



Administrative Committee on Coordination

18 October 2001

English only

Report of the High-level Committee on Programmes on its second regular session of 2001

(Geneva, 25 and 26 September 2001)

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I. Introduction

1. The High-level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) held its second regular session of 2001 at the United Nations Office at Geneva on 25 and 26 September 2001 with a video link to United Nations Headquarters in New York and World Bank Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Mr. Carlos Alfredo Magariños, Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), chaired the meeting. The High-level Committee observed one minute of silence in remembrance of the victims of the terrorist attack in the United States of America. The list of participants is attached as an annex to the present report.*

2. In his opening remarks, the Chairman highlighted the key issues to be addressed by the High-level Committee at its current session. First, there was the need for the High-level Committee to consider how it could contribute to enhancing system-wide coordination and coherence while capitalizing on the organizations' diverse strengths in collectively assisting member States in realizing the goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration.¹ Second, the High-level Committee was tasked with outlining recommendations to ACC to help mobilize the system's collective capacities to assist African countries in elaborating the plan of action for implementing the New African Initiative (NAI). Finally, the High-level Committee was expected to complete its review of the ACC subsidiary machinery.

3. The Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Follow-up to the Millennium Summit: road map and inventory exercises of the High-level Committee on Programmes.
2. Africa.
3. Review of the subsidiary machinery of the Administrative Committee on Coordination.
4. Follow-up to the recommendations of the High-level Committee on Programmes:
 - (a) Global public goods;

* Although the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was unable to participate, it wishes to formally associate itself with this report.

- (b) Global campaign against poverty.
5. Other matters:
- (a) Communication dated 27 June 2001 from the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on the establishment of the Habitat Agenda task manager system;
 - (b) Activities of the United Nations system in support of needs of developing countries in the area of trade;
 - (c) World Summit on the Information Society.

II. Follow-up to the Millennium Summit: road map and inventory exercises of the High-level Committee on Programmes

4. In presenting the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Road map towards the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration" (A/56/326), the representative of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General highlighted the importance of the collective commitment made by 147 Heads of State and Government, and 189 Member States in total, for the organizations of the United Nations system. The report contains an integrated and comprehensive overview of the current situation with respect to the seven sets of key goals in the Millennium Declaration and outlines strategies for action focusing on cross-cutting challenges and solutions, drawing on the work of Governments, the entire United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization, intergovernmental organizations, and international and regional organizations as well as civil society. The General Assembly has mandated the preparation of annual reports and, every five years, a comprehensive report on progress made in achieving the Millennium Declaration goals. The Secretary-General has proposed that the annual reports highlight particular themes of special significance for that year: for 2002, preventing armed conflict and the treatment and prevention of diseases, including human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) and malaria; for 2003,

financing for development and strategies for sustainable development; for 2004, bridging the digital divide and curbing transnational crime; and for 2005, a comprehensive progress report. The representative of the Secretary-General drew attention to the annex to the report containing a comprehensive set of indicators for the millennium development goals prepared in close collaboration between the United Nations and its funds and programmes, as well as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the World Bank.

5. The representative of UNIDO briefed the Committee on the pilot report on the inventory exercise (ACC/2001/CRP.7/Add.2). He noted a number of potential uses of the inventory, namely, in helping the High-level Committee to draw up a potential action plan; in providing a basis for identifying gaps, overlaps and areas of inter-agency cooperation; and in serving as a tool for monitoring progress in the implementation of United Nations system actions and initiatives vis-à-vis the Millennium Declaration goals.

6. The High-level Committee expressed its gratitude to UNIDO for acting as the task manager for the inventory exercise which had been mandated by ACC upon the recommendation of the High-level Committee at its first session. The High-level Committee recognized the value of the inventory, once completed, as a tool for establishing a baseline on current activities of the United Nations system as well as for identifying gaps, overlaps and areas for inter-agency cooperation. The High-level Committee invited all interested agencies to complete their submissions to the inventory as fully as possible and send them in, and encouraged them to continue discussion on methodological issues.

