

Sixty-fourth session

Agenda item 114

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

System-wide coherence

The General Assembly,

Recalling resolution 62/208 of 19 December 2007 on the triennial comprehensive policy review (TCPR) of operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

Recalling resolution 62/277 of 15 September 2008, setting out five areas for consideration by member states with a view to enhancing UN System-Wide Coherence,

Recalling resolution 63/311 of 14 September 2009,

Recalling the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly, and relevant resolutions of General Assembly on gender equality and the empowerment of women,

Emphasising the key importance of national ownership and the imperative that the United Nations support must respond to national priorities of Member States, and the agreed Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) principles including the “no one size fits all” in approaches to development,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General A/64/588, and A/64/589, entitled “Comprehensive proposal for the composite entity for gender equality and the empowerment of women”, and “Follow up to the General Assembly resolution 63/311 on system-wide coherence related to operational activities for development” respectively,

Strengthening governance of operational activities for development of the United Nations system for enhanced system-wide coherence

1. *Requests* the Secretary General to make available a compilation of all relevant legislation on the roles and responsibilities of the General Assembly, ECOSOC, Executive Boards of Funds and Programmes and governing bodies of specialized agencies in the governance of the UN operational activities for development;
2. *Requests* the Secretary General to review the functional coherence of calendars, including for agenda setting and programmes of work, of the governing bodies of UN operational activities for development;
3. *Requests* the President of ECOSOC to convene periodic meetings of Presidents of bureaus to discuss coherence in agenda-setting, calendars and work-planning, as well as progress in the implementation of system-wide policies with a view to improving coherence and coordination in the work of the General Assembly, ECOSOC and Executive Boards of Funds and

Programmes on UN operational activities for development, and that the reports of such coordination meetings be circulated to Member States;

4. *Reaffirms* the need of enhancing the transparency of the activities of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, and *requests* that its regular briefings to the General Assembly and its regular reports and interaction with the Economic and Social Council and relevant intergovernmental bodies, which should include its three pillars, are undertaken in a timeframe that allows such opportunities to be fully utilized by Member States to undertake effective exchanges with the CEB concerning its activities, including the planning and implementation of System wide policies, including through specific sessions following the CEB 's Strategic Meetings;
5. *Invites* Member States to consider appropriate ways to enhance their coordination for and coherence in their respective dealings with the UN development system at all levels;
6. *Requests* the Secretary General, in consultation with the secretariats of governing bodies and in cooperation with UNITAR, as appropriate, to provide orientation and training to delegates of Permanent Missions of Member States on the governance of UN operational activities for development;
7. *Requests* ECOSOC and the Executive Boards of Funds and Programmes and governing bodies of specialized agencies, to consider ways to facilitate the effective participation of national policy-makers based in capitals of Member States in relevant meetings of ECOSOC, Executive Boards of Funds and Programmes and governing bodies of specialized agencies, which could include the establishment of new Trust Funds, the use of existing mechanisms or of core budgets, as appropriate, taking into account the financial situation and arrangements of each Organization, and bearing in mind the need to maximize resources for development programmes;
8. *Requests* the governing bodies of the Funds and Programmes to undertake a comprehensive review of their working methods, in order to improve the preparations for and discussions during meetings of the Executive Boards, fully taking into account the relevant views expressed by Member States (footnote referring to the discussion held in the context of WG1 & WG2), and in this regard, to include their findings and adopted measures in their regular reports to the Economic and Social Council;
9. *Takes note of* the progress in the creation of a central repository of information on operational activities for development and *requests* that an update on the advances in the establishment of this mechanism is presented at the ECOSOC substantive session of 2011;
10. *Encourages* governing bodies of Funds, Programmes and Agencies of the UN system, in coordination with ECOSOC, to include in their strategic plans specific provisions for the full implementation of policy guidance provided in the quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR) of the General Assembly, and to reflect in their annual work plans, relevant elements of the management process on the implementation of the QCPR;
11. *Requests* the Secretary General, under the auspices of ECOSOC and in cooperation with UN Resident Coordinators, to prepare and put in place a periodic survey directed to Governments, relevant partners and stakeholders at

programme countries, on the effectiveness, efficiency and relevance of the support of the UN system, in order to identify the strengths and main challenges encountered in their interactions with the UN development system, with a view to enabling intergovernmental bodies to address those, and *also requests* that the results of such surveys are published and made available to Member States;

Proposal for an Independent System-Wide Evaluation Mechanism *to be developed after the 6 May 2010 session*

