



# Chief Executives Board for Coordination

6 November 2003

## Report of the High-Level Committee on Programmes at its sixth session

**Rome, 18-19 September 2003**

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## **I. Introduction**

1. The High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) of the United Nations Chief Executives Board (CEB) for Coordination held its sixth session at Castel Gandolfo near Rome, on 18 and 19 September 2003. The agenda of the meeting and the list of participants are attached in annexes I and II, respectively.
2. The Committee observed a minute of silence in memory of the victims of the bombing of the United Nations compound in Baghdad on 19 August 2003.

## **II. Reflections on current developments**

3. The session began with a reflection on recent events, ranging from developments in the Middle East to the outcome of the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Cancún, Mexico.
4. The Committee drew on the briefing provided by the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs on the report of the Secretary-General on the Implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration (A/58/323), as well as that provided by the representative of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on the Cancún World Trade Organization meeting.
5. The Committee then had an extensive discussion on the concept of multilateralism. It invited the Chairman to convey the thrust of the discussion to CEB. The wide-ranging exchange on multilateralism provided a broad overview for participants, who will brief their Executive Heads on the discussion.

## **III. Financing for development**

6. The Committee considered the issue of financing for development on the basis of document CEB/2003/HLCP/CRP.26 prepared by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.
7. Presenting the document via audiolink with New York, the representative of the Department recalled the decisions of HLCP at its intersessional meeting, held on 2 July 2003, and pointed to a number of issues relating to the follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development calling for the special attention of CEB members.
8. These issues included: assisting developing countries to strengthen their capacity to mobilize domestic financial resources; facilitating international investment flows; building capacity for the collection and dissemination of international financial data and for trade negotiations; enhancing aid effectiveness; and facilitating work on external debt workouts.
9. The representative of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs also raised the issue of the role of CEB in addressing systemic issues and the strengthening of secretariat and intergovernmental interactions to enhance the impact of the follow-up processes.
10. The following points emerged in the discussion that followed:

- While an exchange of views would take place at the High-Level Dialogue (29-30 October), the final outcome would be negotiated in the Second Committee.
- Further discussion on the follow-up should take into account the political context, including the implications of increased military expenditures; growing fiscal deficits in donor countries and sluggish growth in Europe and Japan, as well as the implications of the failure of the Fifth Ministerial Meeting of the World Trade Organization, held at Cancún, Mexico, for resource mobilization, particularly official development assistance.
- The issue of the extent to which intervening events place into question the continued validity of some of the assumptions underlying the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development needs to be addressed.
- There is a continuing contradiction between additionality of resources preconditioned on performance, on the one hand, and resource needs as a precondition for performance, on the other.
- There is a need to examine the implications for United Nations core resources of the diversion of resources going to global funds and bilateral channels.
- It is important to monitor closely pledges of official development assistance made at Monterrey and the implications for the CEB advocacy role in this regard.

11. The Committee gave guidance on recasting the note for submission to CEB so as to facilitate a focused discussion. The results are reflected in annex III. It was observed that some of the issues raised in the note would also be relevant to CEB consideration of other agenda items and that in many of the areas dealt with in the note, it would only be possible for CEB to have a preliminary exchange of views at the current session, providing guidance for further inter-agency work.

#### **IV. HIV/AIDS and its linkages with food security and governance**

12. The Committee considered the issue of HIV/AIDS and its linkages with food security and governance in the Southern and Eastern Africa region, on the basis of document CEB/2003/HLCP/CRP.27, prepared collaboratively by 11 agencies with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)/World Food Programme (WFP) as task leaders. Introducing the document, the representative of UNAIDS emphasized that this was an issue where the system clearly had the opportunity to demonstrate collective impact on the triple crisis. Gains in the war against AIDS were unclear: evidence on the ground indicated that the epidemic was continuing to escalate. Life expectancy was on the decline by as much as 25 years in some countries, along with the increase in morbidity; there was a perceived lack of full commitment and of true joint programming; and access to drugs remained woefully inadequate: out of an infected population of 29 million in the region, less than 15,000 had access to affordable drugs.

13. The ensuing discussion focused on the multifaceted nature of the crisis and the need to call upon the collective capacity of the system to provide urgent, unified and intensified holistic responses. In the area of access to affordable drugs, the Committee stressed the opportunity for the system to assist and encourage

developing countries to make use of the modalities provided by the agreements reached within the Doha framework on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). Suggestions were made for greater involvement of line ministries, including education and health in programming instruments and processes; and for United Nations assistance in developing mechanisms that would allow the system to interact with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, to monitor the epidemic and track resource flows from all sources to the Southern Africa region.

14. Participants indicated that the document should demonstrate more clearly the nexus between HIV/AIDS, food security and governance and the connection between food security with livelihoods strategy and agricultural practices, including drought management. Explicit recognition must be given to government ownership and leadership, particularly on such issues as the determination of country priorities and the budgetary and resource allocation process. The document should also clarify the United Nations system's relationships with Governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to better support communities' governance systems and strengthen their resilience. It should also give emphasis to prevention and treatment and to sexual and reproductive health, as well as reflect the outcome of the thirteenth International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections in Africa, held in Nairobi from 21 to 26 September 2003.

15. In the light of the comments, a revised document was issued during the course of the meeting and endorsed by the Committee on an ad referendum basis. The Committee agreed that a revised version should be circulated by 24 September, so that its members may consult their Executive Heads and a final text prepared for submission to CEB. The text is contained in annex IV.

16. The Committee called for urgent, collective and intensified commitment and action by the system to assist affected countries in responding to HIV/AIDS and to demonstrate in the process that the system could make a visible difference and impact on the ground. In this context, it underscored the need for effective synergies between its policy role and the operational role of the United Nations Development Group at the country level.

## **V. Follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development**

17. In the context of the follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Committee considered a note (CEB/2003/HLCP/CRP.25) on inter-agency collaboration in the implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, focusing on the areas of freshwater and water and sanitation, energy, oceans and coastal areas, and changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production; and an Inventory of existing inter-agency coordination mechanisms and collaborative arrangements and joint projects.

18. Introducing the note, the Director of the CEB secretariat recalled the considerations approved by HLCP at its intersessional meeting of 2 July 2003 (see CEB/2003/6) to guide the development of inter-agency coordination and collaborative arrangements in the areas identified above. The basic approach in putting forth proposals for inter-agency collaboration was to ensure an effective and

integrated framework for follow-up to the Summit. In doing so, the paper underscored the different elements of a function-based approach for coordination and the variety of coordination models pursued thus far by the system. The Director also recalled the considerations underlying the 2000 reform of the CEB coordination machinery, which was intended to introduce more dynamic, flexible and function-based approaches for coordination with the involvement of new stakeholders and other key external partners.

19. The Director pointed out that the note, which responded to the Committee's specific request, especially highlighted substantive issues in relation to freshwater and energy. In the area of freshwater, he drew attention to the *World Water Development Report* and the main issues emerging from recent analyses, which included mismanagement of water resources, uneven distribution of water across regions and pricing policies. In the area of energy, the note provided a picture of the capacity of the United Nations system in terms of ongoing work, as well as existing gaps in the system's capacity.

20. In the ensuing discussion, Committee members offered a number of observations, some of which are highlighted below:

- The importance of ensuring that the follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development should be integrated with the follow-up to other conferences and summits, including the Millennium Declaration, and attention should accordingly be given to interrelationships among issues and the potential synergies of measures taken to address them.
- In considering inter-agency collaboration arrangements, maximum use should be made of available existing mechanisms for coordination.
- A number of observations were made in regard to future collaboration in the area of freshwater, highlighting the value of ongoing work.
- With regard to water and sanitation, attention should be given to interlinkages with health issues, population and the role of women in managing water resources.
- In the field of energy, emphasis was placed on the need to involve non-United Nations partners in any coordination mechanism and on the potential of energy savings in the urban transport sector.
- In the area of oceans and coastal areas, the importance of ensuring the involvement of the proposed Oceans and Coastal Area Network was stressed, with the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat in the lead, in the preparation of the Global Marine Assessment report; and the need to better utilize and build upon existing coordination mechanisms, such as the United Nations Atlas on the Oceans, the Global Oceans Observing System and the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection.

