Briefing by

**Mr. Thomas Stelzer,
Secretary of the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB)
to members of the Economic and Social Council
on the First Regular Session of CEB for 2013**

6 May 2013

Good afternoon distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. I am pleased to be here to deliver a briefing on the work of the Chief Executives Board for Coordination and welcome this opportunity to exchange views on issues of mutual interest. I look forward to further discussion on the CEB at the 53rd session of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and at the Coordination Segment of ECOSOC.

Today, I will update you on the key activities of the CEB and its subsidiary mechanisms as reported at the first regular session of the CEB for 2013, held in Madrid at the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Headquarters, as well as the spring 2013 sessions of the High-level Committee on Programmes (HLCP), the High-level Committee on Management (HLCM) and the United Nations Development Group (UNDG).

HLCP is actively engaged in enhancing UN system coherence and coordination in support of Member States' efforts to reach a common understanding on the future development agenda and the preparations of the post-2015 development framework.

In the context of accelerating progress towards achieving the internationally agreed development goals, the CEB held a review of the implementation of the MDGs on the ground at its Madrid session. This exercise was launched in November 2012 as an accountability tool by the CEB under the co-chairmanship of the UNDP Administrator and the President of the World Bank. Three countries were examined – Ghana, Niger and Tanzania – in presentations by the respective resident coordinators and World Bank country directors. These countries were selected because the Governments themselves had already made substantial commitments toward accelerating MDG implementation, and the UN system was actively trying to support them in their efforts. The emphasis was on MDG 1 and MDG 5 where certain implementation delays had been identified at the country level. By improving coordination both at headquarters and on the ground, going beyond individual sectors, and holding themselves accountable for results, CEB member organizations are strengthening their support to countries' efforts to accelerate progress towards achieving the MDGs. This CEB review exercise, focusing on the concrete steps that the multilateral system can take, based on data and evidence, is an important contribution of the UN system to delivering results on the ground. The Board will continue to hold similar reviews at each of its meetings through 2015.

HLCP also continues its work on specific issues with system-wide implications. It is actively addressing the mainstreaming of the rule of law in the activities of the wider UN system and is supporting the development of a system-wide action plan.

On international migration and development, HLCP members, under the leadership of UNFPA and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), in collaboration with the Global Migration Group (GMG), prepared a set of system-wide recommendations and outcomes for the 2013 General Assembly High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development to be held in October. The set of proposed outcomes and recommendations, which focuses on human rights of migrants, national level action, partnerships and collaboration, data and research issues, and emerging challenges, was endorsed by CEB in Madrid. The initiative serves as a clear demonstration of UN system-wide and IOM coherence in response to a powerful emerging development trend. A joint publication showcasing in greater detail the entities' migration-related activities will provide further input to the High-level Dialogue and discussions around the post-2015 development agenda. The Board will revert to the issue of international migration and development at its second regular session for 2013.

On demographics, under the leadership of UNFPA and UN-DESA, HLCP members are developing a set of tools and best practices to help agencies build their capacity to integrate population dynamics in their work at all levels.

Following up on CEB's retreat discussion in April 2012 on the topic of youth, an inter-agency group, under the leadership of UN-DESA and UN-Habitat, has prepared a UN system-wide Action Plan on Youth. It focuses on joint action by the UN system on the issues of employment and entrepreneurship, political inclusion, civic engagement and protection of rights, education, including sexuality education, and health. The Action Plan is expected to deepen the youth focus of new and existing programmes of the UN system and to promote joint programmatic work.

Inter-agency efforts to mainstream disaster risk reduction in the work of the UN system have culminated in the UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience. The Plan is expected to facilitate coordinated UN system assistance to countries that face disaster losses and to enhance resilience, especially of poor and vulnerable populations. HLCP will continue to be engaged in this essential and timely effort, in light of the forthcoming review of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2 and preparations for the post-2015 development framework.

The Committee has also continued to advance work in the area of cyber security and cybercrime. These issues deeply affect every UN system organization as well as Members States. Currently, a draft policy framework is under preparation, under the leadership of ITU and UNODC, which will strengthen coordination of the UN system in assisting Member States in mitigating the risk posed by cyber threats.

Furthermore, at the Board's request, HLCP will work with the Office of the High Representative for LDCs and the Inter-Agency Consultative Group for LDCs to develop ideas for furthering the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries.

Turning to management matters, the High-level Committee on Management has finalized its Strategic Plan for 2013-2016. The plan will guide the HLCM in taking a more strategic and visionary approach to its work. In doing so, the HLCM will strengthen its substantive support to the Secretary-General in delivering on his Five Year Action Agenda, as well as respond to the QCPR's call to improve operational activities for development.

The HLCM Strategic Plan is composed of five priorities.

1. Attracting and retaining talent: The HLCM will engage in a dialogue with the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) in the context of its review of the Conditions of Service for UN system staff. The aim is to develop a proposal for a competitive and simplified compensation package to enable organizations to attract and retain staff of the highest caliber and reduce transaction costs. This compensation review would also offer an

opportunity to answer some key questions concerning the characteristics of an international civil service best able to function in a dynamic environment.