Approval of common country programmes

12. *Welcomes* the progress made by “programme country pilot” countries in their own country-led evaluations, with the participation of relevant stakeholders and with the technical support of the United Nations Evaluation Group, to be completed by 1 July 2010;
13. *Takes note* of the ongoing use by countries, on voluntary basis, of common country programme documents, in order to have an overview of the alignment of United Nations strategic support to national priorities and to reduce their transaction costs in dealing with the United Nations system;
14. *Recognises* the current practice where Government and the Resident Coordinator/United Nations Country Team establish a local consultative mechanism to develop and approve a United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), where this is appropriate;
15. *Invites* those countries presenting a Common Country Programme (CCP) document on a voluntary basis to build it on the UNDAF, where it exists, and present in the CCP the critical actions that will be taken to achieve the agreed results with available or indicative resources, as well as actions to ensure coherence at the country level, attaching as an annex a brief description of each agency’s contribution in an agency-specific results matrix;
16. *Invites* the governing body of each agency to consider and approve its role and the resources it will require for the implementation of the CCP, on the basis of the agency-specific annex;
17. *Notes* that the approval of each agency’s contribution will be based on an assessment of whether the elements in the agency-specific annex reflect the priorities of its strategic plan and overall mandate;
18. *Recognises* that an informal discussion of CCP documents, submitted on a voluntary basis, to the joint meeting of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP could provide a useful context for the individual agency Executive Board approvals;

Delivering as One

19. *Takes note* of the information provided by the Secretary-General about the modalities for an independent evaluation of lessons learned from “programme

country pilot” countries, including their efforts to enhance coherence and effectiveness through common country programmes, common premises and services, common budget frameworks, and enhanced team leadership, and looks forward to regular briefings on the process;

Improving the funding system of operational activities for development of the United Nations system for enhanced system-wide coherence

General principles

20. *Reaffirms* that the fundamental characteristics of the funding for operational activities for development of the United Nations system should be, inter alia, their universal, voluntary and grant nature, their neutrality and their multilateralism. Country-level funding for operational activities should be made at the request of programme countries and in line with their own policies and priorities for development;
21. *Stresses* the importance of accountability, transparency and a results-based approach to the efforts to increase the quality and quantity of funding for operational activities and to make it more predictable, effective and efficient;
22. *Recognizes* that core resources, because of their untied nature, should continue to be the bedrock of the operational activities for the United Nations development system and notes with concern the imbalance between core and non-core resources;
23. *Stresses* that funding for operational activities should be aligned with the strategic plans, resource frameworks and priorities of United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies;

Ensuring adequate funding

24. *Acknowledges* the expanding number of countries making financial contributions to the operational activities of the United Nations development system, as well as the diversification of funding sources and mechanisms within the system;
25. *Notes with concern* the reliance on a small number of traditional donor countries for a high share of core contributions to United Nations operational activities and *emphasizes* the importance of taking measures to broaden the donor base and increase the number of donor countries and other partners making financial contributions to the United Nations development system;
26. *Recognizes* the potential positive impact of further exploring the concept of ‘critical mass’ of core funding for United Nations development agencies;
27. In this regard, *invites* the Executive Boards of the Funds and Programmes to initiate further discussion with a view to exploring the most appropriate definition of, and a process towards arriving at, a ‘critical mass’ of core

funding to each Fund and Programme, according to their individual mandates, and determining its ideal quantity. The definition of ‘critical mass’ could include, inter alia, the level of resources large enough to produce the results expected in Strategic Plans including administrative and management costs needed to run the organization and respond to programme countries’ needs;

28. *Urges* Member States to ensure that discussions on core resources, including those taking place in the governing bodies of UN development agencies, are taken into account in decision-making processes in their capitals;
29. *Acknowledges* that exchange rates can be a significant source of unpredictability of funding flows;

Improving the quality of funding

30. *Urges* Member States to make financial contributions to the United Nations development system in the form of multi-year commitments, whenever possible, in order to improve the predictability of resources;
31. *Encourages* all Member States making non-core contributions to operational activities, as well as United Nations Funds, Programmes and specialized agencies, to ensure that these resources are fully aligned with strategic plans and mandates and are in accordance with programme countries’ priorities in the UNDAF. In this regard, *emphasizes* the importance of reducing transaction costs and streamlining reporting requirements where possible, and transferring any resulting savings to programmatic activities in the same country;
32. *Invites* the Executive Boards of Funds and Programmes to take measures to improve their governance and oversight of programme and project specific non-core funding;
33. *Requests* the Secretary-General to present a report on all existing Multi-Donor Trust Funds and Thematic Trust Funds, containing information on their mandates and governing structures, with a view to further improving the participation of Member States in their governance;
34. *Requests* those United Nations agencies administering Multi-Donor Trust Funds to report on the administration of those funds to their respective governing bodies;
35. *Acknowledges* that there are ongoing efforts being undertaken by the United Nations Development Group with a view to avoiding subsidization of non-core resources by core resources and, in that regard, *invites* the Executive Boards to consider the adoption of cost recovery policies that ensure a balanced sharing of support budgets by all sources of funding;