21. The Committee endorsed the recommendations contained in the note on inter-agency collaborative arrangements in the areas of freshwater and water and sanitation, energy, oceans and coastal areas, and changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production. In the particular case of energy, the Committee requested its Vice-Chairman to convene a subgroup of the organizations most concerned to prepare proposals on system-wide collaborative arrangements and to

submit an interim report by the end of 2003, as well as a final report to the spring 2004 session of HLCP. Progress achieved in the interim would be reflected in the report for the next session of the Commission on Sustainable Development to be held in April 2004 (see annex V to the present report).

22. The Committee invited its members to provide additional information, as necessary, to help update the Inventory of existing inter-agency coordination mechanisms and collaborative arrangements and joint projects (see appendix I to annex V).

## **VI. Conflict prevention**

23. The Committee considered the issue of conflict prevention in the light of the information contained in the report before it on the subject (CEB/2003/HLCP/CRP.21). In presenting the report, the Director of the CEB secretariat highlighted the salient provisions of General Assembly resolution 57/337 of 3 July 2003 on the prevention of armed conflict, in which the Assembly called, inter alia, for a detailed review of the United Nations system's capacity for conflict prevention; the identification of the proper framework for the elaboration of system-wide coherent and action-oriented strategies; rationalizing the funding procedures for the prevention of armed conflict; and proposals for enhancing Secretariat support for strengthening United Nations cooperation with regional organizations. He drew attention to the initiative of the European Centre for Conflict Prevention — in response to recommendation 27 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/55/985-S/2001/574 and Corr.1) — in organizing regional preparatory meetings leading to an international conference (the 2005 Global Partnership Conference on Prevention) involving the participation of local, national and international non-governmental organizations.

24. In its discussion, the Committee emphasized the need for comprehensive system-wide responses that ensure mutual reinforcement in the political, peacekeeping, peace-building and development areas of the system's work, and the importance, in that context, of close interaction with the Department of Political Affairs. It was also suggested that the United Nations system would benefit from mechanisms that would systematically channel the political insights and information accumulated by field staff into the system's situational analysis process. In the same context, a political debriefing of staff evacuated from Iraq was recommended.

25. The Committee invited the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs to discuss with the Department of Political Affairs modalities for closer collaboration with HLCP and to report to the Committee's at its spring 2004 session.

## **VII. Follow-up to the Millennium Summit: 2005 comprehensive review of the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration**

26. The Committee's deliberations on the 2005 comprehensive review were pursued partly through an audiolink with United Nations Headquarters in New York. Briefing the Committee by audiolink, the Director of the Office of the Deputy Secretary-General in New York noted the concern expressed by the Secretary-General over the growing polarization of the international community and

consequently, the need for a shared vision and for realigning multilateral institutions to current realities. The Secretary-General intended to establish a “blue ribbon” High-level Panel of Eminent Personalities to assess emerging challenges, both “hard” (e.g., weapons of mass destruction) and “soft” (e.g., poverty eradication), and present new ideas for addressing them. The Panel was expected to report back to the Secretary-General prior to the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly. The Director noted that, pending the outcome of the General Assembly debate on the Secretary-General’s vision and proposals outlined in his report on the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration (A/58/323), it was difficult to anticipate the implications for the 2005 comprehensive review and the associated high-level event.

27. The subsequent discussion noted that the composition and terms of reference of the Panel and modalities for carrying out the assessment of principal organs of the system, including the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the Trusteeship Council, were in the process of being finalized. The Committee noted the importance of receiving feedback on the work of the Panel, so as to monitor the implications of its work for CEB/HLCP.

28. In the light of the above briefing and the perspective presented by the Secretary-General in the above-mentioned report, the Committee continued its reflection on the 2005 review on the basis of document CEB/2003/HLCP/CRP.20. Presenting the document and the outcome of the videoconference of 10 September, the Convener of the Task Group emphasized that there was general concurrence to focus the HLCP contribution on the three major themes of peace and security; human rights and governance; and development and protection of the environment, with emphasis to be placed on interrelationships among the issues, along with special attention to be given to new and emerging issues in the context of recent challenges to multilateralism. She emphasized the need to be innovative, action-oriented and forward-looking, with a view to producing an “accountability” report on how the United Nations system had assisted Member States in implementing the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

29. The Committee concluded that the HLCP contribution to the 2005 review should take the form of a strategic document, with a similar tone as that of the Secretary-General’s report. It should convey a sense of engagement, provide a demonstration of the system’s response in managing for results across institutional boundaries in a complex, fast-changing, external environment, highlighting achievements and success stories as well as constraints on performance. It should also contribute to initiating a process of rethinking on the work of the system in the light of changing circumstances.

30. The HLCP contribution should be well coordinated, with ongoing work in the system, particularly the Millennium Project, and relevant work in the Bretton Woods institutions, to provide a solid contribution for the Secretary-General’s 2005 report.

31. The Committee endorsed the approach for the 2005 review as outlined in the note of the Task Group (CEB/2003/HLCP/CRP.20). It agreed to establish three open-ended subgroups on each of the three main themes and stressed the need for close coordination among the subgroups. It requested the Convener of the Task Group to consult with HLCP members to identify the lead agencies that would coordinate the preparation of the HLCP contribution on each of the main themes.

The Committee further requested the subgroups to proceed expeditiously with their work and to report to it at its spring 2004 session.

### **VIII. The Millennium Project and the Millennium Campaign and the related work of the United Nations Development Group**

32. Briefing the Committee on the Millennium Development Goals Core Strategy, the representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) noted that about 40 country reports on implementation of the Goals had been completed thus far against a 2003 year-end target of 100, the delay being due to a more protracted process in report preparation, given the importance attached to national ownership. In the light of the compact of the Millennium Declaration, monitoring developed countries' commitment remained a high priority, particularly vis-à-vis goal 8. Much effort had also gone into the clarification of the relationship between Millennium Development Goals reporting and poverty reduction strategy papers. In this connection, it was pointed out that a joint United Nations Development Group/World Bank guidance note had been dispatched to country teams.

33. On the Millennium Campaign, the UNDP representative noted that much advocacy work was currently under way and was focused primarily on major Group of 7 cities with respect to the attainment of goal 8 of the Millennium Development Goals. National campaigns were also taking place in the Nordic countries. He underlined that the Campaign was essentially a nationally driven effort supported by a United Nations core team.

34. On the Millennium Project, the representative noted that work was ongoing in all ten thematically oriented task forces. The intention was to produce ten monographs by the end of 2003 laying out the principal issues and themes. A meeting was planned for 2004 to draw conclusions on a fully consultative basis. Millennium Development Goals costing was an important issue and pilot case studies on costing methodology were under way in seven countries. On costing, the approach was to define gaps between available funding and needs and the identification of potential funding sources. The Project Director would be presenting the thinking on this issue at a United Nations Development Group meeting scheduled for 30 October.

35. In the ensuing discussion, it was emphasized that the expert group meeting for the Millennium Project was an important forum for the participation of agencies and that consideration should be given to lengthening the substantive session to at least a full day. The need to address linkages between the Millennium Project and work on the 2005 review of the implementation of the Millennium Declaration was also stressed.

### **IX. Communication strategy for the Chief Executives Board**

36. The Committee had as a basis for its further discussion on the subject the background note prepared by its Vice-Chairman for its 2 July intersessional meeting. In presenting the note, the Vice-Chairman recalled that the initiative had arisen from a widely perceived need for the system to give greater collective attention to communication strategies for building constituencies such as for the Millennium Development Goals; for reaching out to civil society and other actors for

implementation; for monitoring results; and for building understanding and support, externally as well as internally among staff, particularly in the context of reform. More specifically, with regard to CEB itself, the note outlined the following three options:

- A zero approach, where the focus was strictly on communication within the United Nations system
- An opportunity-driven approach, in which CEB would decide to make statements to influence events as they arose
- A collective leadership approach, in which CEB would endeavour to project itself as the collective leadership of the global multilateral system.

37. The Vice-Chairman noted that a realistic approach at the present time might be a version of the second option. Based on the experience at the spring 2003 session of CEB, the management of statements appeared to be the immediate priority. More attention also needed to be given to strengthening internal communication, fostering better liaison between the communications departments of the system and improving the CEB web site.

38. Committee members agreed that the management of CEB statements called for particular attention. Examples cited of issues for which joint statements could be desirable included the outcome of the fifth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held at Cancún, Mexico, in September 2003 and the need for renewed commitment to multilateralism. It was noted that, in each case, the costs of issuing joint statements, in terms of time and staff resources, would need to be weighed against their potential benefits. Other points raised included:

- Difficulty in getting all agencies on board when joint statements were of a political nature
- Need to inform the system's governing bodies before the press
- Need to precondition issuance of statements on the identification of a clear target audience
- Importance of ensuring effective follow-up to CEB statements and of developing procedures for that purpose.

