



**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
Coordination and Management Meeting, 14 - 16 July 2014**

Item 10 - Coordination, programme and other questions - Report of coordination bodies

**Presentation of the Annual Overview Report of the United Nations
Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2013**

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15 July 2014

Mr. President,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

It gives me great pleasure to present to you the Annual Overview Report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) for 2013 (E/2014/69).

As you may recall, CEB is the longest-standing and highest level internal coordination forum in the United Nations. It is a unique instrument of the multilateral system. It brings together, under the leadership of the UN Secretary-General, the Executive Heads of the UN specialised agencies, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organisation, the UN funds, and programmes. CEB's key role is to strengthen synergies, identify and reduce duplication and gaps, and promote coherence and coordination among the organizations of the UN system. At the same time, the CEB is a useful mechanism for Member States to enhance the impact of their decisions by ensuring system-wide implementation of programmatic, management, and operational mandates.

This year's report provides an overview of major activities in inter-agency cooperation within the framework of the CEB in 2013. The report highlights the activities of CEB and its three pillars, the High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP), the High-Level Committee on Management (HLCM), and the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) in advancing coherence and coordination on policy, management, and operational issues of UN system-wide concern.

As the report is before you, I will briefly highlight only the salient aspects of CEB's work over the past year.

Mr. President,

2013 has been a challenging but also productive year for inter-agency coordination. Over the course of the year, CEB focused on promoting system-wide preparations and follow-up to United Nations conferences and summits; strengthening policy coherence and coordination, in particular in areas of international migration, youth, human rights, cybercrime and cybersecurity and climate change; enhancing effectiveness, efficiency and impact of United Nations operational activities for development through continued implementation of the QCPR; and improving administrative and management functions of the UN system.

Mr. President,

Please allow me to turn now to the substantive work of CEB and highlight a number of key activities of the Board.

A key priority of CEB in 2013 was to align the strength, capacities and expertise of the UN system organizations to accelerate implementation of the Millennium Development Goals ahead of the 2015 target date. As you may recall from our report to the Council last year, the Board decided in the fall of 2012 to include a Review of MDG implementation at the country level at each of its forthcoming sessions through 2015. Under the leadership of the Administrator of UNDP and the President of the World Bank, CEB had the opportunity to undertake its first two rounds of review sessions in 2013. In total, three MDGs in eight countries were considered by CEB. The countries were: Niger, Tanzania and Burkina Faso, on hunger and poverty (MDG 1); Ghana, El Salvador, Indonesia and Kyrgyzstan on maternal health (MDG 5); and Nepal on sanitation (target of MDG 7).

The Review has been regarded by the UN Country Teams and World Bank Country Offices as useful for promoting and prompting a fresh look at strategies to achieve MDGs at the country level. It has also improved coordination and cooperation among the United Nations development system and the World Bank on the ground. As planned, the CEB MDG Review will continue through the end of 2015. As the Review is an accountability tool for the United Nations system, implementation of commitments made at earlier Review sessions will continue to be monitored.

Other actions by CEB were focused on follow-up to decisions taken by the General Assembly inviting organizations of the UN system to increase their efforts in strengthening coordination and coherence in preparation and follow-up to inter-governmental meetings and conferences. In this respect, the Board reflected on the UN system's support to Member States in the transition to a new post-2015 development agenda with sustainable development at its core. CEB also addressed the issue of advancing UN system-wide implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the LDCs and also agreed to hold a CEB high-level side event at the Third International Conference on SIDS in September in Samoa. The side event, under the leadership of the Secretary-General, will be developed under the theme "The UN System partnering for the people of SIDS" and will showcase the joint contribution of the UN system to the sustainable development of small island developing States.

Mr. President,

Please allow me to further highlight a few specific activities of CEB's subsidiary bodies.

On programme activities, HLCP focused its system-wide coordination efforts on the issues of international migration and development, youth, human rights, cybercrime and cybersecurity and climate change. Under the leadership of UNFPA and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), a set of recommendations and action proposals were prepared as an input to the 2013 High-level Dialogue of the General Assembly on International Migration and Development. The input was crafted on the basis of a comprehensive and first-of-its-kind compilation of UN system activities in support of international migration and development. Owing to the substantive richness and quality of the UN system contributions, this compilation was subsequently issued as a joint publication entitled "*International Migration and Development: Contributions and Recommendations of the International System.*"

HLCP also promoted a more coherent, comprehensive and integrated UN system approach to youth development. In particular, the Committee sought to strengthen the youth focus of UN programmes and promote joint programmatic work by developing a system-wide action plan on Youth, under the leadership of UN-DESA and UN-Habitat. The plan emphasises youth development in the areas of employment, entrepreneurship, education and health, among others.