Improving information to monitor funding trends

36. *Takes note* of the improved reporting on funding for operational activities of the UN development system and *requests* that further improvements be made to more accurately reflect the diversity in non-core funding streams including Thematic and Multi-Donor Trust Funds;

37. In this regard, *further requests* that future reporting on funding to the United Nations development system more clearly distinguish between funding for development and humanitarian activities, and better differentiate self-supporting from other non-core funding flows;
38. *Requests* the Secretary-General to develop indicators to measure the predictability of resources to the United Nations development system and to include reporting against these indicators in the annual report to ECOSOC on the results achieved, measures and processes implemented in follow-up to General Assembly resolution 62/208, to be considered by Member States in the context of the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

Harmonisation of Business Practises

To be added after session of 27 April 2010

Strengthening the institutional arrangements for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women

39. *Decides* to establish a composite entity, to be known as _____ [*for the purpose of this draft, the entity will be referred to hereinafter as the "Entity"*], by consolidating the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI), the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW);
40. *Decides* to abolish and liquidate UNIFEM;
41. *Requests* the ECOSOC to abolish INSTRAW;
42. *Decides* to transfer the existing mandates, functions and assets of OSAGI, DAW, UNIFEM and INSTRAW to the Entity;

General Principles

43. *Decides* that:
 - (a) the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome of the 23rd special session of General Assembly and relevant resolutions of the General Assembly will provide a framework for the work of the Entity;
 - (b) the Entity will provide guidance to all Member States, across all levels of development, and in all regions, at their request concerning gender equality and the empowerment of women, similar to other UN entities that combine normative and operational mandates;
 - (c) the Entity will operate on the basis of principles agreed to through the process of the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR), including responding to the needs of and priorities determined by Member States, and on their request;
44. *Emphasizes* that the establishment of the Entity and the conduct of its work should lead to enhanced coordination, coherence, accountability and capacity of the United Nations system to respond to the needs of Member States, and

thus, greater efficiency and effectiveness of the UN's efforts with respect to both gender equality and women's empowerment;

Governance

45. *Decides* that the General Assembly and the ECOSOC, together with the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and an Executive Board, will constitute the multi-tiered intergovernmental governance structure for the Entity in order to reflect the combination of normative support functions and operational activities to be performed by the Entity;
46. *Decides* that the General Assembly will establish the mandate and primary functions of the Entity; that the ECOSOC will provide continuing guidance on the mandate and primary functions of the Entity; and that any new mandates will be subject to approval by intergovernmental process;
47. *Decides* that, in addition to the General Assembly and the ECOSOC, the CSW will provide normative framework and policy guidance to the Entity;
48. *Decides* to establish an Executive Board to govern and oversee the operational activities of the Entity; and further decides that the Board will be established as: option 1: an autonomous segment of the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board, [NOTE: taking into account that UNIFEM, which will be consolidated into the Entity, is currently subject to the UNDP Executive Board]; option 2: a new Executive Board, independent of the existing Executive Boards;
49. *Decides* that the Executive Board will perform functions in line with other Executive Boards carrying out similar functions, as set out in paragraph 22 of Annex I to General Assembly resolution 48/162;
50. *Decides* that the Board will report to the ECOSOC, which in turn will report to the General Assembly, in accordance with the established practice of other Executive Boards carrying out similar functions;
51. *Requests* the ECOSOC to establish formal linkages between the CSW and the Executive Board, which both report to the ECOSOC, to ensure close coordination and regular exchange of information between them with a view to enhancing coherence, including through a joint session between CSW and Executive Board;
52. *Requests* the USG/Head of the Entity, in order to ensure accountability, to submit an annual report on the work of the Entity, to both the CSW and the Executive Board;
53. *Decides* that, when the relevant items are before the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly, the USG/Head would interact with them to contribute to the dialogue or deliberations;