39. Beyond the management of joint statements, the Committee noted that what was required was a proactive communication strategy with CEB as the embodiment of the United Nations system. The strategy should build up interest in what the United Nations system was collectively doing through CEB, conveying a sense of unity and coherence in its work. The need to connect closely in this process with the United Nations Communications Group, the Department of Public Information and the Office of the Spokesman for the Secretary-General was emphasized. The view was expressed that, in the first instance, the target audience should realistically be Governments and the development community, rather than, directly, the public at large.

40. The Committee requested its Vice-Chairman to develop the note further in consultation with the United Nations Communications Group and the Office of the Spokesman for the Secretary-General, and agreed to pursue consideration of the matter at future sessions. It was observed that the outcome of the CEB retreat on the future of multilateralism was likely to provide useful guidance for pursuing this issue.

## **X. High-level Committee on Programmes work programme for 2003-2004**

41. The Committee reviewed its work programme as contained in the report of its intersessional meeting, held in Geneva on 2 July 2003. In the light of the discussion at its current session, the Committee agreed to revise its work programme as indicated in annex VI to the present report.

42. In order to streamline its agenda, the Committee agreed that it would be useful to cluster related issues, distinguishing between issues for HLCP decision or action and those for consideration by CEB. In keeping with its agreed working methods, the Committee would utilize, as necessary, videoconferencing to conduct its work in between sessions. To facilitate in-house clearance by agencies, it was also emphasized that documents should be submitted well in advance of regular sessions. The need for HLCP members to consult their respective Executive Heads on issues before HLCP which would feature in the CEB agenda was also stressed.

## **XI. Autumn 2003 session of the Chief Executives Board**

43. The Secretary of CEB briefed the Committee on the arrangements for the autumn session. The main items on the agenda included the outcome of the HLCP discussion on HIV/AIDS and financing for development and a third item on administrative issues from the report of the High-level Committee on Management, including a meeting with staff representatives. As indicated in the Secretary-General's letter dated 18 August 2003, the CEB retreat would address the issue of the future of multilateralism in the perspective presented by the Secretary-General in his report.

## **XII. Other matters**

### **A. Africa: New Partnership for Africa's Development**

44. The Committee considered the issue of United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) on the basis of the note prepared by the Economic Commission for Africa, as presented by the representative of the regional commissions (CEB/2003/HLCP/CRP.22). The Committee took note of a number of important developments relating to NEPAD, namely: the appointment by the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee, of a panel of six eminent persons to support the operationalization of the African Peer Review Mechanism, acceded to by 15 countries; the adoption by the General Assembly, of resolution 57/7 of 4 November 2002, which provided the strategic guidance on the nature and scope for United Nations system support to Africa, based on the goals and priorities of NEPAD; and the significant progress recorded by the five clusters, ranging from the drawing up of a common plan of action to the mobilization of resources and actual implementation of projects.

45. The Committee also took note of a number of events, namely: the sixth regional consultation, to be held in Addis Ababa in early November 2003, under the

chairmanship of the Deputy Secretary-General and which would take stock of progress and outline the next steps in strengthening United Nations system collaboration in support of NEPAD; and the first meeting of the high-level Commission on HIV/AIDS and Governance in Africa, held in Addis Ababa on 16 and 17 September 2003.

## **B. Civil society organizations**

46. In following up on its earlier decision to undertake a review of the state of collaboration between organizations of the United Nations system and civil society organizations, the Committee reviewed the outcome of two events organized by the Non-Governmental Liaison Service: a meeting with non-governmental organizations/civil society organizations focal points, in March 2003, and a consultation with a representative group of civil society organizations in June 2003. The Committee was also briefed on the work of the Secretary-General's Panel of Eminent Persons on Civil Society and United Nations Relationships ("Cardoso Panel").

47. The Coordinator of the Non-Governmental Liaison Service briefed the Committee on the outcome of the consultations held in March, involving the participation of non-governmental organizations/civil society organizations focal points and liaison offices of the United Nations system, and in July, attended by over 60 non-governmental organizations/civil society organizations representatives on the theme "The crisis in global governance: challenges for the United Nations and global civil society". Among the salient issues emerging from the first consultation were: the United Nations system's creative and positive response to growing demands for participation from civil society organizations; the need to further enhance and strengthen constructive relationships and engagement with civil society organizations, recognizing the demands for coordination within organizations, increased staff awareness, strong support from senior management, developing modalities for assessing the legitimacy, accountability and representativity of civil society organizations and more serious United Nations system investment in that relationship. The Millennium Development Goals clearly provided the opportunity for closer United Nations-civil society organization engagement, based on transparency, mutual accountability, openness and respect for the autonomy and self-organization of civil society organizations.

48. With regard to the second consultation, the Coordinator highlighted, *inter alia*, civil society organization perceptions of threats to United Nations credibility, linked in part to constraints on the independence of its Secretariat, the absence of compliance mechanisms to ensure implementation of internationally negotiated agreements and the inadequate funding situation of the United Nations. Civil society organizations expressed concern over the granting by the United Nations of consultative status to neo-conservative non-governmental organizations with anti-United Nations agendas and the need for clarity in regulations governing the participation of the business sector.

49. On the way forward, he suggested that the system might wish to explore its potential role in bringing together like-minded coalitions of Governments and civil society organizations on issues of common interest. Other possible areas of future work included the mapping out on a system-wide basis of broad generic objectives and principles to underpin the system's engagement with civil society organizations

and non-governmental organizations; and the possibility of HLCP holding a consultation with key civil society organizations and non-governmental organization leaders on efforts to implement the Millennium Development Goals. He also proposed that HLCP consider issues of system-wide relevance which may emerge from the report of the “Cardoso Panel”, with a view to identifying areas for further work and action.

50. The Director of the secretariat of the Panel briefed the Committee on the status of the Panel’s work. In its meeting held on 2 and 3 June, the Panel concentrated its work on such issues as agreeing on the context, methodology and the development of its work programme. Currently, work was ongoing, inter alia, to build a reservoir of proposals from the consultative process and discussions within the Panel, defining underpinning objectives with a view to helping the United Nations do a better job, developing discussion on key topics, such as enhancing the role of parliamentarians, addressing Security Council issues and assessing the ramifications for governance of multi-stakeholder partnerships. The Panel would reconvene for a second meeting in December to draft possible recommendations for inclusion in its final report to the Secretary-General in April 2004. The Director of the Panel’s secretariat stressed the need for information-sharing between the Panel and members of HLCP and noted that a meeting between members of both bodies would be useful.

51. The Committee identified a number of challenges confronting the system in its engagement with civil society organizations. These include ways of engaging operational non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and other conference outcomes, such as that of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, overcoming the resistance of some Member States to expanded participation by non-governmental organizations in intergovernmental processes; and finding appropriate modalities for allowing the voices of civil society to be heard in decision-making. In this regard, the view was expressed that the establishment of appropriate criteria on legitimacy and representativeness of civil society organizations was a precondition for progress in relation to their participation in decision-making. The need to identify and to outline a strategy for reaching out to civil society organization coalitions that support the work of the United Nations system was especially stressed.

52. The Committee decided to revert to the issue of civil society organizations after the completion of the report of the Secretary-General’s High-level Panel, at its spring 2004 meeting.

### **C. Indigenous issues**

53. The representative of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs introduced document CEB/2003/HLCP/CRP.23.

54. In the light of the Millennium Declaration’s emphasis on the issue of vulnerable groups, the Committee noted that indigenous peoples had borne the brunt of exploitation and neglect and that it was important to examine this issue from a development perspective, including its cross-sectoral implications, for example, on health, education, well-being, environment, etc. The Committee stressed the importance of a “buy-in” from Member States in the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues beyond the Governments that were members of the Forum, since the resolution of fundamental issues affecting indigenous peoples required the active

engagement of all Governments. It was also incumbent on the system to reflect on how to steer the Forum to achieve realistic and positive results. While agreeing on the development thrust, the Committee observed that the very important human rights issues involved should not be neglected.

55. The Committee agreed to revert to this issue at an appropriate time and, *inter alia*, to share experiences on how the issue was dealt with in the respective governing boards of agencies. It also encouraged agencies to participate actively in the Inter-agency Support Group for the Permanent Forum.

#### **D. Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing**

56. The representative of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs introduced a note on the follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing (CEB/2003/HLCP/CRP.24). The Committee noted the importance of this issue for both developed and developing countries, in the light of demographic trends and ageing populations, and underlined the need for inter-agency collaboration and further discussion thereon.