Other programmatic areas of work in 2013 included fostering policy coherence in the area of climate change. UN system organizations deepened their programmatic engagement through a number of joint initiatives carried out in support of Member States efforts to address the effects of climate change. The UN system also held a CEB high-level event at the 19th session of COP in Warsaw, Poland and a series of joint UN system side events to share information and experiences with the Parties and other COP participants. The CEB high-level side event was entitled "The UN system as a catalyst for climate action: Promoting sustainable low-carbon development". It aimed to add impetus to the Secretary-General's leadership efforts by providing evidence that sustainable, low-carbon development can yield considerable economic, social and environmental benefits.

On management activities, HLCM approved its Strategic Plan for 2013-2016. The plan aims to enhance the relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, accountability and credibility of the UN system through improvements in the administrative and management functions. In 2013, the harmonization and simplification of business practices remained a major activity of the Committee. The actions under this priority area are guided by the QCPR mandates on rationalization of business operations, establishment of common support services and greater collaboration in procurement. Several initiatives are underway in the areas of common treasury services, common definitions of operating costs, and common and location-based procurement. A new vendor registration system for procurement was introduced on the common UN system procurement portal (UN Global Marketplace - www.ungm.org). This new system is expected to increase access to UN procurement by vendors from developing countries and from countries with economies in transition.

On operational matters, UNDG afforded highest priority to ensuring the coherent implementation of the QCPR across the UN system with a firm focus on high-impact areas. In this context, UNDG and HLCM contributed to a strong, evidence-based, and cost-effective system-wide monitoring and reporting framework for the QCPR. HLCM and UNDG also assumed joint leadership in the design of an integrated business service centre and launched a joint UN system service facility in Brasilia, Brazil. The facility is expected to generate savings from increased efficiencies and reduced transaction costs once it becomes fully operational in 2015.

To promote operational coordination and effectiveness at the country level, UNDG developed a number of tools as guidance to UN country teams. As part of those efforts, UNDG developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), issued a UNDG Gender Equality Marker Guidance Note, strengthened the Resident Coordinator Assessment Centre and reached a UN system-wide agreement on centralized funding modality for the Resident Coordinator system that includes cost-sharing among UN system organizations.

The CEB also remains dedicated to cooperating with other inter-organizational bodies. We continue to work closely with the Joint Inspection Unit on the development of the JIU annual work plan and in the preparation of its reports. Similarly, the International Civil Service Commission is regularly invited to contribute its views on relevant issues before the HLCM, and participates in all meetings of the Committee's Human Resources Network. Reciprocally, the CEB Secretariat participates in all sessions of the Commission and provides inputs to the Commission's work.

Mr. President, distinguished delegates,

Effective and coordinated action across a wide range of issues and areas is essential if the UN system is to deliver results that meet global challenges. CEB will continue to ensure that the system aligns its collective strengths to fulfil the mandates established by Member States. I trust that the Annual Overview Report before you today reaffirms the continued commitment of the Executive Heads of the organizations of the UN system to working together in a coherent and coordinated manner to ensure effective, timely and integrated follow-up to your directives.

Enhancing dialogue and interaction with Member States and increasing accountability continue to be major priorities for CEB. This past year, we held a series of formal and informal exchanges with Member States including four formal briefings on the work of CEB to ECOSOC as well an informal presentation by the Vice Chair of HLCM on the topic of "Harmonization of Business Practices" in February 2013.

In addition, we made further progress in improving the sharing of information on CEB's work through the newly released CEB website in March 2013. In this context, I would like to draw your attention to major improvements in the presentation of UN system statistics. On the website, you will now have better access to financial statistics, human resources and procurement data of the UN system. And I hope you will have the opportunity if you have not already to visit our website (www.unsceb.org) and find the information there useful to your work. We always welcome comments and suggestions to further improve the site and look forward to hearing from you in this regard.

Thank you, Mr. President. I appreciate this opportunity to brief you and the members of ECOSOC on the work of the CEB and will be happy to answer any questions.

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