



**Introductory remarks on the Annual Overview Report of the United Nations
Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2010/2011**

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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 2010 / 2011 (E/2011/104).

This year's report gives an overview of major developments in inter-agency cooperation within the framework of the CEB during the period leading to and covering the Board's fall session 2010 and its spring session 2011. The report highlights the activities of CEB and its three pillars, the High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP), the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) and the High-Level Committee on Management (HLCM), in pursuing policy, operational and management matters in support of system-wide coherence. The CEB remains committed to its role of facilitating efficient and effective coordination of United Nations system organizations within their intergovernmental mandates. General-Assembly resolution 64/289 on system-wide coherence and other major intergovernmental decisions with system-wide implications represent important directives in this regard.

As the report is before you, I will briefly highlight developments that have characterized the work of the CEB during the reporting period.

Mr. Chairman,

With guidance from the Economic and Social Council and this Committee over the last year, it remains a major priority for the Board to enhance dialogue with Member States and increase transparency and accountability of its work. Over the last year, we have engaged in an open exchange with Member States through regular briefings in the Economic and Social Council, in the General Assembly, and in other fora such as the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Cancun. The Board has also striven to enhance the quality and quantity of information in official reports and through a redesign of its website..

Similarly, the CEB remains dedicated to cooperating with other inter-organizational bodies. In particular, the CEB Secretariat continues to work closely with the Joint Inspection Unit on the development of the JIU annual work plan and in the preparation of reports. For example, in the past year, the Finance and Budget network of HLCM coordinated closely with the inspectors of the JIU on the preparation of the report on IPSAS implementation, which was well received by agencies. In

addition, the CEB continues to call upon organizations to ensure a good information flow between each organization and the Joint Inspection Unit.

A key priority of CEB this year has been to follow up to the outcome of the MDG Summit in a way that best furthers the coordination goal of bringing together the different policy strands in an integrated approach to contribute to the urgent action required to support individual country efforts to reach the Goals. These efforts will include measures to enhance greater accountability and coherence, for example in tracking MDG commitments, through an Integrated Implementation Framework (IIF) and the MDG Acceleration Framework.

Other efforts of the Board include the issuance of a statement of support to the Fourth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries, which was held last month in Istanbul, to underscore the importance of giving priority to the special needs of least developed countries and supporting efforts to build productive capacity in those countries. This work is in line with this Committee's recommendation at its 50th session, which requested CEB to enhance its focus on developing countries, including least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, and small island States.

I would also like to highlight the Board's work in preparation for Rio +20. As you know, the Secretary-General remains committed to enhancing the United Nations system's unified and coherent support to Member States towards sustainable development. At CEB's spring 2011 session in Nairobi, he established a dedicated Principals Group to ensure a coordinated United Nations system contribution to the two themes of Rio+20: the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and the institutional framework for sustainable development. This work is now fully under way.

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

Building on intergovernmental mandates, the three subsidiary bodies of CEB have continued to work closely together to strengthen coordination across the system on programmatic, administrative and operational issues.

On programme activities, the High-level Committee on Programmes has continued to dedicate system-wide coordination efforts to climate change – an area which has constituted a major priority of CEB since 2007. Last year, this Committee encouraged the CEB to go beyond preparations to the Climate Change conferences. In taking its work forward, HLCP has worked jointly with UNDG to strengthen linkages between programmatic work at global level and the work of country teams. This effort is also in response to the MDG Summit Outcome and the Cancun Agreements.

On management activities, the High-level Committee on Management has continued its consideration of safety and security of United Nations system personnel, while ensuring that security risk management enables programme delivery. In response to General Assembly resolution 64/289 on system-wide coherence, HLCM is also continuing its work on the harmonization of business practices. Many harmonization activities across the UN system now fall within the Plan of Action for the Harmonization of Business Practices established by HLCM and the joint implementation plan, which was developed following a joint high-level mission undertaken last year between HLCM and UNDG. I am happy to report that business practice harmonization projects have proceeded at both country and global levels and in every administrative area, including procurement, human resources, finance and budget as well as information and communication technology.

On operational matters, the United Nations Development Group is making lessons learned from the Delivering as One Pilots available to other countries interested in pursuing the coherence agenda. This is in response to the findings emerging from the country-led evaluations of the Pilots, which

recognized that effective co-ordination often is more advanced among funds, programmes and specialized agencies in the Delivering as One countries. The country-led evaluations conducted in seven of the eight pilot countries last year will be an invaluable source of information to this independent evaluation of the pilots, which is carried out by an Evaluation Management Group under the auspices of the United Nations Evaluation Group. A report of the Independent Evaluation is expected to be presented at the General Assembly's 66th Session. The United Nations system's work under this agenda will continue in accordance with guidance from member states.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates,

You are well aware that effective and coordinated action across a wide range of issue 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 fulfill the mandates established by Member States and that the outcomes and decisions of the governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations system also continue to guide and shape the work of CEB and its pillars.

Over the reporting period, it has become quite clear that the UN system has benefited from increased and interactive dialogue with representatives of Member States. Similarly, the CEB has and will continue to increase the understanding of its work and to ensure full transparency through its reports, briefings and material posted on the internet.

I trust that the Annual Overview Report before you today reaffirms the continued commitment of Executive Heads of the United Nations system to working together in a coherent and coordinated manner to ensure integrated and synchronized follow-up to your directives.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My colleagues and I are at your disposal to answer any questions or offer clarifications. I appreciate this opportunity to brief you on the work of the CEB.