage of the United Nations system and other development actors. And, finally, there is a need for a degree of rethinking of system-wide collaborative activities at all levels, so that they are effectively geared to advancing these objectives.

5. While recognizing that these challenges would require changes at various levels, including the intergovernmental bodies (General Assembly, Economic and Social Council, Commission on Sustainable Development), the Group focused its work on the United Nations system-wide response.

III. United Nations system-wide follow-up

Operational level

6. The Group emphasized that follow-up to the World Summit by the United Nations system, particularly at the country level, should be consistent with national priorities and be integrated with the overall follow-up of United Nations conferences, including the Millennium Development Goals. These activities should be guided by the following basic principles:

- (a) Coherence and consistency in the follow-up to United Nations conferences;
- (b) Unified thematic approach in order to avoid duplication;
- (c) Clear division of responsibilities among the various parts of the system;
- (d) Enhanced exchange of information and two-way communication;
- (e) Clear support for the Summit principle of integrating the three components of sustainable development, namely, economic growth, environmental protection and social development;
- (f) Ensure full ownership by the Governments;
- (g) Enhanced focus on the achievement of specific goals and targets and time-bound measures;
- (h) Closer link between policy work at the global level and operational activities at the regional and country levels.

7. In addition, the United Nations Development Group has proposed^b to weave the follow-up to the Johannesburg Summit and the WEHAB initiative with the strategy for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Operational activities would therefore focus on (a) monitoring, tracking and reviewing progress towards targets and goals; (b) analysing, defining and assessing policy dimensions of achieving the targets; (c) campaigning and resource mobilizing and (d) developing synergies within the WEHAB areas.

Recommendation

8. **The Group recommended that HLCP seek CEB guidance on the proposed principles and the strategy outlined by the United Nations Development Group.**

Regional level

9. The members of the Group generally shared the view that implementation at the regional and subregional levels should be pursued through the United Nations regional commissions in cooperation with other regional and subregional organizations. Future inter-agency arrangements should include provision for the participation and functional coordination of inputs that may be provided, in particular, by regional organizations, particularly the United Nations regional commissions.

Global level

10. The Task Manager System established after the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development provided the main mechanism for inter-agency coordination, as well as to support the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development. The Group was of the view that this system should be recast to maximize policy coordination and programmatic coherence and consistency and to allow each agency or organization to play its due role, particularly in achieving specific goals and targets.

11. It was generally agreed that the successor arrangements should be designed to achieve the following objectives:

(a) Shift the focus from reporting and supporting normative discussions at the global level to actions and implementation at the national level with a greater emphasis on specific sectors and achieving the goals and targets of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Millennium Development Goals;

(b) Support/complement the follow-up mechanisms on the outcomes of other relevant United Nations conferences held during the past decade;

(c) Promote stronger linkage between the global intergovernmental deliberations and implementation measures at the country level;

(d) Promote flexible, action-oriented, innovative and inclusive approaches for launching implementation initiatives, based on the comparative advantage of different United Nations institutions and the level of engagement of non-United Nations actors;

(e) Apply the issue management approach, wherever possible;

(f) Promote overall integration of the three components of sustainable development.

12. In this context, the need to avoid duplication and ensure mutual reinforcement with the work of the task forces and machinery established for follow-up to Millennium Development Goals was also emphasized. The need to draw upon the work of existing mechanisms such as the Environment Management Group was also underscored.

13. While recognizing that requirements would differ from area to area, the Group identified five possible models for inter-agency coordination. These were not mutually exclusive. One model, such as used in the past, would involve a single designated agency providing the leadership focus for the other cooperating agencies. A second model would involve a group of agencies that had comparable levels of expertise in a specific area. In such areas, agencies could work through a coordinating body. A third model was one where agencies established a joint agent which provided the overall focus and impetus for the actions to be taken on behalf of the co-sponsoring agencies. A fourth model could be based on “issue management” approach. In that model, limited-duration groups and teams comprising all relevant institutions were established with a mandate to develop recommendations and proposals on a specific issue. A fifth model could be based on country-level operational models as designed by Governments in collaboration with the United Nations system organizations. These would vary from country to country.

14. The decision on which model to use would have to be taken pragmatically, depending on agency interests and capabilities, arrangements for the follow-up to the outcomes of other United Nations conferences and the Millennium Development Goals, resource implications and timing factors, and would differ from issue to issue.

Recommendation

15. The Group recommended that HLCP invite the United Nations system organizations and agencies most directly concerned with each of the thematic areas contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation to prepare proposals and recommendations for tailor-made inter-agency arrangements, so that CEB may consider those in the context of their overall contribution to an effective follow-up to the Summit.

