



**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
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Item 12 (a) - Coordination, programme and other questions - Report of coordination bodies

**Presentation of the Annual Overview Report of the United Nations System
Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2015
and
Briefing on the First Regular Session of CEB for 2016**

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Mr. President,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the Annual Overview Report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) for 2015 (E/2016/56). I am also delighted to have the opportunity to brief you on the outcome of CEB's First Regular session for 2016 which was hosted by UNODC in Vienna at the end of April.

As you may recall, CEB is the longest-standing and highest level internal coordination mechanism in the United Nations, established by ECOSOC in 1946. The Board 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, and the UN funds, and programmes. CEB's key role is to strengthen synergies and promote coherence and coordination among the organizations of the UN system on issues of system-wide concern. The work of the Board is supported by three high-level committees: the High-level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) which focuses on policy coherence; the High-level Committee on Management (HLCM) whose activities are supporting system-wide coordination on management and administrative matters; and the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) which seeks to increase the effectiveness and impact of operational activities of the UN development system.

This year's report provides an overview of major activities in inter-agency cooperation within the framework of the CEB in 2015. As the report is before you, I will focus on salient aspects of CEB's work last year, as well as add relevant highlights from the spring session.

Mr. President,

With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Member States agreed to an overarching vision and framework for development that will guide the UN system for the coming 15 years. Please allow me to take this opportunity to highlight several key coordination activities undertaken by the Board in 2015 to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Those activities included preparing for the 2030 Agenda, promoting youth employment, contributing to the data revolution, and applying lessons learned from the MDGs.

In 2015, CEB contributed to the preparation of the 2030 Agenda by focusing on the interlinkages of the three pillars of the United Nations and, through HLCP, on ways to deepen collaboration and enhance coherence across the UN system in support of the integrated, comprehensive and indivisible nature of the agenda. In this context, the UN system affirmed its commitment to support Member States in the implementation of the global agenda that recognized that the eradication of poverty, combating inequality, preserving the planet, and creating sustained economic growth are interdependent objectives and of highest priority for the international community.

Building on that initial work, the Board, at its most recent session in April 2016, endorsed a set of common principles to provide overall guidance to the UN system in its effort to support Member States in the transition to and implementation of the integrated sustainable development agenda. These principles seek to support an integrated and coordinated approach that is country-led and country-owned, leaves no one behind, leverages partnerships and promotes effective service delivery. Complementing this cross-cutting approach, the Board also expanded its efforts to strengthen inter-agency collaboration with regard to specific sustainable development objectives and targets.

The year 2015 marked the twentieth anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth. Yet, youth employment remains a major global development challenge and a priority for Member States. At its second regular session of 2015, CEB endorsed the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth. This initiative was prepared through an inter-agency consultative process under the leadership of ILO. It builds on the System-wide Action Plan on Youth and aims to facilitate increased impact and expanded country-level action on decent jobs for youth through multi-stakeholder partnerships. The initiative is designed to focus greater attention and action on the issue of youth employment and to contribute to the achievement of SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth. As you might recall, the Initiative was launched by Mr. Guy Ryder, Director-General of ILO, at the 2016 ECOSOC Youth Forum in the beginning of February. As a next step in the implementation process for this important initiative, seven UN agencies (ILO, UNDP, UNEP, FAO, UNIDO, UNFPA and UN Women) have formed a team to advance its operationalization and UNDG has already started work towards a guidance note for country-level action.

Throughout the process of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, many stakeholders, including Member States, highlighted the importance of timely, reliable and accessible data for measuring progress towards the achievement of the SDGs. In 2015, CEB endorsed a UN system approach for a data revolution designed to strengthen the capacity of the system to utilize new and emerging technologies and sources of data. The initiative seeks to support and complement Member States' activities in this area. One example of the progress made in this field is the UN system Data Catalog project, developed under the auspices of HLCM. The data catalogue enhances accessibility of UN system data to the public and promotes open data publishing among UN system organizations. The expanded availability and accessibility of data aims to help Member States in their decision-making. The

catalogue went live in March 2016 and it is my hope that you will find it a useful tool in your work. It is available at www.undatacatalog.org

In preparation for the 2030 Agenda, accelerating and learning lessons from the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were again key priorities of CEB in 2015. The Board held its fifth and sixth rounds of the review of the implementation of the MDGs at country level. All told, the review featured 16 countries and one region, the Pacific island countries, and covered 6 MDGs (poverty and hunger; maternal and child mortality; water and sanitation; education; health; and employment). CEB members agreed that the review had reinforced and improved coordination and coherence, and had led to increased harmonization and sharing of good practices. Looking ahead, the Board concluded that in pursuing the implementation of the SDGs, an equally flexible approach, capitalizing on the diversity of the UN system, was necessary.

Mr. President,

Please allow me to draw attention to a few additional activities of CEB's subsidiary bodies, which continued to work closely together in 2015 to strengthen coordination across the system on programmatic, management and operational issues.