Leadership, structure and functions

54. *Decides* that the Entity shall have its own staff and shall be headed by an Under-Secretary-General. The USG shall be appointed by the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, on the basis of equitable geographical representation and gender balance, consistent with the relevant provisions of Article 101 of the UN Charter, and to be funded by the regular budget resources in accordance with paragraph 62 below. The USG/Head will report to the Secretary-General; and will be a full member of the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), the Policy Committee, the Senior Management Group and other relevant internal UN decision making mechanisms;
55. *Decides* that the USG/Head will administer the staff of the Entity in accordance with the United Nations Staff Regulations and Rules, and requests the Secretary-General to delegate broad authority to the USG/Head in the administrative matters of the entity including personnel matters, and the application and implementation of the UN Staff Regulations and Rules;
56. *Decides* that the Entity will combine the functions traditionally performed by the Secretariat of providing policy and normative support to inter-governmental process, with the functions traditionally performed by UN Funds and Programmes of carrying out country-level operational and technical support responsibilities;
57. *Decides* that the functions of the Entity will consist of the existing functions of OSAGI, DAW, UNIFEM and INSTRAW, as outlined in Annex 1 in present resolution,
58. *Decides* that the Entity will have an additional role of leading, coordinating, and facilitating the accountability of the UN system in its work on gender equality and women's empowerment;
59. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a detailed organizational chart of the Entity:
 - (a) based on the agreed mandates and functions set forth in this resolution,
 - (b) taking into account that the number of staff in each functional area and each level shall be the minimum required to perform the agreed functions as determined by a functional analysis, and
 - (c) indicating that Headquarters and regional offices of the Entity will include capacity to provide technical guidance to all Member States, upon their request;
60. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit the organizational chart through the ACABQ to the Fifth Committee for approval of elements to be funded by the regular budget resources, and to the Executive Board for elements to be funded by voluntary funding;

Financial architecture

61. *Decides* that normative support functions of the Entity will be funded by the regular budget, and support to operational activities of the Entity will be funded by voluntary funding;
62. *Decides* that the financial resources from the regular budget will require the review of the ACABQ and the approval of the Fifth Committee and once approved by the General Assembly, will be assigned as a grant to the Entity to be used for the posts and purposes approved by the Fifth Committee and administered and disbursed in accordance with the Entity's Financial Regulations and Rules;
63. *Decides* that the use of financial resources from voluntary funding will require the approval of the Executive Board;
64. *Stresses* the need to ensure sufficient funding for the Entity, and *urges* Member States to provide multi-year, predictable, stable and sustainable voluntary contributions to the Entity, with as much 'core' as possible, and *decides* that reporting on funding should be transparent, and easily accessible to Member States;
65. *Decides* that the Entity shall have Financial Regulations and Rules consistent with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the Funds and Programmes; the USG/Head shall propose the Entity's Financial Regulations for adoption by the Executive Board and shall promulgate the Financial Rules ;
66. *Decides* that the Entity should, to the extent possible, use the existing capacities in the United Nations, in order to keep overhead costs to a minimum, including central services, such as treasury, audit and procurement;
67. *Decides* that any expansion of the capacity of the Entity should be gradual, taking into account requests by Member States for assistance; other relevant capacity available in the UN Country Teams; availability of funds; and approval for the use of such funds by the General Assembly for regular budget resources, and by the Executive Board of the Entity for voluntary funding;

The way forward

68. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly on the implementation of part.... *Strengthening the institutional arrangements for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women* of this resolution at its 67th session;
69. *Decides* to review the implementation of part.... *Strengthening the institutional arrangements for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women* of the present resolution in three years, at its 67th session.

*** additional text to be added on the way forward**

Annex

Functions of the ‘composite’ entity for gender equality and empowerment of women

The Entity will have the following functions:

(1) Provide substantive support to United Nations intergovernmental bodies, (including the Commission on the Status of Women, the Economic and Social Council, and the General Assembly), in which commitments, norms and policy recommendations on gender equality and gender mainstreaming are discussed and agreed upon;

(2) Support national efforts to promote and enhance gender equality and women’s empowerment through innovative and catalytic country-driven programming, working with the entire United Nations country team, including on gender mainstreaming, capacity development and the provision of targeted technical cooperation, in line with national priorities;

(3) Undertake global, regional and national advocacy efforts on issues critical to gender equality and women’s empowerment to ensure that under-recognized and under-resourced issues receive national, regional and global attention;

(4) Support Member States, at their request, in their effort to implement and monitor the gender equality and the empowerment of women aspects of relevant resolutions, processes and outcomes, including the 12 critical areas of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;

(5) Undertake new, and consolidate existing, research and analytical work to support overall objectives, and act as a hub/centre of knowledge and experience on gender equality and women’s empowerment from all parts of the United Nations system;

(6) Strengthen the accountability of the United Nations system, including through oversight, monitoring and reporting on system-wide performance on gender equality;

(7) Monitor and report on system-wide compliance with intergovernmental mandates on gender balance, including at the senior and decision-making levels; and

(8) Lead and coordinate United Nations system strategies, policies and actions on gender equality and women’s empowerment to promote effective system-wide gender mainstreaming, drawing fully on the comparative advantage of United Nations actors¹.

¹ Pursuant to operational paragraph 58 of present resolution