#### **E. Date and venue for the next session of the High-level Committee**

57. The Committee decided to undertake further consultation on the venue and timing of its next meeting. It took note of an invitation from the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia to host the next HLCP session in Beirut.

## **Annex I**

### **Agenda**

1. Financing for development
2. HIV/AIDS and its linkages with food security and governance
3. Follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development
4. Conflict prevention
5. Follow-up to the Millennium Summit: 2005 comprehensive review of the implementation of the Millennium Declaration
6. The Millennium Project and the Millennium Campaign and the related work of the United Nations Development Group
7. Communication strategy for the Chief Executives Board
8. Work programme of the High Level Committee on Programmes for 2003-2004
9. Autumn 2003 session of the Chief Executives Board
10. Other matters
  - (a) Africa — New Partnership for Africa's Development
  - (b) Civil society organizations
  - (c) Indigenous issues
  - (d) Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing

## Annex II

### List of participants

*Chairman:*

Lennart Båge (IFAD)

*Vice-Chairman:*

Mats Karlsson (World Bank)

*Secretary:*

Eckhard W. Hein (CEB Secretariat)

United Nations	Patrizio Civili John Clark Andrey Vasiliyev
Regional commissions	Sulafa Al-Bassam
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	Lakshmi Puri
United Nations International Drug Control Programme	James Callahan
United Nations Environment Programme	Adnan Amin
United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)	Daniel Biau
United Nations Development Programme	Bruce Jenks
United Nations Population Fund	Mari Simonen
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	Marjon Kamara Martin Loftus
United Nations Children's Fund	Ado Vaher
World Food Programme	Sheila Sisulu Robin Jackson
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	Matthias Burchard
Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS	Werasit Sittitrai Michel Sidibe Brian Williams
United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service	Tony Hill
International Labour Organization	Don Skerrett
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Wendy Mann Jose Luis Fernandez
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	Hans d'Orville Jean-Yves le Saux

World Health Organization	Bernard Kean
World Bank	Eduardo Doryan
International Monetary Fund	Reinhard Munzberg
International Civil Aviation Organization	Lise Boisvert
International Maritime Organization	Olga Bosquez
Universal Postal Union	James L. Gunderson
World Meteorological Organization	D. D. C. Don Nanjira
World Intellectual Property Organization	Orobola Fasehun
International Fund for Agricultural Development	Uday Abhyankar Edward Heinemann
United Nations Industrial Development Organization	A. J. J. Rwendeire Andrey Lazykin
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization	Bernard Wrabetz
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	Mukul Sanwal
United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination secretariat	Shaukat Fareed Eric Lacanlale Susan Toh

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## **Annex III**

### **Follow-up to Monterrey: financing for development**

#### **A. Background**

1. The commitments made and agreements reached at the International Conference on Financing for Development held in Monterrey, Mexico, in March 2002 encompass a holistic approach to issues of trade, development and finance, as well as national and international governance. They have opened new avenues of cooperation, not only on the promotion of long-term goals of development and poverty eradication, but also on the macroeconomic dimensions of these issues.

2. The Monterrey Consensus:

(a) Establishes a veritable platform for building a new global alliance for development, inclusive of relevant stakeholders;

(b) Represents a new partnership between developed and developing countries with mutually shared responsibilities;

(c) Is premised on full ownership by developing countries of their development and renewed commitment on the part of the international community to support their efforts.

3. Particular emphasis is placed on the need for greater policy coherence and consistency in all areas covered by the Consensus.

4. The United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization (WTO) have particularly important roles in promoting this increased coherence and consistency in trade, finance and development policies. The close working relationship built during the preparation of the International Conference has continued and was also reflected in the preparation and outcome of the High-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions and WTO in April 2003. This relationship is at both the intergovernmental and secretariat levels.

5. The Conference was an inclusive process, both in terms of the number of stakeholders involved and the modalities for their participation. To build further on this process, it was decided that all actors, especially the main institutional stakeholders, should “stay engaged” in the follow-up actions. It was also decided that the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council would provide the main forums for such engagement in the United Nations. The Secretary-General was requested to provide sustained follow-up with the United Nations system, in collaboration with the secretariats of the major institutional stakeholders concerned, and fully utilizing the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination mechanism.

#### **B. Follow-up actions at the intergovernmental levels**

6. The theme for the 2003 High-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization, held on 14 April, was “Increased coherence, coordination and cooperation for the

implementation of the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development at all levels one year after the Conference”. Participants generally shared the view that progress had been made towards increasing coherence in relation to finance, trade and development policies. The United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions and WTO shared a common purpose and cooperative work on the Millennium Development Goals and the follow-up to the Monterrey Consensus had intensified. At the same time, it was recognized that there were gaps in implementation in some key areas (see President’s summary (A/58/77-E/2003/62)).

7. At its fifty-seventh session, in resolution 57/250 of 20 December 2002, the General Assembly endorsed the decision by the Conference that the current biennial’s High-Level Dialogue on strengthening international cooperation for development through partnership in the General Assembly would be reconstituted to become the intergovernmental focal point for the general follow-up to the Conference and related issues. The first such High-Level Dialogue will be held immediately before the CEB session on 29 and 30 October 2003, to review the state of implementation of the Consensus. A comprehensive report (A/57/216 and Corr.1) has been prepared with inputs and collaboration of the major institutional stakeholders, as the main background document for the event. The present report has been drawn upon to guide the HLCP preparations for the discussions in CEB, including the present annotations.

### C. Discussions in the Chief Executives Board

8. As indicated in the Secretary-General’s letter to Executive Heads dated 18 August 2003, CEB discussions at its autumn session would be preceded by the April 2003 Economic and Social Council High-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions and WTO, and by the High-Level Dialogue in the General Assembly scheduled to be held immediately before the CEB session. **They will, as such, provide a timely opportunity to share impressions on the functioning of the intergovernmental processes that have been set in motion for the follow-up to the Conference.** The Assembly has now decided to conduct a first assessment of these follow-up mechanisms at its current session, and the exchange of views at CEB could provide useful inputs for the process.

9. Intergovernmental deliberations taking place in other concerned governing bodies, such as those of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations funds and programmes, the International Labour Organization, the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and other United Nations system agencies, are also highly relevant for the ongoing process of Monterrey follow-up and for keeping alive its “multi-stakeholder engagement” nature. Thus, they should be seen as mutually reinforcing tracks complementing those of the intergovernmental processes in the United Nations itself.

10. This exchange should be part of an initial, broad reflection in CEB on the impact of the International Conference on Financing for Development in advancing policy coherence within the system, and on approaches to advocacy, policy development and coherence and policy advice and programme delivery that can maximize the contribution of the system to an effective follow-up to the Conference. In particular, **CEB may wish to focus on the advocacy role of executive heads and on actions that can be taken at the “managerial” and inter-agency levels,**

**including in particular policy advice and programme delivery at the country level.**

11. The following issues have been selected in this light. The coverage is nevertheless wide, so as to enable CEB to have an overview of the range of subjects relevant to system-wide follow-up. **CEB may wish to pursue some of them also in the context of other related items on the agenda of the current session, and/or give guidance to further work within the inter-agency system, including HLCP. CEB members may also wish to take them into account, as appropriate, in connection with their participation in the High-Level Dialogue.**

#### **Mobilizing domestic financial resources**

- The mobilization of domestic savings, both as a means of financing development and as a tool of crisis mitigation in the face of volatile capital flows, continues to be a priority. While developing and transition economies have made progress in strengthening domestic institutions and implementing appropriate policies to support the mobilization of domestic resources for development, continued efforts are needed. These efforts are to be supported by reforms in relevant areas, which include public services, building greater accountability and transparency in public administration, and implementing anti-corruption practices. In the same vein, developing countries and countries with economies in transition need to widen their tax bases and enhance tax collection in order to ensure adequate revenues for public expenditure. They need further efforts to put in place more effective tax administration and appropriate laws and procedures. **Consideration needs to be given to ways of strengthening the impact and reach of United Nations capacity-building activities in the above-mentioned areas and of creating stronger synergies in the execution of these activities.**
- Many bilateral aid agencies and multilateral institutions have sought to help developing and transition economies in financial sector development, ranging from microfinance to capital-market development. The dialogue among donor agencies on ways to enhance the effectiveness and coherence of their assistance has been intensifying. There is also increasing recognition that more dialogue and assistance are needed. Also it is acknowledged that financial sector assessment programmes should be followed by more intensive technical assistance to include support for self-assessments by countries in order to enable them to benchmark their financial sector against international best practices and evaluate the appropriateness of international norms for their own systems. **Further consideration needs to be given to how and where United Nations system support can play the most effective role in this particular area** leading to policy ownership in developing countries.