7. In its deliberations, the High-level Committee noted the extraordinary opportunity presented by the United Nations Millennium Declaration for the United Nations system to work in concert to achieve a comprehensive set of goals agreed upon by Member States at the highest level. Helping meet the political requirements of Member States for a broad overview of the state of implementation of the Millennium Declaration goals and mobilize inputs from organizations of the system for the preparation of the Secretary-General's annual reports, focusing on the themes selected for each year's report to the General Assembly, should be given highest priority by the High-level Committee.

8. It was suggested that within the themes chosen for the monitoring reports, cross-cutting issues common to all High-level Committee members should be identified, showing interconnections between the various parts of the road map, identifying gaps and preparing action plans for moving forward. While acknowledging the importance of ensuring that the monitoring process led to the identification of specific agency and inter-agency actions that needed to be taken to maximize the contribution of the system to an effective and sustained follow-up of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, members pointed to the difficulties inherent in adjusting programmatic priorities from one year to another.

9. In considering the relationship between the inventory exercise and the contributions of the system to the process of reporting and monitoring the follow-up to the United Nations Millennium Declaration mandated by the General Assembly, the High-level Committee noted that the inventory, while constituting a useful reference tool, was not geared to serving as an instrument for the elaboration of the annual thematic reports. Contributions for the latter should be the subject of dedicated inputs from organizations, to be channelled through and consolidated by the High-level Committee. It was thus important to ensure that the priorities relative to the two exercises were kept in mind, that overlap in relation to the inputs sought from the agencies was avoided and that the overall reporting burden on the system was minimized. Subject to such streamlining, the inventory could be useful to the High-level Committee in the process of consolidating inputs for the monitoring reports to the Assembly, and the two exercises could complement each other in identifying areas for collaborative action and providing greater impetus to inter-agency collaboration.

10. In enhancing collaboration across the system to achieve the United Nations Millennium Declaration goals, the High-level Committee stressed the importance of selectivity and of focusing attention on a targeted number of initiatives. The aim is to have a selective set of issues that the High-level Committee will promote and bring to the attention of ACC. In doing so, the High-level Committee acknowledged the need for a sound and agreed-upon approach to working together as well as for results-based orientation, joint accountability and continuous learning. It was noted that a good process of strengthening collaboration must

be based on an agreed set of actions framed in a business plan-like manner that could facilitate the input of the High-level Committee for strategic ACC discussion.

11. In identifying specific areas where collaborative arrangements might be required, attention should focus on those areas where the High-level Committee could add value to ongoing work in the system. Important initiatives under way relative to the accomplishment of the goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration should find support and reinforcement among organizations of the system. Rather than the establishment of new coordinating mechanisms, there should be utilization of existing arrangements to the fullest extent possible.

12. In considering the role of the High-level Committee in the follow-up to the United Nations Millennium Declaration, members of the High-level Committee stressed the importance of bearing in mind the conclusion of ACC that “the goals of the Millennium Declaration are first and foremost commitments by, and obligations on, Governments. It was essential therefore that follow-up and monitoring processes should take a broad view of required actions at all levels, rather than be restricted to the contribution — crucial but basically supportive — of the international system” (ACC/2001/4, para. 18). The suggestion was made in this context to track the progress of achieving the goals and targets of the Millennium Declaration at the country level.

13. In view of the above, the High-level Committee recommends to ACC that:

- Consideration be given to identifying a limited set of initiatives in the areas highlighted by the priority themes, to elaborate action plans in a businesslike manner, and to aim for concrete results within a five-year time-span, taking into account the principles of joint accountability and continuous learning;
- Special efforts be continued to help countries carry out programme implementation and the monitoring of goals and targets by making full use of existing mechanisms such as the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), the Country Assistance Strategy (CAS) and other appropriate institutional instruments, in order to contribute to capacity-building in each country, to guarantee country

ownership, to embed the millennium development goals in the development strategy based on the country’s Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) where applicable and on the broader development strategy in other low- and middle-income countries, and to build consensus across all parties on the steps required to monitor their accomplishment.

