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11 September 2009

Excellency,

We have the honor to send you herewith the draft resolution on System-wide Coherence for adoption by the General Assembly. The attached document constitutes our best effort to have a consensus outcome for this important process. We trust that the draft resolution will be acceptable to all delegation as a compromise text reflecting the status of the intergovernmental discussions on System-wide Coherence.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Kaire M. Mbuende
Permanent Representative of Namibia

Juan Antonio Yáñez-Barnuevo
Permanent Representative of Spain

H.E. Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann
President of the General Assembly
United Nations
New York

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2009-09-11

SYSTEM – WIDE COHERENCE

The General Assembly,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome;

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

Recalling also its resolution 62/277 on System-wide coherence;

Recalling the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action, and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;

Reaffirming the importance of the comprehensive policy review of United Nations operational activities for development, through which the General Assembly establishes key system-wide policy orientations for the development cooperation and country-level modalities of the United Nations system;

Recalling the role of the Economic and Social Council in providing coordination and guidance to the United Nations system to ensure that those policy orientations are implemented on a system-wide basis in accordance with the General Assembly resolution 62/208 and other relevant resolutions;

Having considered the Discussion notes on "Further Details on Institutional Options for Strengthening the Institutional Arrangements for Support of Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (5 March 2009)", "Strengthening governance of operational activities for development of the United Nations system for enhanced system-wide coherence (15 April 2009)", and "Strengthening the system-wide funding architecture of operational activities of the United Nations for development (3 May 2009)", which the Deputy Secretary-General on behalf of the Secretary-General provided to the President of the General Assembly in response to a request from Member States;

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

1. *Strongly supports* the consolidation of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and the 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), into a composite entity, taking into account the existing mandates;
2. *Supports* that the composite entity shall be led by an Under-Secretary-General, who will report directly to the Secretary-General, to be appointed by the Secretary-General in consultation with Member States, on the basis of equitable geographical representation and gender balance;
3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to produce for consideration of the 64th session of the General Assembly a comprehensive proposal specifying, inter alia, the mission statement of the composite entity, organizational arrangements, including an organizational chart, funding, and the executive board to oversee its operational activities, so as to commence intergovernmental negotiations;

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

4. *Reaffirms* that the strengthening of the governance of United Nations operational activities for development should focus on enhancing existing intergovernmental bodies with the purpose to make the United Nations development system more efficient and effective in its support to developing countries to achieve the internationally agreed development goals;
5. *Underscores* that the governance of operational activities for development should be transparent and inclusive and support national ownership and national development strategies;
6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the United Nations system Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), to propose to the General Assembly at its 64th session actionable proposals for the further improvement of the governance of United Nations system's operational activities for development;
7. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with members of United Nations system CEB and United Nations Development Group, to propose modalities to the General Assembly at its 64th session for the submission and approval of common country programmes on a voluntary basis, bearing in mind the importance of national ownership and effective intergovernmental oversight of the development process;
8. *Reaffirms* the importance of strengthening evaluation as a United Nations system function and the guidance contained to this effect in resolution 62/208 and, in this regard, *requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with UN system CEB members, to propose modalities to the General Assembly at its 64th session for the establishment of an independent system-wide evaluation mechanism to assess system wide efficiency, effectiveness and performance, bearing in mind the evaluation functions carried out by respective United Nations organizations, by the Joint Inspection Unit and by the United Nations Evaluation Group;
9. *Urges* the United Nations system CEB and United Nations Development Group to enhance the transparency of their activities through regular briefings to the General Assembly and through their regular reports and effective interaction with ECOSOC and relevant intergovernmental bodies;
10. *Encourages* continued and increased cooperation, coordination and coherence and exchanges between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions, and *requests* the SG, in consultation with the United Nations system CEB, to regularly appraise the General Assembly of progress made in this regard, as part of the QCPR/TCPR reporting;

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

11. *Emphasizes* that increasing financial contributions to the United Nations development system is key to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and in this regard *recognizes* the mutually reinforcing links among increased effectiveness, efficiency and coherence of the United Nations development system, achieving concrete results in assisting developing countries in eradicating poverty and achieving sustained economic growth and sustainable development through operational activities for development and the overall resourcing of the United Nations development system;
12. *Stresses* that core resources, because of their untied nature, continue to be the bedrock of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system;
13. *Notes with concern* the continuing imbalance between core and non-core resources received by the operational activities for development of the United Nations system and the potential negative impact of non-core funding on the coordination and effectiveness of United Nations operational activities for

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development at the country level, while recognizing that thematic trust funds, multi-donor trust funds and other voluntary non-earmarked funding mechanisms linked to organization-specific funding frameworks and strategies, as established by the respective governing bodies, constitute some of the funding modalities that are complementary to regular budgets;

14. *Urges* donors and other countries in a position to do so to substantially increase their voluntary contributions to the core/regular budgets of the United Nations development system, in particular its funds, programmes and specialized agencies, to contribute on a multi-year basis, in a sustained and predictable manner *and* to undertake voluntary commitments to provide a greater share of system wide contributions to United Nations operational activities as core/regular resources;
15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his comprehensive statistical analysis of the financing of operational activities for development of the United Nations system further analysis and actionable proposals on the current situation and perspectives in respect of core and non-core funding for the United Nations development system, notably the implications of various forms of non-core funding, in terms of predictability, country ownership and the implementation of intergovernmental mandates;
16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to create a central repository of information on United Nations operational activities for development with disaggregated statistics on all funding sources and expenditures, building on the Secretary-General's comprehensive statistical analysis of the financing of operational activities for development of the United Nations system and to ensure appropriate and user friendly on-line access and regular updating of the information contained therein;

Delivering as One

17. *Acknowledges* the interim assessments of the progress made and the challenges remaining in efforts to increase coherence in country-level programming, including in the "programme country pilots";
18. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to support "programme country pilot" countries to undertake expeditiously their own country-led evaluations, with the participation of relevant stakeholders, and with the technical support of the United Nations Evaluation Group;
19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to urgently undertake arrangements for an independent evaluation of lessons learned from these efforts as requested in resolution 62/208 and to inform the General Assembly of the modalities and terms of reference of this independent evaluation at its 64th session;
20. *Underscores* that the independent evaluation should be guided by the principles contained in General Assembly resolution 62/208 with regard to national ownership and leadership and conducted in the context of system-wide norms and standards; that it should be based on an inclusive, transparent, objective, and independent approach; and that its outcome should be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session;

Harmonization of business practices

21. *Calls* on the SG in cooperation with members of the United Nations system CEB to continue progress in the simplification and harmonization of business practices within the United Nations development system and requests the Secretary-General in consultation with the United Nations system CEB to regularly inform the ECOSOC about progress being made and challenges encountered in this regard and to refer any matter requiring intergovernmental decision to the relevant intergovernmental bodies.

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The way forward

22. *Decides* to continue the intergovernmental work of the General Assembly on System wide coherence on the issues addressed in this resolution during the 64th session with a view to achieving further substantive action in all areas, and resolves, at the conclusion of its entire process on System wide coherence, to review and take stock of all its prior actions and deliberations in a single resolution or decision.

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