2. Re-designing and innovating the UN business models: New technologies present opportunities to reshape the operational models of UN system organizations. Through its Strategic Plan, HLCM is embracing the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) to foster change, improve knowledge management and increase collaboration within the system and with other partners. In pursuit of innovative business models, HLCM will also seek to achieve measurable progress to enhance environmental sustainability of UN operations through joint initiatives. Responding to the QCPR mandate, the Committee will further broaden the scope and ambition of its already advanced agenda on joint or collaborative work in operations. Specifically, HLCM will aim to take a big step forward in developing options for consolidation and/or pooling of support services. To achieve this vision, organizations will likely need to make changes to the way they operate. Executive Heads will have to provide leadership to realize such change. In certain cases, some proposals may have to be referred to the organizations' respective governing bodies for decision. In this area, the ICT Network of HLCM is also taking action to study the feasibility of ERP interoperability as mandated by the QCPR resolution.

3. Supporting the second generation of Delivering as One: The second generation of "Delivering as One" is expected to focus on managing and monitoring for results, and ensuring increased accountability and improved outcomes. HLCM's work in this area will build on the considerable efforts and resources already dedicated to assisting UN Country Teams to "Deliver as One". This work will continue to be conducted in full coordination with UNDG, and will specifically aim to enable the successful implementation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

4. Strengthening the risk management and oversight architecture: The Committee aims to develop a consolidated approach on the level and quality of controls in place in the organizations to allow for more focus on key risks and better internal resource allocation. An important component of this undertaking is the further integration of risk management into the programme planning processes and the performance dialogue with legislative bodies and Member States. HLCM's Strategic Plan also places high priority on coordinating work in the area of crisis preparedness and response, business continuity and cyber-security.

5. Measuring and communicating results: In a complementary and coordinated effort with HLCP and UNDG, HLCM aims to develop the skills and capacity to leverage technology and adopt more direct, emphatic and compelling approaches to communication. The Committee will explore the potential offered by "Big Data" and take action on open data policies, inventory and mapping of data, and development of taxonomies. Concurrently, HLCM will pursue the development of common methodologies for measuring performance and calculating efficiencies, as well demonstrating that achieved productivity increases and realized operational savings have been translated into increased resources for the implementation of programmatic activities.

On operational issues, the QCPR is guiding CEB in prioritizing its work. At the regional level, the QCPR recognized the important roles and functions of the Regional UNDG Teams and the Regional Commissions and the need to further strengthen coordination and cooperation. The UNDG is also presently working on strengthening results frameworks in line with the resolution's call for a more strategic and coherent results culture across the entire UN development system.

With regard to the follow-up to the resolution, the majority of the 178 mandates contained in the QCPR will likely require action from the UNDG. The UNDG is working closely with UN-DESA to ensure that the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the QCPR is informed by the latest developments at the country level, while keeping the reporting burden to a minimum.

Indeed, the UNDG work plan for 2013-2016 is fully aligned with the QCPR, which gives direction to the joint efforts of the UNDG at the global, regional and country levels. They aim to facilitate a step change in the quality and impact of UN support on the ground.

In the coming years, the UNDG will focus its work in four substantive areas:

- Accelerating achievement of the MDGs and internationally agreed development goals
- Facilitating broad-based engagement in the global dialogue on the post-2015 development agenda
- Supporting sustainable recovery in crisis and post-crisis countries, and
- Strengthening support for national capacity development and development effectiveness.

In order to deliver on this substantive mandate, the UNDG will focus on four strategic approaches to make the UN development system more relevant, coherent, efficient and effective:

- Promoting a coherent results culture across the entire UN development system - The UNDG had recently made progress in this regard, shifting emphasis from planning together to delivering joined-up results;
- Ensuring the functioning of the RC system as participatory, collegial and mutually accountable;
- Accelerating simplification and harmonization of business practices in conjunction with HLCM;
- Fostering effective partnerships, including mainstreaming South-South co-operation and strengthening partnerships with the Bretton Woods Institutions.

In terms of the next generation of reform instruments, UNDG is planning to develop new UN Development Assistant Frameworks (UNDAFs) in over 100 countries in the next four years. This presents the UN development system with a unique opportunity to strategically reposition itself.

Finally, the CEB Secretariat is pleased to announce the recent launch of its new, updated website which includes new layouts and features that respond to legislative mandates on the activities of the CEB and its subsidiary mechanisms. The website can be accessed by visiting the same address at: https://www.unsceb.org

The new site serves two key purposes:

First, to improve user experience for stakeholders. The site is positioned as the gateway to CEB member organization resources. It has been reorganized around the expectations and preferences of external users. The new layout allows users to find information easier and faster.

Secondly, the site provides the UN system with a more visible and interactive platform for promoting messages and engaging key stakeholders. This is achieved through highlighting UN system mandates and CEB actions, emphasis on up-to-date information considered by CEB subsidiary mechanisms, information on coordination with other jointly financed bodies, dedicated event and promotional spaces for joint activities carried out by the CEB, the use of images and infographics to visualize system-wide financial and personnel data, promotion of system-wide flagship reports and embedded public information and social media elements.

The website is continuously updated, and we welcome your feedback and comments on the coverage and accuracy of the information provided.

We hope you will familiarize yourself with the new resources available as we continue efforts to make the new website a relevant source of information and a central reference point for material on UN system activities and interests.

I would like to close by reiterating that the CEB Secretariat ensures that CEB actions are within the purview of Executive Heads of the Organizations of the UN system. Necessary consultations are undertaken prior to issues being considered, particularly where they require legislative action or decision by Governing Bodies. In accordance, the CEB will continue to prioritize issues identified by Member States and work under their guidance.

Further information on the topics I have addressed today is available in reports of the CEB and its subsidiary machinery.

Thank you again for this opportunity to brief you on the outcome of the first regular session of the CEB of 2013. We look forward to presenting the Annual Overview Report of the CEB at the CPC and at ECOSOC's Coordination Segment in the coming months.