

Information Note 4

What is the relationship between the General Assembly and inter-agency bodies such as the CEB, UNDG/CEB and UNEG [question tabled by the representative of the United States]?

[Below information has been provided by the CEB Secretariat]

United Nations System Chief Executive Board for Coordination

Key Facts

The UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) is a standing committee of 29 Executive Heads of UN funds, programmes and specialized agencies, including the Bretton Woods Institutions, the WTO and the IAEA. The CEB is chaired by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as *primus inter pares*, and meets twice yearly.

CEB advances coordination and coherence on a broad range of issues in the programmatic, operational, and management areas of work of the organizations of the United Nations. It is not a policy-making body; on the contrary, it serves to maximize efficiencies among UN system organizations in implementing mandates of Member States. This coordination mechanism was established by the Secretary-General following ECOSOC (resolution 13 (III) of 1946) *“for the purpose of taking all appropriate steps..., to ensure the fullest and most effective implementation of the agreements entered into between the United Nations and the specialized agencies.”* The underlying premise in the creation of the CEB (then known as ACC) was that an institutional mechanism was needed to draw the disparate parts of a decentralized system of specialized bodies - each with its own constitution, mandate, governing bodies and budgets - into a cohesive and functioning whole. CEB/ACC would support and reinforce the coordinating role of the UN intergovernmental bodies by serving as the main instrument for cooperation and coordination at the inter-agency level.

CEB is supported by three High Level Committees in discharging its role of coordination and coherence, namely: HLCP (programmatic), HLCM (management) and UNDG (development operations).

The Secretary-General of the United Nations is supported in his duties as Chair of CEB by the CEB Secretariat which is located in New York and Geneva and assists in the work of HLCP and HLCM. UNDG is supported by the DOCO Secretariat.

High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP)

HLCP is the principle mechanism for system-wide coordination and policy coherence in the programme area in the UN system. It is responsible to CEB for fostering coherence, cooperation and coordination on the programme dimensions of strategic issues facing the UN System.

HLCP serves two main functions:

- 1) System-wide follow-up of intergovernmental decisions and major UN conferences and summits in order to maximize their impact in conjunction with the strategic approaches and objectives adopted by the CEB.
- 2) Scanning and identification of emerging programme issues requiring a system-wide response in order to elaborate common strategies, policies and tools, serve as a forum for inter-agency dialogue and prepare for CEB sessions on issues of global significance.

HLCP is chaired on a rotational basis by one of the Executive Heads of CEB. The current Chair of HLCP is Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the Vice-Chair is Mr. Elliot Harris of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). HLCP is composed of senior representatives of [CEB member organizations](#) designated for this purpose by their Executive Heads.

Current main areas of activity – Follow-up to Rio+20 conference, sustainable development and sustainable globalization in the context of post-2015 global development agenda, joint climate change action (through HLCP Working Group on Climate Change), disaster risk reduction (development of a Toolkit), addressing the population and migration challenge, employment and decent work in the context of the Global Jobs Pact, coordinated support to MDG implementation (Integrated Implementation Framework) .

High-level Committee on Management

HLCM is responsible for ensuring coordination in administrative and management areas across the UN System.

HLCM is charged with identifying and analyzing administrative management issues of common concern, which require a system-wide response and is authorized to take decisions on behalf of the Executive Heads and to identify, promote and coordinate management reforms that will improve services, achieve productivity improvements and increase efficiency and effectiveness across the United Nations System.

HLCM is chaired on a rotational basis by one of the Executive Heads of CEB. The current Chair is Mr. Francis Gurry, Director- General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). The Vice Chair is Ms. Jan Beagle, Deputy Executive Director of UNAIDS.

HLCM is composed of the most senior administrative managers of the UN System organizations. It meets face-to-face twice a year and undertakes ad-hoc consultations and coordination initiatives on a continuing basis.

In its work, HLCM is supported by five technical networks in the areas of finance and budget, human resources, information and communication technology, procurement and legal matters. The Networks bring together the most senior staff in the respective functional areas to inform and guide the HLCM decision-making processes, in a reporting and/or advisory capacity, as appropriate. HLCM is also responsible for maintaining a dialogue with the Federations of Staff Associations on concerns of a system-wide nature.

Current main areas of activity - Staff Safety and Security; Harmonization of Business Practices; but also Human Resources Initiatives (Comparative analysis and review of the staff regulations and rules of the organizations of the UN system with particular attention to employment arrangements of staff in non Headquarters duty stations); Financial Management Initiatives (Feasibility study for putting in place Common Treasury Services, UN system-wide financial statistics database and reporting system); ICT and Knowledge Sharing Initiatives (Common Standards Costing Approaches for ICT Services and Investments); Procurement and Supply-chain Initiatives (Vendor Eligibility Project).

UN Development Group (UNDG)

UNDG unites the 33 UN funds, programmes, agencies, departments, and offices that play a role in development.

The group's common objective is to deliver more coherent, effective and efficient support to countries seeking to attain internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

The Administrator of the UN Development Programme (UNDP) chairs the UNDG. The UNDG Chair reports to the Secretary-General and the CEB on progress in implementing the group's work plan, and on the management of the Resident Coordinator system.

The UNDG supports the Resident Coordinator (RC) system and UN country teams by providing guidance on business operations, coordination, planning and programming, and by promoting coherent and effective oversight of country operations. The group establishes interagency agreements on the operational aspects of topics such as mainstreaming gender, HIV/AIDS and the human rights-based approach. In cooperation with UN Regional Directors Teams, the UNDG also helps country team members develop and apply new and better ways of working together. This work includes special support for the eight "Delivering as One" pilot countries that are experimenting with ways to increase the coherence, effectiveness and efficiency of UN operations at the country level. The UNDG meets regularly in full and through working groups. It has also established an Advisory Group of 13 UNDG members, some of whom participate on a rotational basis. The Advisory Group provides the UNDG Chair with advice and guidance on managing the operational dimensions of the UNDG and the Resident Coordinator system. The work of UNDG is supported by the Development Operations Coordination Office (DOCO).