The WEHAB initiative

16. The Group emphasized the need to build further on the WEHAB initiative and promote the implementation of the frameworks for action, which were anchored in the intergovernmentally agreed multilateral action plans. The frameworks provided a platform for launching initiatives and partnerships in those areas. The report of the Secretary-General to the eleventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, to be held in New York from 28 April to 9 May 2003, placed special emphasis on the need for such initiatives to be coherent and mutually reinforcing.

17. Drawing on the inter-agency discussions held thus far, the report identified a number of functional requirements that needed to be fulfilled to promote coherence and complementarity. Firstly, advocacy and raising public profile through outreach to media and advocacy campaigns. Secondly, a clearing house for policy and programme information exchange, and for sharing lessons and experiences, possibly through the preparation of comprehensive progress reports and convening of special annual meetings of all relevant actors, including bilateral donors. Thirdly, promoting policy coherence at all levels and identifying specific areas where there was a need or scope for further policy development. Fourthly, encouraging and facilitating collaborative arrangements in relation to programmes and projects among relevant actors. Fifthly, strengthening the knowledge base through various initiatives, including the establishment of linkages with research centres and other sources of

knowledge. Sixthly, promoting stronger linkages between global, regional and national level activities. Finally, monitoring and evaluation. The report noted that these functions could be performed through apex collaborative groups, led in an objective manner and visible enough to engage key actors. Inter-agency arrangements, such as the proposed “UN water” mechanism, would have a key role to play in advancing United Nations system concerns in the wider collaborative group.

18. Within the five WEHAB sectors, a number of collaborative initiatives in the areas of health, agriculture and biodiversity/ecosystem management were already performing those functions. They included the Global Partnership on Vaccines and Immunization, the Consultative Group on Agricultural Research and the United Nations Ecosystem Coordination Group. This was not so in the case of energy, and water^c and sanitation. Existing arrangements in those areas were not adequate for achieving the goals and targets defined by the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

19. There was also a need to develop holistic responses to emerging challenges in the WEHAB areas, as those were inextricably linked.

Recommendations

20. The Group was of the view, bearing in mind the collaborative initiatives already in place in the areas of health, agriculture and biodiversity, special attention should be given to the promotion of collaborative groups on water and sanitation, and energy, which would expedite the achievement of goals contained in the Plan of Implementation.

21. The Group recommended that HLCP consider appropriate modalities for performing the oversight role to promote coherence and complementarity, as provided for in its terms of reference.

22. The group also underscored the need to make the WEHAB initiative more inclusive through a WEHAB Plus approach. The issues of oceans and coastal area management, and shelter were proposed as key areas for action.

Oceans and coastal areas

23. The Group also considered the issue of inter-agency coordination on oceans and coastal areas, as the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation had a specific provision calling upon the Secretary-General to establish an effective, transparent and regular inter-agency coordination mechanism on ocean and coastal issues within the United Nations system. During its fifty-seventh session, the General Assembly endorsed the Summit’s recommendations and requested that the new mechanism should be established on the basis of principles of continuity, regularity and accountability (resolution 57/141, section XIV).

24. The Group approached the issue from a functional point of view and in a forward-looking way, that is, in terms of current and emerging coordination needs to be met, rather than simply designing successor structures to the Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas. The Group’s deliberations were guided by the fact that issues related to oceans and coastal affairs were very broad and cross-cutting, covering political, legal, economic, social, environmental dimensions of United Nations system’s work and the involvement of non-United Nations actors.

Furthermore, the arrangements should be capable of performing at least two core functions, namely, reviewing ongoing work in this area; and developing coordinated responses to emerging challenges and/or launching new initiatives.

25. In view of the above, the Group proposed that a two-tiered approach to coordination arrangements in this area might be developed along the following lines: (a) day-to-day coordination of operational activities or joint projects could be carried out through a contact group or network of experts from relevant core agencies and programmes, and non-United Nations actors, whenever relevant; (b) the task of developing system-wide responses to emerging challenges, as identified by the relevant intergovernmental bodies or agencies and programmes and the development of new initiatives through ad hoc, time-bound, broad-based task forces or working groups could be coordinated by HLCP. To ensure overall coherence and consistency at the inter-agency level, the oversight role could be exercised directly by HLCP. The CEB secretariat could facilitate the dissemination of outcomes of the above arrangements. This would provide a clearing-house mechanism for reports.

Recommendation

26. The Group recommended that HLCP approve the proposed broad parameters of the coordination arrangements on oceans and coastal areas and may invite the relevant agencies to work on the issues of participation, financing, secretariat support and other necessary modalities for operationalizing these arrangements.