#### **Stimulating international private resource flows**

- National and international efforts and, particularly, public and private partnerships are needed to facilitate international investment flows to developing countries; good examples are the partnership of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) with the International Chamber of Commerce in the promotion of investment advisory councils and the organization by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund

(IMF) of national-level investment advisory councils in a number of countries. More is needed. The United Nations system should support further analysis to identify proactive policies and measures in home and recipient countries of foreign direct investment that can be advantageous to development. In this context, the system should assist developing countries in attracting foreign direct investment that will enhance technology transfer and promote spillovers to domestic industry and improve the domestic value added of exports. **United Nations system agencies should consider ways in which the United Nations family could play a greater role in facilitating these partnerships and collaborative efforts.**

- There is also a growing need to improve the availability of information for investment and related policy formulation. International financial organizations, in cooperation with the United Nations, should seek to strengthen the collection and dissemination of international financial data. In this context, attention is invited to the growing importance of private remittances, which largely exceed official development assistance flows — as a sources of financing development and poverty reduction. Additional efforts and more intensive technical assistance in this area are needed at both the national and international levels and further information dissemination initiatives should be encouraged and supported. **The United Nations system should give consideration to ways of extending enhanced support to activities in this area, so as to meet in a balanced way both data collection and dissemination needs, and ensure that technical assistance is effectively adapted to national capacities.**

#### **International trade**

- Effective and meaningful integration of the interests and concerns of developing and transition economies into the disciplines and operation of the multilateral trading system is integral to the Doha round of multilateral trade negotiations and necessary to realizing the potential of international trade as an engine for development. The emergence of new developing countries' groups which played a notable role at Cancún is noteworthy. **CEB should assess the implications of the outcome of the Cancún Ministerial meeting and the potential role that the whole United Nations system can play in supporting the multilateral trading system and its development agenda, in the context of the centrality of trade in the Monterrey Consensus. In this context, the World Trade Organization may consider ways to develop a closer relationship with the United Nations system that can be useful for this purpose.**
- A number of bilateral and multilateral trade-related technical assistance and capacity-building programmes for least developed countries are being strengthened (Integrated Framework and Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Programme). The recently signed memorandum of understanding between the World Trade Organization and UNCTAD aims to further facilitate collaboration in these areas. **Consideration should be given to ways to enhance the impact of United Nations capacity-building activities in the area of trade negotiations and to strengthen United Nations system support to developing countries beyond those covered by the Integrated Framework. In the same context, consideration should be given to ways of strengthening coordination of capacity-building activities geared to**

**mainstreaming trade into national development strategies and expanding export supply capacity in developing countries, while also mainstreaming development considerations into the international trading system and rules framework.**

#### **International financial cooperation for development and external debt**

- The United Nations system has both an advocacy and a major operational role in promoting increased official development assistance flows and their effective use and in ensuring that they are, in particular, directed towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Consideration could also be given to the possibility of instituting aid performance indicators at the recipient country level as a mechanism for monitoring performance in terms of improvements in the quality of aid. A practical way to improve aid effectiveness and promote greater partnership in aid relationships is to institute systems for donor performance monitoring at the recipient country level as part of the poverty reduction strategy papers process. In contributing to aid effectiveness, CEB can also help ensure progress in the harmonization of operations at the country level with attendant implications for close interaction between HLCP and the United Nations Development Group. **CEB should consider how the multilateral system can better monitor and support the implementation of the commitments made in Monterrey.**
- **With regard to harmonization, the inter-agency system should focus on: (a) concrete initiatives for cooperation on the ground in the context of country-driven and country-owned poverty reduction strategies or other core national development strategies; and (b) on how best to strengthen and deepen the different instruments of the United Nations and other major development partners, including common country assessments/United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, country reporting on the Millennium Development Goals, and standardizing operations, taking into account that, within the United Nations, the United Nations Development Group has the main operational responsibility in this matter. Renewed attention also needs to be given to ways in which the United Nations system can best help in facilitating an adequate dialogue and flow of information among all aid partners, and to ways for the multilateral system to extend monitoring to funding for key “global public goods” that are not currently being monitored.**
- **With regard to external debt, CEB should consider and promote further work in areas that need continuing attention,** such as the need to find ways to break the link between unsustainable external debt and primary commodity dependence in poor countries, further exploration of issues of general relevance to the orderly resolution of crises, the drafting of voluntary codes of conduct for application during times of crisis and the formulation and strengthening of analytical frameworks for debt sustainability in developing and transition economies.

#### **Addressing systemic issues and staying engaged**

- Recognizing the increased importance of faster and more automatic access to significant financial resources in times of capital-account crises, consideration

and development of mechanisms for emergency lending should continue in the relevant global and regional forums. **Given the progress made since Monterrey in enhancing regional financial cooperation, the United Nations system should support, through technical assistance and advice, further efforts to supplement global arrangements with regional ones, including those aimed at strengthening mutual surveillance and peer review and providing financial support to participating countries in times of crisis.**

- Strengthening global economic governance, including enhanced participation of developing countries, and the reforms of the multilateral institutional framework required to this end have been greatly emphasized by world leaders during the general debate at the current session of the General Assembly. They will undoubtedly receive focused attention at the current meetings of CEB, particularly in the context of the CEB retreat on the future of multilateralism. **In the specific context of the follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development, CEB may wish to consider how to further enhance and strengthen global economic cooperation through intersecretariat work and through the intergovernmental mechanisms designed in Monterrey.**

## Annex IV

### **Organizing the United Nations response to the triple threat of food insecurity, weakened capacity for governance and AIDS, particularly in Southern and Eastern Africa**

#### *Summary*

The scale and severity of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Southern and Eastern Africa, interlinked with poverty, chronic and recurrent food insecurity, drought and weakened institutional capacity, mean that all United Nations agencies must urgently retool and scale up their support of national and community capacities to enable a multisectoral response.

The purpose of this paper is to present a coherent system-wide policy and programming approach for the United Nations on HIV/AIDS with specific recommendations to be endorsed by the Chief Executives Board. After a brief introduction, the paper summarizes the interlinkages between HIV/AIDS, food insecurity and governance (sect. II); it then identifies the paradigm shift required in the United Nations system in order to meet these new challenges (sect. III); lastly, the paper presents programmatic and institutional actions United Nations agencies must undertake (sects. IV and V).

There are five fundamental ways in which the United Nations response must be either entirely new or radically scaled up in order to make a difference.

First, results for households and communities. While the United Nations will continue to work with, and through, Governments, households and communities must be placed squarely at the centre of research and analysis, programme design and implementation and, ultimately, assessments in order to determine United Nations success or failure.

Second, simultaneous humanitarian and development action. Given the combination of short-term shocks and long-term challenges associated with the crisis, the dichotomy of “humanitarian” and “development” assistance must be overcome; instead an approach should be composed of “developmental relief” and “emergency development”. This approach applies equally to communities receiving traditional humanitarian assistance, such as refugees and displaced persons.

Third, accelerated capacity development. Capacity-building in a broad range of sectors will be required in order to enable Governments, non-governmental organizations and communities to adapt to changing conditions shaped by the triple threat.

Fourth, scaling up women’s programming. Women and girls bear a disproportionate burden of the AIDS crisis. Programmes dedicated to the economic and social empowerment of women must be initiated and scaled up. For effective prevention, universal access to sexual and reproductive health must be ensured.

Fifth, a livelihoods approach. A livelihoods approach recognizes that there is need for action at household, community, local and national levels to address AIDS within a context which is most often defined by poverty and food insecurity. A range of livelihood interventions are required in order to address root causes of vulnerability within a context characterized by a generalized AIDS epidemic.