III. Africa

14. At its first regular session of 2001 held in Nairobi, ACC recommended that the United Nations system should unite in support of an African-owned and African-led framework of action based on the rationalization and concordance of existing initiatives. To strengthen system-wide support for the development and implementation of such a unified framework, ACC endorsed a number of concrete steps as recommended by the High-level Committee. These included, inter alia: utmost restraint within the system in launching new initiatives; promotion of bilateral donors’ engagement in the rationalization effort; using the evaluation process of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s² to promote mutually supportive actions by all parties; further reinforcement of system-wide support for capacity-building at the national level; shifting the focus of inter-agency coordination increasingly to the regional level as a key to help advance African leadership and ownership; and promoting the better integration of the African agenda into other agendas, ranging from peace-building and poverty eradication to trade and finance.

15. The Organization of African Unity (OAU) Summit of Heads of State and Government, at its meeting in Lusaka in July 2001, adopted a consolidated new framework for African development called the New African Initiative. Broadly consistent with the thrust and scope of the United Nations Millennium Declaration as well as the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 (A/CONF.191/11) adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (Brussels, 14-20 May 2001), the Initiative, which emphasizes that the primordial responsibility for African development rests with Africans, is anchored in the principles of African ownership, leadership, rule of law and human rights as fundamental factors in

promoting people-centred development. The Initiative focuses on the following key elements:

(a) Peace, democracy, sound political and economic governance and regional cooperation and integration as preconditions for investment, growth and poverty reduction;

(b) Action plans for the development of key sectoral areas including health and education, the containment of HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases; infrastructure, information and communications technology; diversification of production and exports and improved market access; and environment conservation;

(c) A capital flows initiative focusing on debt relief and official development assistance (ODA) as important complements to domestic savings, together with the long-term objective of stimulating private investments;

(d) Concrete steps for developing genuine partnerships between Africa and its bilateral and multilateral development partners as well as civil society and the private sector.

16. In addition to the adoption of the New African Initiative by the OAU Summit, a number of other events resulted in decisions of importance for Africa, and consistent with the objectives of the Initiative. These include the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (Brussels, May 2001); the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS (New York, June 2001); the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2001 of the Economic and Social Council having as its theme “The role of the United Nations in supporting the efforts of African countries to achieve sustainable development” (Geneva, July 2001) which culminated in the adoption by the Council of a ministerial declaration;³ and the G-8 Summit (Genoa, July 2001) which adopted the Genoa Plan for Africa wherein G-8 leaders welcomed the Initiative as the basis for a new intensive partnership between Africa and the developed world. As a result of the Initiative and the aforementioned events, there appears to be a broad consensus on what needs to be done to advance development in Africa, namely:

(a) To improve governance and resolve conflicts with an emphasis on democracy, transparency, good governance, rule of law and human rights;

(b) To take special measures to address poverty eradication, including investment in human development, infrastructure, access to energy, agriculture, export diversification, and improving market competitiveness and access;

(c) To build capacity and strengthen institutions to bolster partnership with Africa’s bilateral and multilateral development partners, civil society, and the private sector on the basis of mutual accountability;

(d) To reduce Africa’s disease burden from HIV/AIDS, malaria and other infectious diseases;

(e) To combat hunger, increase food security and enhance productive capacity;

(f) To mobilize — as a complement to domestic savings — external resources for development, inter alia, through ODA, debt relief, and reduced barriers to private investment flows, as well as transfer, adaptation and uptake of technology;

(g) To provide policy advice and technical cooperation to support regional integration and cooperation in Africa as a means of improving competitiveness and attractiveness to investment;

(h) To advocate for Africa’s integration into world trading and financial systems, and the repatriation of illegally acquired wealth, as well as against illicit sale of arms and purchases of illegally extracted resources.

17. The ministerial declaration adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its 2001 high-level segment on Africa sets out concrete proposals for action in such areas as “Integrating peace and development”, “Development of human capital”, “Environment and development”, “Agriculture and food security”, “Diversification of African economies”, “Mobilization of resources for development” and “Harmonization and coordination of development assistance to Africa”.

18. In discussing the New African Initiative, the High-level Committee welcomed its adoption by OAU and recognized that the Initiative represented the expression of the common will of African countries and that the organizations of the system should be responsive to the requirements of the Initiative. The High-level Committee noted that it was important for all organizations of the system to be invited to undertake a comprehensive review of their Africa-

related programmes and activities and to examine how these could contribute to meeting the priorities and requirements of the Initiative. Such reviews should proceed in parallel with the processes under way of the fine-tuning and elaboration of the Initiative to which organizations of the system should be ready to contribute, on request from the countries concerned. At the same time, an examination of the financing requirements of the Initiative should be encouraged and supported, leading to a consensus that would clearly relate commitments to resource availability.

