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**Introductory remarks on the Annual Overview Report of the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination  
for 2009/2010**

**Mr. Thomas Stelzer  
Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination  
and Inter-Agency Affairs, UN-DESA**

**7 July 2010**

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates,

I am honoured to introduce the Annual Overview Report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) for 2009 / 2010 (E/2010/09). I last met with the Economic and Social Council on 29 April to present the conclusions of the Board's spring 2010 session. That briefing was in response to requests by Member States for strengthened dialogue with ECOSOC and enhanced transparency in our work, an aim that I am deeply committed to.

The report provides a historical overview of the major developments in inter-agency cooperation within the framework of CEB during the period covering the Board's sessions in fall 2009 and spring 2010. It demonstrates how CEB and its three pillars, the High-Level Committee on Management (HLCM), the High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) and the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), have advanced their coordination efforts to promote a more coherent and effective UN system working together to deliver on the various mandates in support of Member States.

Mr. Chairman,

Last year, CPC requested CEB to closely monitor the development and social effects of the global financial and economic crisis, and its impact on the Millennium Development Goals. By bringing together the ongoing mandated efforts of UN system organizations in nine distinct areas impacting on economic and social development, CEB has enabled each organization to contribute its unique and specific knowledge, expertise and capacity in a coordinated manner. Moreover, the quick handover of the Joint Crisis Initiatives from the strategic programme level to implementation on the ground serves as an example of the enhanced synergies between HLCP and UNDG.

During the reporting period, CEB engaged in substantive dialogue with Member States on progress made under the Joint Crisis Initiatives. We prepared a CEB Issues Paper, which was circulated to Permanent Missions in New York and presented to ECOSOC in April 2009. I also briefed ECOSOC on the initiatives during informal consultations on the crisis in October 2009.

In monitoring the crisis, CEB has been deeply concerned about negative impacts on the achievement of the Internationally Agreed Development Goals, including the MDGs. CEB has affirmed the UN system's strong commitment and readiness to scale-up its collective efforts, and to jointly assist Member States in accelerating progress toward achieving the MDGs by 2015, under the leadership of the UN Secretary-General. The outcome of the High Level Plenary meeting in September will undoubtedly set the tone for the work of the UN system in the coming years. In preparation for the Summit and to facilitate evidence-based policy making processes at all levels, UNDG has produced a number of publications that combine analytical research with over 200 practical examples of successful national strategies proven to accelerate progress towards the MDG.

Climate change is another area where the UN system has intensified its efforts to work better together. At COP15 in Copenhagen, it presented its multi-sectoral approach to addressing climate change through the CEB Climate Change Action Framework. CEB demonstrated how UN system organizations have aligned their diverse areas of expertise and capacity to assist countries in adaptation and mitigation. At that occasion, 20 Executive Heads jointly presented a Statement of Purpose and Policy Brief on Adaptation, conveying a joint commitment to respond to Member States' need on climate change. Moving forward, the Board remains committed to contributing to the processes leading up to the Conferences of the Parties; supporting the international community in implementing international agreements, and contributing to the emerging implementation framework of the COP.



With regard to operational activities, efforts continued in strengthening the “Management and Accountability system of the United Nations development and resident coordinator system, including the ‘functional firewall’ for the Resident Coordinator system.” To support UN Country Teams in ensuring the best quality of UNDAFs, new guidance and guidelines have been produced, offering Country Teams greater flexibility and allowing for closer alignment with national planning processes.

Staff security and safety continue to pose serious challenges to UN system operations. CEB has continued its work to develop a more effective United Nations Security Management System to protect staff and to allow operations to continue in unstable and insecure environments. The CEB endorsement of a shift from a ‘when to leave’ to a ‘how to stay’ approach has set out the Board’s further actions on staff safety and security. A cornerstone in this area was the launch by HLCM of the new Security Risk Management model under the UN Security Management System. In addition, CEB adopted a new Security Level System, which fosters collaboration at all levels to determine appropriate mitigating measures, and which promotes transparency and consultation with host governments. Full implementation of the Security Level System is scheduled to commence early in 2011.

To increase coherence in the working modalities of member organisations and strengthen delivery of programmatic results, CEB continues to lead the efforts toward the simplification and harmonisation of business practices. Following the receipt of extra-budgetary resources towards the end of 2009, the Board’s plan of action for the harmonisation of business practices has moved from planning to implementation. CEB has worked to enhance transparency in the process on harmonisation of business practices, as an immediate response to last year’s CPC recommendation and General Assembly resolution 63/311 of September 2009 on system-wide coherence. We have made information on this process available on the CEB website, and engaged in dialogue with Member States about the issue, among others at informal briefings on 27 April under the System-wide Coherence framework. General Assembly resolution 63/311 placed considerable emphasis on the role of CEB and its three pillars in a number of areas. The Board’s work on harmonisation of business practices and the work to develop a central repository of UN system information are some of its contributions to enhance the effectiveness, efficiency and coherence of the UN system.

During the reporting period, HLCP considered means of strengthening the UN system engagement in the work of ECOSOC. As a result, it suggested the organisation of two panel discussions during the coordination segment of the Council’s substantive session of 2009 – one on the role of the UN system in sustainable development, highlighting the food and energy crisis and climate change, and a second on the impact on the financial crisis on sustainable development, including its social consequences. This increased dialogue is an area of increasing importance to all three pillars and to the Board itself.

Mr. Chairman,

Over the last years, the CEB has appeared prominently in intergovernmental consultations. It has become evident through the System-wide coherence consultations that you, Member States, would welcome a higher degree of transparency in CEB’s decision-making processes as well as an increased flow of information. We remain committed to addressing these requirements by ensuring timely and open sharing of information on its work and outcomes of its sessions. We will continue to pursue enhanced dialogue with Member States through the Annual Overview Report as well as regular and ad hoc briefings to ECOSOC and the General Assembly.

In addition, we have recently launched our new website ([www.unsceb.org](http://www.unsceb.org)), which provides comprehensive information on the work of CEB, its Membership and its three pillars. It is designed to ensure full transparency of our activities, as well as to allow visitors to quickly and easily obtain information. We will continue to maintain and improve this important communication platform.

In closing, let me also reaffirm that CEB remains firmly committed to furthering co-ordinated system-wide efforts to assist Member States in achieving concrete results in the implementation of intergovernmental mandates.

I will be happy to answer any questions.

Thank you

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