Based on these five principles and approaches, eleven programmatic actions are recommended for United Nations agencies to implement in Southern and Eastern Africa in order to achieve the targets outlined in the Declaration of Commitment (special session of the General Assembly on AIDS, June 2001) and, more broadly, the Millennium Development Goals:

- Action 1. Implement community safety net programmes
- Action 2. Improve data collection on community impact and dynamics
- Action 3. Strengthen livelihoods in highly affected communities and for key groups
- Action 4. Undertake dedicated programmes for women's empowerment
- Action 5. Undertake dedicated programmes to assist the growing orphan population
- Action 6. Undertake urgent capacity-building to fight AIDS, especially in the health sector
- Action 7. Undertake urgent capacity-building to deal with the impacts of AIDS
- Action 8. Mainstream AIDS into development planning
- Action 9. Build leadership to lead participatory programme reviews
- Action 10. Advocate and support partnership forums
- Action 11. Invest in monitoring, tracking and evaluation systems

To implement these programmes, in an urgent manner which addresses simultaneously short-term needs and long-term challenges, requires a reorganization and an intensification of United Nations action. The United Nations must employ the tools at its disposal, in particular those of United Nations reform, direct its moral authority and invest managerial and financial resources to help its partners defeat the AIDS-compounded crises. Eleven institutional actions are proposed for the United Nations system to implement in Eastern and Southern Africa:

- Action 12. United Nations country teams in collaboration with Governments to review common country assessments and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks
- Action 13. United Nations theme groups to prepare joint implementation support plans and report annually
- Action 14. Review and strengthen the functioning of the United Nations resident coordinator system
- Action 15. In a highly affected small country, implement an accelerated vision of United Nations reform
- Action 16. United Nations agencies to improve skills and modalities in working with new partners
- Action 17. Enabling Governments to coordinate external support and ensure accountability
- Action 18. United Nations system, principally through the Regional Inter-Agency Coordination and Support Office, to advocate with regional bodies and Governments

Action 19. United Nations system to advocate and work with international partners to increase investments

Action 20. United Nations country teams to prepare policy and programme advocacy plans

Action 21. The United Nations Development Group, in collaboration with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, to increase support and guidance to United Nations resident coordinator system; United Nations agency headquarters to strive to increase funding

Action 22. A regional directors' group to serve as an oversight authority for United Nations action in Southern and Eastern Africa

Finally, a series of recommendations are made to the CEB to endorse the actions in the paper.

The declaration entitled "Accelerating country and regional action on HIV/AIDS in Eastern and Southern Africa" by United Nations regional directors for Africa, who met in Maputo on 9 July 2003, is attached as the appendix.

## I. Introduction

1. A new kind of humanitarian crisis is emerging in Southern Africa. It is a deadly triad consisting of a lethal epidemic, deepening food insecurity and a hollowing out of government capacity. Rural livelihoods, already challenged by poverty, chronic food insecurity and insecure access to weakened social services, are now facing a crisis of immense dimensions and unknown trajectory. The HIV epidemic, having reached hitherto unimaginable prevalence levels bordering on 40 per cent of adults in some countries, is now entering the phase of massive death from AIDS: 22,000 people are dying every week in the mainland Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. Fuelled in part by impoverishment and lack of essential public services, the epidemic continues to worsen, bringing in its wake new patterns of food insecurity, destitution and vulnerability. In 2002, food insecurity affected 14 million people in six Southern African States. Communities' ability to withstand shocks has been severely compromised. Faced with the challenge of needing to do more to preserve lives and livelihoods, Governments of the region are finding that their principal asset — human resources in their institutions — is being eroded at an increasing rate.

2. This structural crisis in Southern Africa has been unfolding for more than a decade. Other regions in Africa, in particular in the Horn, are starting to experience similar challenges of interlinked crises. Not only are the existing financial and human resources inadequate for the task, but the policy tools for effectively combating HIV/AIDS and mitigating its wider impacts are also insufficient. The crisis demands transformed “humanitarian” and “developmental” responses, including longer-term commitments and new forms of management and partnership. Priorities will have to be reoriented, focusing scarce public resources immediately on sustaining human life and communities. At the same, it is essential that longer-term issues be addressed immediately, so that sufficient resources are mobilized to assist with the recovery of livelihoods and ensure the provision of social service, as well as build capacity to respond to recurrent crises. The current crisis may also present a window of opportunity. African Governments and the international community are determined to tackle the problem effectively, both through new ways of doing business and by unlocking new resources.

3. The purpose of the present paper is to present an overview of the interlinkages between HIV/AIDS, food insecurity and governance (sect. II); to identify the paradigm shift required in the United Nations system in order to meet these new challenges (sect. III); and to propose a coherent system-wide policy and programming approach for the United Nations (sects. IV and V). The focus is on Southern Africa, where the United Nations and its partners have been engaged for more than a decade in the struggle against AIDS and for more than a year specifically addressing the AIDS-food insecurity-governance triad. Proposals are made as recommended actions for endorsement by the Chief Executives Board, but it is hoped that, at the same time, the paper will inform a wider audience, including Governments, non-governmental organizations and international development partners. The proposals outlined in the paper should be helpful for other regions of the world facing similar challenges.

4. A set of frameworks and initiatives already exist to guide the United Nations response in Southern Africa (see box below). The Declaration of Commitment of the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS and the Millennium

Development Goals provide powerful guidance for results which must be achieved. Specific work in early 2003 on Southern Africa by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee on humanitarian affairs and by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) provides further direction. The goal of the present paper is to detail the programmatic activities and the institutional changes which must be undertaken if the United Nations is to achieve the goals it has set for itself.

### **Frameworks for action**

#### **Global frameworks**

- Millennium Development Goals adopted by the General Assembly in September 2000
- Special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS Declaration of Commitment in June 2001: set goals to be achieved by 2003 and 2005

#### **Regional frameworks**

- African Union member States committed to the Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and other Related Infectious Diseases in April 2001
- New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) to more coherently tackle social, economic and political priorities on a continent-wide basis, launched July 2001
- Commission on HIV/AIDS and Governance in Africa, created in 2003 in response to HIV/AIDS, subregional crises and governance challenges, chaired by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
- Next steps for action in Southern Africa: a report of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Humanitarian Needs in Southern Africa, Inter-Agency Standing Committee, April 2003
- The UNAIDS response to the AIDS crisis in Southern Africa, UNAIDS, April 2003

#### **Southern African Development Community frameworks**

- SADC HIV/AIDS Strategic Framework and Programme of Action 2003-2007: aims to reduce infections, mitigate socio-economic impact, develop policies and legislation, and mobilize resources
- Maseru Declaration on the Fight against HIV/AIDS in the SADC Region, July 2003: reaffirms the commitment of SADC Governments urgently to combat HIV/AIDS through multisectoral strategic action

#### **National frameworks**

- Poverty reduction strategy papers or other national development frameworks
- National AIDS strategic plans

## **II. A different kind of crisis**

### **A. Deepening household and community vulnerability to food and livelihood insecurity**

5. AIDS undercuts the resilience which households and communities draw upon to cope during periods of difficulty. In the face of an external shock, poor households respond with a variety of strategies, including altering income-generating activities and consumption patterns, as well as calling upon family and community support. But AIDS strikes at productive adults, the asset most likely to help during a crisis. Infected adults may be unable to work. The burden of care increases, in both financial and social terms, for other family members. The impoverishment that results in all households as they use assets and savings during a crisis is amplified in HIV/AIDS-affected households. In such households, food security is undermined and children and adults tend to be less well nourished. When adults die, the remaining household may be headed by a child or elderly adult or may even disintegrate completely. In communities where coping mechanisms are already severely constrained, such as those composed of refugees or internally displaced people, AIDS amplifies that vulnerability. Although further research is required to determine the number of such households (which is itself complicated by an environment filled with stigma and in which people often do not know if they are HIV positive), the AIDS data which is available is staggering. More than 13 million productive adults in the mainland SADC region, out of an adult population of roughly 66 million, are living with HIV and AIDS, including more than one million children. There are 5 million orphans. And all of these numbers are growing.

6. HIV/AIDS also weakens communities and their governance systems. Particularly in rural areas, where public services may be absent, traditional community support systems are crucial to impoverished households. But evidence shows that HIV/AIDS weakens this critical social and economic capital. Traditional knowledge such as locally adapted agricultural technologies may be gradually lost as working age adults die and leave children orphaned. Family members may grab the assets of their deceased relatives and force widows from their land. Whether in rural or urban areas, the burden of caring for sick people and orphans may ultimately overwhelm the ability or willingness of households to do more. Households and communities with fewer adults have less surplus adult-time to help others, undermining community resilience. In rural areas, increasingly impoverished communities may receive fewer visits from traders, or suffer a reduced availability of services and consumer products. Just as HIV/AIDS-affected households may ultimately disintegrate, so too may HIV/AIDS-affected communities through the loss of significant numbers of their members, economic collapse and social breakdown.