19. The High-level Committee acknowledged the importance of Africa within the United Nations Millennium Declaration and its objectives. It noted that the upcoming final review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s should lead to insights useful for promoting a mutually reinforcing approach by the United Nations system in support of Africa's priorities as defined in the New African Initiative.

20. In view of the above, the High-level Committee recommends to ACC that:

- All organizations of the system be invited to undertake a review of their Africa-related programmes and activities and to examine how they can respond to the priorities of the New African Initiative in their future activities;
- At the **global level**, a special effort should be made to ensure that Africa's requirements continue to be given priority and focused attention in the international agenda and international economic negotiations. As part of this effort, any plan for the High-level Committee and ACC deliberations on the follow-up to the United Nations Millennium Declaration, including the monitoring reports, should provide for systematic attention to both progress in the implementation of the provisions of the Millennium Declaration concerning Africa, and the implications for Africa of follow-up action in relation to all aspects of the Millennium Declaration;
- At the **regional level**, consideration should also be given to ways of further reinforcing regional coordination mechanisms in line with the ACC conclusion to shift the focus of inter-agency coordination increasingly to the regional level as

a means to help advance Africans' leadership and ownership of their programmes. The specific nature of such mechanisms should be determined by the content of regional programmes. United Nations system organizations were also encouraged to participate in the inter-agency regional consultations being convened by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in order to determine how they would assist in the implementation of the Initiative;

- At the **field level**, inter-agency coordination should be the most meaningful since the bulk of United Nations system support to Africa is delivered there. Progress in strengthening the complementarity among the country programme frameworks currently in use within the system should be accelerated, so as to, inter alia, minimize the reporting and other transactions costs of programme countries. As part of this effort, consultations should be intensified — in the field as well as at the global level with OECD/the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) and other partners — to strengthen “harmonization and coordination of bilateral and multilateral development cooperation activities in support of national policy and programmes”, as recommended in paragraph 20 of the ministerial declaration adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its 2001 high-level segment. Recent proposals building on ongoing initiatives like the PRSPs and aimed at gradually ensuring that all sources of development assistance coalesce around a country's announced development strategy are highly relevant in this regard, and should be pursued in the first instance, in the context of the financing for development process;
- In the light of the launching of the New African Initiative, the General Assembly's final review of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s should focus on bringing out lessons that would assist African countries and their development partners in effectively pursuing the Initiative. The exercise will be a timely occasion, as stated by the Economic and Social Council, for an assessment of the role that the United Nations system and the international community have played in supporting African development, and for agreeing, in that light, on the strategic, financial

and other factors that will ensure the success of the Initiative.

IV. Review of the subsidiary machinery of the Administrative Committee on Coordination

21. The High-level Committee considered a note prepared by the Secretariat on the review of inter-agency bodies in the programme area (ACC/2001/HLCP/CRP.9), together with an inventory of relevant inter-agency bodies and a compilation of proposals received from the former ACC subsidiary bodies for organizing inter-agency coordination in their respective areas (ACC/2001/HLCP/CRP.9/Add.1 and 2 respectively). These proposals were requested following the first meeting of the High-level Committee during which new approaches governing the organization of inter-agency cooperation were agreed upon. These new approaches emphasized flexibility, continuity of interactions, systematic use of task managers, and the increased use of time-bound task forces rather than permanent subsidiary bodies with fixed periodicity of meetings. It was recalled that, according to the mandate from ACC, the review should be carried out using a zero-based approach and on the principle that substance precedes form, in other words, that coordination arrangements should be determined by the substantive requirements of the work programme, and not vice versa. It was also recalled that 2001 had been designated as transitional year for the work of these committees pending the completion of the review by the High-level Committee, which should take into account the provisions of the Economic and Social Council (Council decision 2001/302 of 26 July 2001).

