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14 April 2008

### **System-wide Coherence**

Excellency,

As foreseen in our preliminary programme of work and in response to priorities expressed by a large number of member States, we are arranging for an open consultation on the over-arching issue of Governance to take place on this coming Thursday, 17 April 2008.

In this connection, delegations will be familiar with the report of our predecessors as Co-Chairs, the distinguished Permanent Representatives of Barbados and Luxembourg. The relevant extract is attached for ease of reference.

In addition, as indicated in our joint statement of 7 April – and in light of requests made by a number of delegations for additional clarification – we are arranging for member States to receive, also on Thursday 17 April, a briefing on the evolution of the UN Resident Coordinator system and on the role and authority of an empowered Resident Coordinator at the head of an empowered UN Country Team in those countries which are applying a ‘Delivering as One’ approach. This has an evident bearing on the institutional firewall between UNDP’s management of its programmatic role and of the Resident Coordinator system. Codes of Conduct are relevant here too.

This briefing will be provided by representatives from within the UN Development System. Those present from Funds, Programmes and Agencies would also have an opportunity to comment. Delegations will be in a position to engage in a Q&A.



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Accordingly, your Co-Chairs would intend to organise the open consultations on this coming Thursday, 17 April 2008, as follows:

- 10.00 Briefing on the Resident Coordinator System, Q&A;  
and
- 15.00 Open Consultations on Governance.

As ever, we will be eager to hear the views of member States on these important issues.

Yours sincerely,

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Ambassador Augustine Mahiga  
Permanent Representative of the United  
Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations

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Ambassador Paul Kavanagh  
Permanent Representative of  
Ireland to the United Nations

## Report of the Co-Chairs to the President of the 61<sup>st</sup> Session of the General Assembly on the Consultations on System-wide Coherence

Ambassador Christopher F. Hackett, Permanent Representative of Barbados and Ambassador Jean-Marc Hoscheit, Permanent Representative of Luxembourg

### Extract on Governance and Institutional Reform :

As a corollary of a greater emphasis on the UN “delivering as one” at the country level, the issues of governance and decision-making at Headquarters level necessarily assume relevance in the debate on system-wide coherence.

The major concerns raised by Member States over the recommendations contained in the governance component were the possible erosion of national ownership of the UN inter-governmental processes, duplication of existing mandates and functions and the absence of adequate information in support of many of the recommendations.

While it was recognized that institutional reform would be necessary to support reform at the country level some Member States expressed the view that institutional reform should be undertaken within existing frameworks such as the TCP. It was also recognized that some of the recommendations made by the HLP could be implemented by the Secretariat themselves and did not require inter-governmental approval.

Given the high importance of the proposed recommendations and their potential implications, we believe that the Secretariat should be mandated to provide Member States with additional information in the form of a concept paper, on:

- the Sustainable Development Board, particularly in the context of a strengthened ECOSOC and the Executive Boards mainstreaming sustainable development into ECOSOC;
- the establishment of a Global Leaders Forum of ECOSOC, particularly in light of the recently established Development Cooperation Forum
- the Setting up of a Development Policy and Operations Group, chaired by the UNDP Administrator;
- the reconfiguration and co-location of UN regional offices;
- stronger links with Bretton Woods institutions, including greater clarity on respective roles at global and country level;
- an annual meeting (with Bretton Wood participation) to be chaired by the Secretary-General to review the international development structure

This paper should also provide an update on progress being made with respect to those recommendations and reforms being implemented by the Secretariat and possibly analyze to what extent change should take place at headquarters levels in order to respond in an effective and efficient way to the reforms being implemented at country level.