### **B. Destroying the capacity to govern and administer services**

7. Most countries in Eastern and Southern Africa have been facing constrained institutional capacity for decades due to structural factors that include inadequate financial, human and technological resources and, especially in poorer countries, economically induced emigration of professionals. With an average of 20 per cent HIV prevalence among adults in the mainland SADC countries, AIDS-related illness and death multiply these existing problems, compromising Governments' ability to

meet their core mandate. Increasing AIDS-related absenteeism and death cuts the supply of human resources on the one hand, while the impact of AIDS on society changes the profile of demand, on the other.

8. On the supply side — especially in service oriented sectors such as ministries of agriculture, education, health and local authorities, who generally comprise the largest staff components of Governments — AIDS-related deaths reduce the quality and quantity of services. Specifically with respect to fighting AIDS, weakened government capacity obstructs its ability to undertake prevention and treatment activities, such as voluntary counselling and testing, the provision of anti-retrovirals or sexual and reproductive health services. In addition to the direct loss of skill and institutional memory, financial costs increase for training of new staff, increased demand for health care, funeral pay-outs and pensions. In urban areas, where local authorities have responsibility for providing services, the impact of HIV/AIDS has eroded both their income base and their capacity to provide services. Beyond formal State systems, civil society and community organizations are also affected. But AIDS also affects demand. Critical examples include the growing numbers of orphans and vulnerable children who require a whole range of services; changing demographic patterns in communities that place more burdens on the elderly and children; and increased disease burden. Finally, the impoverishing effect of AIDS on households simply heightens the services demanded of the State and its partners.

9. For political institutions which oversee the governance process, the death of elected officials and senior members of the civil service hurts leadership capacity. Added to AIDS deaths in institutions critical to law and order, such as the uniformed services or the judiciary, it may amount to a threat to basic security, particularly in combination with other crises, such as widespread food insecurity.

### **C. The vicious cycle**

10. In a setting of poverty and chronic hunger, any external shock hitting a household undermines its ability to deal with pre-existing challenges. Whether it is a poor family hit by an HIV infection, or an already-HIV affected household hit by drought, the addition of AIDS to the mix of development challenges increases the chances that households will simply not have the means to escape poverty and benefit from development opportunities. The destruction by AIDS of human resources of governmental and national non-governmental institutions aggravates the situation further.

11. More specifically with regard to the spread of HIV, the compounded crises in Southern Africa contribute directly to increased transmission. Households and communities in distress, whether due to poverty, lack of access to effective basic services, or drought and acute food insecurity, are less likely to receive critical information and services that discourage transmission of HIV. They may be less aware of the risks of infection, and are less likely to focus on long-term consequences of decisions in the face of immediate, household-threatening problems. Increased migration, whether voluntary in search of income or forced seeking refuge from conflict, opens up the possibility for increased sexual encounters and abuse.

12. Women play a central role in this cycle, paradoxically both as the core of household resilience and as an actor subject to exploitation. In all countries in the

region, women are among the poorest. Women are more vulnerable to HIV infection than men, both biologically and because of economic and social inequalities, such as lack of employment opportunities, poor access to education and information and weak control over resources. When faced with limited livelihood options, many turn to commercial and transactional sex. External shocks can make the problem worse: all six of the Southern African countries where food assistance was prioritized last year saw women and girls resorting to “survival sex”, exchanging sex for food, money or consumption goods.

13. The poverty and food insecurity associated with the compounded crises not only exacerbates the spread of HIV, it also directly worsens its impact. It reduces the resources available to households and communities for caring for people who are ill. A lack of food and poor nutrition weaken peoples’ immune systems to all infections, including HIV. Without anti-retrovirals, other drugs to combat opportunistic infections and good nutrition, the development of HIV to full-blown AIDS and eventual death is hastened.

14. Finally, in many ways, the worst is yet to come. In 2001, an estimated 1.1 million people died in the mainland SADC region from AIDS. But the number is still rising, and is not expected to peak until between 2005 and 2010. While more research is required to better understand the “impact wave” of the epidemic, it is clear that the compounding effects of AIDS, external shocks such as drought, long-standing challenges of poverty, and weakened institutional capacity have created a downward spiral. The United Nations must help empower households and communities to escape it.

### **III. Changing gears**

15. The threat that AIDS may reverse decades of development, undermine economic growth and unravel the social fabric that has held communities together during previous crises demands a re-tooling of United Nations responses. There are five fundamental ways in which the United Nations response must be either entirely new or radically scaled up in order to make a difference.

#### **A. Results for households and communities**

16. Households and communities must be placed squarely at the centre of research and analysis, programme design and implementation and, ultimately, assessments in order to determine United Nations success or failure. Given the limited resources and absorption capacity in the region, the United Nations system will need to focus jointly on interventions and institutions, which have the largest possible outreach (schools, health centres). While the United Nations will continue to work with and through Governments, the new crisis requires United Nations agencies to prioritize engagement with households and communities the vulnerability and suffering of which lie at the heart of the crisis and whose support mechanisms must be central to the response. New relationships with Governments, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector are needed to help the Organization to provide better support communities’ governance systems and strengthen their resilience. Understanding why certain households and communities are more resilient than others is key to an effective United Nations response. Placing households and communities at the

centre of analysis and action means that the United Nations must improve its knowledge of local conditions and its skills and modalities to support communities. At the same time, the Organization must work to help Governments to ensure that national systems of governance are channelling resources to and empowering community structures.

## **B. Simultaneous humanitarian and development action**

17. The interlinked crisis of food insecurity, poverty, governance and AIDS combines recurrent, seasonal shocks (erratic rainfall or drought) and longer term, chronic challenges (HIV/AIDS, food insecurity, and poverty). United Nations activities must recognize, assess and respond to the immediate humanitarian needs, such as insecure access to food, water, health care or education, caused by the combined impact of HIV/AIDS with other shocks, while simultaneously and equally urgently planning programmes both to reverse the accelerating erosion of government, community and household capacity and to confront food insecurity and poverty. Both developmental relief — humanitarian assistance that contributes to sustainable development — and emergency development — urgent and accelerated assistance to aid nations in overcoming the long-term negative impact of AIDS, must be put into practice. Like traditional humanitarian assistance, the response must be quick and draw on international human resources to complement in-country capacity; and, like traditional development assistance, it must focus on capacity-building, improving existing structures and sustainability.

## **C. Accelerated capacity development**

18. Capacity-building in a broad range of sectors will be required in order to enable Governments, non-governmental organizations and communities to adapt to changing conditions shaped by the triple threat. The application of “emergency development” is most critical for the building of institutional capacity, whether at national or community level, to scale up the response to the pandemic. As noted, in high-impact countries, government institutions are being emptied by AIDS deaths. Not only Governments are affected; civil society is as well, hindering its ability to support infected individuals and affected households.

## **D. Scaling up programmes to empower women**

19. Women and girls bear a disproportionate burden of the AIDS crisis. Women are more easily infected, make up at least 59 per cent of all adults living with HIV/AIDS in the SADC region and play a key role in care. Girls are also caregivers and are more likely to lose development opportunities, such as being pulled from school as households cope. Women comprise the majority of African farmers, are the backbone of agricultural systems and are key drivers of both rural and urban economies. Ongoing mainstreaming of women’s issues must be continued, but programmes dedicated to economically and socially empowering women must be initiated and scaled up. Gender roles must also be addressed, looking both to empower women in their relations with men and to work with men to promote safe sexual behaviour and a supportive environment for women’s empowerment.

## **E. A livelihoods approach**

20. A livelihoods approach recognizes that there is need for action at the household and community levels to address AIDS within a context that is most often defined by poverty and chronic food insecurity. AIDS-specific interventions can only be successful if they are integrated with those actions designed to address the long-term causes and consequences of poverty and related development challenges. Immediate constraints facing households, caused by poverty and food insecurity, are a major influence on household decision-making and must be taken into account in the fight against AIDS. The same community structures that are necessary to cope with crises and assist in the prevention, care and treatment of AIDS are those being weakened by poverty. A range of livelihood interventions are required, looking both at rural areas, where the largest number of HIV-positive individuals live, where poverty levels are highest and food insecurity most threatening, and urban areas, which continue to attract the migration of youth, where, percentage-wise, HIV infections levels are higher and where unemployment is endemic.

21. In the highly affected countries of Southern and Eastern Africa, the United Nations must introduce innovative and accelerated activities in these five areas. Outside of this high-impact region, wherever AIDS threatens, United Nations agencies must consider putting in place such programmes in an anticipative and preventative fashion.