22. The High-level Committee acknowledged the need for continued inter-agency work in all areas covered by existing subsidiary bodies and other inter-agency groups currently operating in the programme area. It agreed that a generalized approach should be adopted whereby those bodies might pursue coordination in their respective areas but not necessarily as standing bodies of the High-level Committee. The relevant inter-agency bodies/networks will arrange for methods of work and participation best suited to the particular requirements of the different programme areas covered by them. While the High-level Committee would not exercise direct oversight

over their work, it would retain the possibility of entrusting them with specific tasks as required as well as of keeping track of their activities to ensure a system-wide overview of coordinating mechanisms. A key factor in the effectiveness of this approach will be a systematic flow of information among the inter-agency bodies/networks and between them and the High-level Committee, along the lines already being followed within the framework of the High-level Committee on Management (HLCM), with the active support of the ACC secretariat.

23. The High-level Committee further agreed that the adoption of this approach should not preclude the identification of a limited number of areas that, because of their immediate and ongoing relevance to the concerns and cross-sectoral mandate of ACC, particularly its requirements for data analysis and policy development support, would best be handled through a continuing subsidiary body of the High-level Committee. The main criterion for the retention of any subsidiary body of ACC/High-level Committee should be not the relative importance of inter-agency coordination in any given area, but the requirements of ACC/High-level Committee itself for continuing support arising from its own mandate and priorities, as well as the overall coordination needs within the United Nations system.

24. To pursue the operational aspects of its terms of reference, the High-level Committee reiterated the need for a working group directly under its aegis that would deal with operational activities and the overall functioning of the resident coordinator system. This working group would assist the High-level Committee in ensuring that the strengthening of the inter-agency coordination that it would pursue at the global level was paralleled by a strengthening of field-level coordination, and that its policy conclusions found adequate reflection at the country level. While subsumed in the terms of reference of the High-level Committee, these tasks require a different set of actors than those participating in the High-level Committee. By including all United Nations system actors, such a body would not duplicate the work of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) and would also satisfy the requirement that authority for the issuance of agreed United Nations system-wide substantive policy guidance for the resident coordinator system must emanate from ACC. It was further noted that an important concern of this body should be to bring the

programmes of those ACC members without field presence to the attention of the resident coordinator system.

25. The view was expressed that a subcommittee on statistics was needed to support the High-level Committee on a continuing basis, particularly in relation to the statistical and indicator requirements in follow-up to the Millennium Summit of the United Nations. It was pointed out in this regard that standards agreed in the statistical area are qualitatively different from arrangements for joint work that might be developed in different programme areas and thus need to carry the authority of ACC.

26. The view was also expressed that, given its relevance to the policy concerns of ACC and the High-level Committees and their cross-sectoral scope, coordination in the areas of advancement of women and communications would also justify retention of the respective coordinating committees (the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality and the Joint United Nations Information Committee) as subsidiary bodies of both the High-level Committee on Programmes and the High-level Committee on Management under the new methods of work proposed by the two bodies.

27. In the case of bodies dealing with issues of sustainable development, namely, the Inter-Agency Meeting on Sustainable Development, the Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas and the Subcommittee on Water Resources, it was suggested that it would be preferable to postpone a decision in view of the forthcoming Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development (September 2002), the outcome of which was likely to be highly relevant to coordination requirements in these areas, and that arrangements currently in place should be continued until that time.

28. Another view was expressed that, in line with guidance provided by ACC, the functions attributed to the above-mentioned bodies could be carried out by ad hoc time-bound mechanisms, created by the High-level Committee, with specifically defined tasks and using a lead agency approach.

29. The High-level Committee concluded that further consultations were required to finalize a decision on these matters and invited the Chairman of the High-level Committee to consult with the High-level Committee on Management and heads of agencies so as

to finalize its recommendations for consideration by ACC.