IV. Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields

27. The General Assembly, in its resolution 57/270 of 20 December 2002, decided to establish an open-ended ad hoc working group on the integrated and coordinated follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields. The objective of the exercise is not only to know how to fully utilize the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary machinery, but also to ensure that conference goals are integrated into the work programmes of United Nations organizations and are operationalized. The latter aspect includes the following three elements:

(a) Integration of conference outcomes in United Nations system's work programmes;

(b) Coordination among actors and tools for implementation, including at the working level;

(c) Relationship between the United Nations and the international financial and trade institutions.

28. To this end, closer interaction between the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions on the one hand, and CEB and its HLCP, on the other, would need to be devised to ensure that organizations effectively supported the implementation of conference commitments through their programming frameworks. In this regard, the Group felt that some of the innovative modalities of inter-agency cooperation that emerged in the run-up to the Johannesburg Summit

and the Monterrey Conference could also be drawn upon. A particular effort would need to be made for more effective use of the mechanisms for cooperation with financial and trade institutions.

Recommendation

29. The Group recommended that this would require a more visible role of HLCP, particularly at two levels. First, ensuring overall coherence by integrating the various follow-ups to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. This would help in promoting a unified thematic approach in the follow-up processes. Secondly, a translating system-wide policy into guidelines for operational activities or “business plans” for implementation. For this purpose, HLCP and the United Nations Development Group should further harmonize their work through active coordination and collaboration.

Notes

- ^a The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Johannesburg Declaration.
- ^b A paper outlining the United Nations Development Group’s operational framework for follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development has already been circulated by the United Nations Development Programme.
- ^c Water resources in this context mean freshwater, as a separate section of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation deals with the issues related to oceans.

Annex VII

HIV/AIDS: linkages with food security and governance; elements of a possible Chief Executives Board statement

The deadly triad* of HIV/AIDS, food insecurity and a depleted capacity to govern

Draft chief Executives Board statement

Today we are witnessing a tragedy in Africa, especially in eastern and southern Africa, but also in other regions, unparalleled in our development experience. Three mutually reinforcing crises — the expanding AIDS epidemic, food insecurity and the erosion of critical institutional capacities in the public and private sectors — threaten to further destabilize countries and reverse decades of human development.

This unprecedented challenge demands unprecedented action and cooperation on the part of national Governments, civil society and the private sector and the international community. The United Nations system needs to re-energize its strategies to provide the best support in response to these new challenges.

The Executive Heads of the United Nations system's organizations comprising the Chief Executives Board pledge their intensified personal and institutional attention to address these crises jointly in an integrated manner, taking account of the interactions among food security, HIV/AIDS and the depleted capacity to govern. Strategies must be developed to address the interlinkages between HIV/AIDS, weakened institutional capacity and food insecurity. This should ensure that the efforts amount to more than the sum of its parts. They further pledge to take the urgent actions required to strengthen concerted United Nations action at the subregional and country level. These include:

- (a) Reallocating internal resources to activities on HIV/AIDS; HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment and family support programmes must be immediately extended to all vulnerable communities and simultaneously address their nutritional needs; the capacities of institutions serving those communities must be reinforced and strengthened;
- (b) Intensifying the engagement of country level staff in the work of the United Nations theme groups on HIV/AIDS;
- (c) Helping to raise investment, both public and private, in agricultural and rural development to strengthen the production capacity of smallholder farmers; novel responses for food security are required, taking into account the constraints posed by the epidemic on agricultural labour and productivity and on institutional capacity;
- (d) Helping to replenish human capacity for effective management of the crisis and assist depleted national institutions in providing an adequate response;
- (e) Enhancing coordinated and mutually reinforcing approaches to address the interlinked aspects of the deadly triad;

* The "deadly triad" is the term used by the Secretary-General at the Group of 8 Contact Group meeting on 5 March 2003.

(f) Reinforcing advocacy and action through government counterparts.

Today we are calling upon donor Governments, non-governmental organizations and private sector leaders within the international community to join national leadership and United Nations system organizations to build an effective and sustainable response to this deadly triad.

The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Humanitarian Needs in Southern Africa will continue to provide leadership and advocacy on this issue. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), as the system-wide coordinator on HIV/AIDS, in close collaboration with United Nations organizations dealing with food security, poverty and institutional capacity-building, will intensify the provision of programmatic and technical guidance to lead a response to the complex challenges being faced in eastern and southern Africa and the Horn. The importance of the newly created Commission on HIV/AIDS and Governance in Africa is acknowledged and the United Nations system as a whole will count on the Commission for critical inputs into the longer-term strategy for adequately addressing these issues.

CEB will review progress in fostering a coordinated approach to meet the deadly triad of HIV/AIDS, food insecurity and institutional capacity in Africa at its meeting in October 2003.