On programme activities, I have already mentioned HLCP's work on supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its target on youth employment. The Committee furthermore pursued system-wide coordination efforts in support of a number of additional SDG targets, including disaster risk reduction, sustainable urbanization and climate change, and contributed to the preparation for and follow-up to UN conferences.

On disaster risk reduction, HLCP, under the leadership of UN-ISDR, carried out a revision of the UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience. The Action Plan, which was endorsed by CEB in April, is the UN system's contribution to a risk-informed and integrated approach to the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. It emphasizes country and local level engagement and seeks to ensure that the UN system is responsive to the different country needs and contexts in regard to disaster risk reduction. The Committee also prepared a CEB joint statement to the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai in March 2015.

HLCP also deepened its work on sustainable urbanization and prepared a UN system input for the Habitat III Conference, as mandated by Member States. The work resulted in a substantive paper entitled "Urbanization and Sustainable Development: A UN System Input to A New Urban Agenda" which was endorsed by CEB at its first regular session of 2016. The input has been made available to the Secretary-General of the Habitat III Conference for onward submission to the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference. The CEB also prepared and will issue a joint statement to the Conference that promotes an approach to sustainable urbanization that is innovative, people-centred, and risk-informed.

Moreover, CEB issued a joint statement to the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris (COP-21). As an additional UN system-wide contribution to the conference, HLCP's Working Group on Climate Change coordinated 16 joint side events on a variety of climate related topics; facilitated a "One United Nations" exhibition on key issues reaching from sustainable cities to climate finance; and made available an updated compilation of the most recent and relevant publications of the UN system on climate change both on the [Web](#) and in

the form of sustainably sourced USB drives. More recently, at its first session of 2016, the Committee approved a set of “common core principles for a UN system-wide approach to climate action.” The principles have been designed to guide the UN system’s collective climate change action through an integrated approach in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UNFCCC process and the implementation of the Paris Agreement at the global, regional and national levels.

On operational matters, the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) continued to afford highest priority to the coherent implementation of the QCPR across the UN system. In 2015, UNDG placed particular focus on the roll-out of the standard operating procedures in support of country teams and improvements in the Resident Coordinator system; national capacity development and development effectiveness; the improved functioning of the United Nations development system; and the continued implementation of gender equality and women’s empowerment. Regarding South-South and triangular cooperation, UNDG established a task team to mainstream South-South and triangular cooperation in the operational activities of the UN. The team began to update the framework of operational guidelines on UN support to South-South and triangular cooperation and align it with the SDGs. The team also started a mapping exercise of good practices which is expected to equip Resident Coordinators and UN country teams with practical solutions and strategies to advise national governments on the integration of South-South and triangular cooperation into national development plans and actions. This compilation of good practices has now been published and copies of the report are available at the UN Office for South-South Cooperation.

On administrative and management matters, HLCM focused its actions on the rationalization of business operations; the development of inter-agency framework agreements and common banking agreements; the establishment of common support services, and greater collaboration in procurement. All of the Committee’s activities promote the overall objective of harmonization and simplification of business practices in support of the implementation of the QCPR mandates in this area.

Regarding closer collaboration on procurement, HLCM undertook numerous initiatives in 2015, including the development of harmonized procurement guidance, the establishment of long-term agreements, and the continued simplification of registration of vendors leading to an increase in vendors from developing countries and countries with economies in transition. In this context, I am pleased to report that the number of vendors from developing countries and countries in transition continued to rise in 2015. Towards the end of the year, the number of registered vendors from developing countries and countries in transition stood at 48,000 representing 60 percent of the total. Furthermore, there is not only an increase in vendor registration from these countries, but the volume of procurement from developing countries and countries with economies in transition has been steadily increasing and in 2014 (the last year for which figures are available) stood at 62.8% of total UN procurement. Another notable activity of HLCM in the area of procurement was the system-wide adoption of a collaboration clause which allows all participating UN system organizations to accept the outcome of another organization’s procurement process, thereby avoiding duplication of internal processes across organizations procurement.

Concerning HLCM’s work in support of the establishment of common banking agreements in the area of banking and treasury services, just last week, one of those master banking agreements was signed here in New York between the UN Secretariat, UNDP, UNICEF and Ecobank Transnational Inc. The agreement, which covers banking services in 24 African countries, is expected to streamline banking and treasury services and enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of UN organization’s operations in Africa. The Ecobank master banking agreement follows the signing of another global agreement earlier this year

with London-based Standard Chartered Banking Group, which provides banking and treasury services in 28 countries.

Mr. President, distinguished delegates,

In closing, I would like to reiterate CEB's commitment to working together in a coherent and coordinated manner to ensure that the UN system aligns its collective strengths to fulfil the mandates established by Member States.

I appreciate this opportunity to brief you and the Council on the work of the CEB. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you.