30. In view of the above, the High-level Committee decided to draw the attention of ACC to its conclusions as follows:

- A generalized approach should be adopted whereby the existing subsidiary bodies might pursue coordination in their respective areas but not necessarily as standing bodies of the High-level Committee;
- A working group on operational activities and the functioning of the resident coordinator system should be established under the aegis of ACC/High-level Committee;
- Further consultations were required to finalize a decision on the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality, the Joint United Nations Information Committee and the Subcommittee on Statistical Activities and on the continuation, until the Johannesburg Summit, of the existing coordination arrangements in the area of sustainable development, and the Chairman of the High-level Committee should pursue such consultations with the High-level Committee on Management and heads of agencies to finalize recommendations for consideration by ACC at its first regular session of 2002;
- In the light of its intention to address, at its next session, the first four proposed priority themes of the road map, namely, preventing armed conflict, the treatment and prevention of diseases, including HIV/AIDS and malaria, financing for development, and strategies for sustainable development, the High-level Committee will consider appropriate time-bound arrangements to provide inputs to its first regular session of 2002. The High-level Committee will revert to its consideration of the most appropriate inter-agency coordination arrangements in the light of the discussion of ACC on the follow-up to the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

V. Follow-up to the recommendations of the High-level Committee on Programmes

A. Global public goods

31. The Committee considered the issue of global public goods in relation to the global agenda and took note of the number of salient global issues identified for priority action by the United Nations Millennium Declaration as well as those identified by the High-level Panel on Financing for Development in its report (A/55/1000) and the suggestions provided by the High-level Committee members (ACC/2001/HLCP/CRP.10/Rev., Part I). In line with the earlier decision of the High-level Committee (Vienna, February 2001) to concentrate on issues related to the poverty agenda, the suggestion was made that it might be useful to address the issue of market access to drugs for poor people and agricultural research for poor farmers.

32. In order to arrive at a conceptual understanding of issues and terminology, the High-level Committee decided to conduct a preliminary electronic exchange of experience and reflection on the issue of global public goods from the viewpoints, and in the context of the mandates, of agencies. It also decided to invite the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank to convene and provide substantive support for the process.

B. Global campaign against poverty

33. As part of a global campaign against poverty, the Committee, at its first regular session of 2001, had recommended a number of mutually reinforcing actions in the areas of policy analysis, monitoring and data collection as well as country-level cooperation in support of a major advocacy effort in relation to the provisions of the United Nations Millennium Declaration on poverty eradication.

34. It had stressed that the poverty paradigm would need to be broadened beyond the numerical target of reducing the number of people living below the level of \$1 per day, to encompass social, educational, nutritional health, cultural and empowerment dimensions. Consequently, a range of mutually supportive interventions addressing these various dimensions were required to attack poverty, and the

programmes of the United Nations system had to become at the same time both more comprehensive and better focused.

35. The High-level Committee had also recommended that, as an integral part of the global campaign, each organization should prepare an analysis of the contribution of its programmes to the United Nations Millennium Declaration's goal of reducing extreme poverty. Such analyses should distinguish between programmes and activities directly targeted at the poor; and broader programmes that contributed to empowering the poor. These analyses would enable each organization to internalize the poverty eradication goals embodied in the Millennium Declaration. At the same time, they would also serve to identify gaps and promote mutual reinforcement among activities, both within and among organizations, which would add credibility to the system-wide advocacy efforts in support of the millennium poverty eradication goals.

36. The High-level Committee stressed that the campaign should have a global, a regional and a national dimension. At the global level, the campaign could be subsumed under the follow-up to the United Nations Millennium Declaration and supported by ACC, the High-level Committee and system-wide information capacities. The regional commissions, on the one hand, and PRSPs/UNDAFs, the resident coordinator system and United Nations information centres, on the other hand, should be key elements in the regional and national efforts, respectively.

37. As a further integral part of the campaign, the High-level Committee recommended that the statistical capacities of the system should be mobilized for improving poverty-related data as well as indicators and means of measuring poverty, so as to provide a common basis for analysing poverty and for developing targeted interventions.

38. In relation to the overall advocacy effort, which would have to be focused in the first instance at the country level, the Committee suggested that this should be carefully coordinated with the ongoing process on poverty eradication led by countries on poverty eradication so as to diminish any duplication, lack of country ownership and weak coordination among donors. UNDP in coordination with other stakeholders and the Bretton Woods institutions was invited to provide a first draft of a "common advocacy campaign" with clearly identified targets.

VI. Other matters

A. Habitat Agenda task manager system

39. The High-level Committee considered a proposal from the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the launching of the Habitat Agenda task manager system (ACC/2001/HLCP/CRP.11/Rev.) which had emerged from the preparatory process for the twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda,⁴ held in June 2001, and was subsequently endorsed by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2001 (see Council resolution 2001/22 of 26 July 2001, para. 3).

40. The Committee decided that the Centre should be encouraged to pursue the above proposal in the context of the existing task manager system and other coordination arrangements that already existed, in particular the Environmental Management Group as well as the Inter-Agency Meeting on Sustainable Development.

B. Trade facilitation

41. The Committee discussed the UNIDO proposal for developing a comprehensive and well-coordinated package of assistance available within the United Nations system to help developing countries reduce the cost of their international trade transactions and to improve their market access.

42. Some members highlighted the timeliness and relevance of the discussion on the issue, particularly in the wake of the implications of increased security considerations on the transaction costs of both trade and investment, following the recent terrorist events. It was suggested that ACC should make a concerted effort to assist developing countries in this regard. In this connection, UNIDO informed the High-level Committee of its intention to pursue bilateral consultations with organizations of the United Nations system and the World Trade Organization to solicit their views on the scope/areas of their potential collaboration on a UNIDO project in this area. The High-level Committee requested the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), in collaboration with interested agencies, to convene a meeting in 2002 with a view to identifying issues that

the system could effectively address in a coordinated manner.

C. World Summit on the Information Society

43. The representative of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) briefed the High-level Committee on the preparatory process and supporting institutional arrangements for the World Summit on the Information Society to be convened in two phases, the first in Geneva in December 2003 and the second in Tunis in 2005. The High-level Committee expressed its appreciation for the briefing and called on all member organizations to contribute to making the Summit a success.

D. Additional matters

44. The Chairman proposed the following preliminary list of items for consideration by the Committee at its first regular session of 2002:

- United Nations system-wide endeavours to combat terrorism;
- Inter-agency support for the two priority themes of the 2002 progress report on the road map (to be determined by the General Assembly — current proposal: Preventing armed conflict and the treatment and prevention of diseases, including HIV/AIDS and malaria);
- Inter-agency support for the two priority themes of the 2003 progress report on the road map (to be determined by the General Assembly — current proposal: Financing for development and strategies for sustainable development);
- Inter-agency support for South-South cooperation;
- Update on the New African Initiative.

45. It was agreed that the list would be finalized in consultation with members. This should result in the identification of task managers for individual items who would be responsible for the preparation of substantive background papers within an agreed time frame.

46. The High-level Committee agreed to hold its first regular session of 2002 in New York/Washington, D.C. in February prior to the first regular session of 2002 of ACC. The exact dates are to be determined through further consultations.

Notes

¹ See General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000.

² General Assembly resolution 46/151, annex, sect. II.

³ See A/56/3 and Add.1 and 2, chap. III, para. 29.

⁴ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

Annex

List of participants

Chairman: C. A. **Magariños** (United Nations Industrial Development Organization)

Vice-Chairman: M. **Karlsson*** (World Bank)

Secretary: E. **Hein** (ACC secretariat)

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World Food Programme	T. Yanga
United Nations International Drug Control Programme	S. Noyan
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Specialized agencies and other bodies

International Labour Organization	M. A. Ducci C. Perrin
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	T. Masuku W. Mann
World Health Organization	D. Aitken

World Bank	E. Doryan* A. Sfeir-Younis C. Fleming* N. Kekeh*
International Monetary Fund	R. Munzberg* A. Palmason*
Universal Postal Union	G. Kalicki
International Telecommunication Union	R. Blois A. Levin
World Meteorological Organization	M. Jarraud Dr. D. D. C. Don Nanjira S. Chacowry
International Maritime Organization	G. Barnard
World Intellectual Property Organization	O. Fasehun K. Shenkoru
International Fund for Agricultural Development	U. Abhyankar
United Nations Industrial Development Organization	Sir Ronald Grierson O. Maizza-Neto I. Freudenschuss-Reichl D. Hribernigg L. L. Dahl Holguin Flores
International Atomic Energy Agency	W. Burkart
World Trade Organization	A. Frank H. Lim Y. Soobramansen
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization	B. Wrabetz
ACC secretariat*	

* Attendance through video link.