22. Along with these five areas for innovation, three further long-standing principles underline the actions proposed in the following sections. First, there is the development principle of the respect for human rights. All actions will be designed using a rights-based approach that seeks to empower individuals and communities to achieve their rights. Second, existing structures and institutions should be built upon wherever possible, rather than creating additional ones. Third, in specific reference to the AIDS crisis, the principle of mainstreaming should always be applied: every development activity provides an opportunity to harness social interactions to change behaviour to prevent and mitigate the impact of HIV and AIDS. Fourth, effective response to halting the epidemic requires expanded efforts on prevention, treatment and care, in a mutually reinforcing manner.

## **IV. Key United Nations programmatic actions**

23. In the face of the combined crises and the challenges described in the preceding section, United Nations agencies must review, reorient and scale up relevant programmes to ensure that results are achieved. Global goals already exist, as presented by the frameworks listed in the introduction. The most critical are the Millennium Development Goals, which cover poverty, hunger and AIDS, and for AIDS more specifically, the Declaration of Commitment. The goals of the latter relate to halting and reversing HIV infection rates; ensuring access to life-prolonging treatments and care for people living with HIV and AIDS; ensuring care and protection for orphans and people made vulnerable by AIDS (including the elderly); and helping Governments to develop and operationalize strategies to mitigate and deal with the consequences of HIV/AIDS on human rights and development. Especially given the recent radical drop in the price of anti-retroviral treatment, rolling-out access to these drugs has become key. A key supplementary goal, for example, is the WHO “three by five” — three million HIV positive people reached

with anti-retroviral treatment by 2005. The links between treatment and prevention programmes are proven, however, and both must be pursued simultaneously.

24. In order to achieve these targets at the necessary scale, the overall aim of the Organization must be to support in-country capacities, including those of national, local and community governance systems, to mount a multisectoral response. The programmatic gaps in the five areas outlined in section III must be filled if scale is to be achieved and targets met. It is anticipated that the United Nations Development Group in collaboration with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, through proactive support and interaction with the resident and humanitarian coordinators, will guide the overall follow-up process, keeping CEB periodically informed on progress made in implementing the actions proposed.

25. In the Southern Africa region, significant momentum has already been created in this direction. In July 2003, a meeting of United Nations directors for the Africa region was organized and resulted in a declaration with specific, deliverable actions (see appendix). The programmatic actions outlined below and the institutional reorientation presented in section VI build on these commitments in a desire to achieve United Nations system-wide endorsement of their implementation. All actions are written as recommended for Eastern and Southern Africa, although they are pertinent wherever AIDS threatens.

#### **A. Safety nets, livelihoods and highly affected communities**

26. In order to address short-term needs and long-term development challenges simultaneously, United Nations agencies must be ready to use safety nets immediately to ensure that households have access to critical services, while at the same time assisting them to strengthen their ability to earn a livelihood.

27. Safety nets and similar programmes will address the short-term, humanitarian needs that require an immediate response. While they should build upon existing government welfare and social programmes, in order to respond urgently they may also draw upon more external human resources than would normally be the case for traditional “development” work. Programming should integrate local participation and ensure community control over resources channelled to them, and integrate capacity-building components. Temporary assistance may be required to enable households and communities to replenish their asset base to re-establish their productive capacity and/or access services (such as education) which may have associated direct or indirect costs. In other words, interventions must employ a “developmental relief” approach. This approach applies equally to communities receiving more traditional humanitarian assistance, such as those composed of refugees or internally displaced people.

***Action 1. Community safety nets.** Work with Governments, local authorities, bilateral agencies and non-governmental development partners to provide and institutionalize programmes for income maintenance or asset strengthening for households and citizens to maintain their access to services and/or re-establish productive capacity. Long-term social programmes may be required for extremely poor households, including those impoverished by HIV/AIDS.*

28. Concurrent with the implementation of such activities, and in the context of the triple crisis in Southern Africa, increased research must be undertaken to improve the understanding of the vulnerability of communities as a whole. Topics for needed empirical research include: (a) the long-term consequences on heavily impacted farming communities; (b) the quantification of households made vulnerable by AIDS (such as those headed by children and elderly, those with increased dependency ratios or those caring for sick adults and specific age groups); (c) the impacts of gender imbalance created by increased female deaths; (d) the impact of the loss of human resources on local government, service provision and other community structures; and (e) a better empirical understanding of the linkages between HIV/AIDS and nutrition. Better data will improve programming, not only by revealing where help is needed, but also by illuminating how communities remain resilient. Higher quality information will help to determine the appropriate programming balance between focusing on specifically AIDS-affected households (which may be difficult due to lack of awareness of HIV status and/or an environment of stigma) versus addressing impoverished households in general. Improved knowledge, in combination with the participation of local institutions, will help ensure that programmes avoid such skewed effects as households claiming sick individuals to receive benefits.

**Action 2. Improved data.** *Expand and strengthen United Nations and partners' assessment and surveillance capacities in order to carry out vulnerability mapping to identify and better understand the dynamics of highly affected communities.*

29. Simultaneously, a longer-term, development-oriented approach will be geared principally towards increasing incomes and enhancing the food security of households and communities. In rural areas, programmes to enhance agricultural production and incomes will assist farmers, including increasing numbers of farmers who are orphans, teenagers, widows, the elderly and women, to develop the skills, knowledge and organization that they need to access inputs, services and markets, and to establish sustainable, low-risk farming systems. Activities include microcredit, agricultural production and marketing programmes, use of labour-saving practices, training, employment creation, education and functional literacy activities, among many others. In urban areas, with the possible exception of agricultural activities, all of these programmes are equally important, if not more so, due to the absence of land as a productive asset. In addition, access to shelter and residential security is key to ensuring sustainable livelihood in an urban setting. Opportunities in all categories must be made available for women. Activities must be cognizant of how to help particularly vulnerable households, such as those headed by children, females, those supporting sick adults or extra children, or headed by elderly. All interventions must integrate HIV/AIDS activities, benefiting from every opportunity to fight the epidemic.

**Action 3. Livelihood strengthening.** *Target support to enable highly affected communities and women, youth and orphans, the elderly and people living with HIV/AIDS to enhance their ability to earn a livelihood, for example, through agricultural skills development, microfinance and vocational training programmes. HIV/AIDS prevention and mitigation interventions will be mainstreamed.*

30. Aside from targeting geographical communities, there are particular vulnerable and high-risk groups who require specific, tailored support. Communities must be involved in identifying such vulnerable groups in order to reduce the risks of worsening their problems; insensitive targeting can unwittingly create and accentuate stigma and discrimination.

31. Priorities include women and girls who bear the brunt of the social and economic impacts of the epidemic. Women do most of the caring for people living with HIV/AIDS and of children orphaned by AIDS. They are the backbone of food production systems and are responsible for household management and chores. Gender roles impacting on sexual relations need to be addressed.

***Action 4. Scaling up programmes to empower women.** United Nations agencies will support the Secretary-General's Task Force on Women, Girls and HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa and review all programming to ensure that support to women is scaled up for dealing with AIDS prevention and impact and for contributing to enhanced household livelihoods.*

32. Orphans are another priority group, suffering the psychological impact of loss of one or both parents, taking on adult responsibilities for which they are not prepared, having limited entitlement to resources, such as land and even food, and reduced chances of completing their education. Young people in general are a critical target group, representing the future generation whose capacity can be developed to support their extended families in this time of crisis.

***Action 5. Orphans.** United Nations country teams in Southern Africa will review their portfolios to ensure that orphan-specific needs are covered, and that all existing programmes are reviewed in light of a rapidly increasing orphan population.*

33. For all of these actions, planners must involve organizations of people living with HIV/AIDS in design and implementation. This involvement will not only lead to more effective activities, but such partners are key for fighting stigma and bolstering prevention and care efforts.

## **B. Capacity-building to ensure prevention, care and treatment for AIDS**

34. As outlined in section III above, the United Nations must move to both respond to immediate (humanitarian) needs and accelerate development assistance to help households, communities and Governments to cope. For purposes of the present paper, capacity-building assistance can be divided into two categories. First, assistance is needed urgently to help Governments to institute programmes and communities to develop responses to fight AIDS directly. Second, assistance is needed to ensure the continuous provision of services in the face of the depletion of human resource capacity.

35. Capacity-building is required to help Governments and their partners to scale up their programmes to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and mitigate its impacts. In the health sector, capacity must be built to scale up and roll out the provision of anti-retrovirals and drugs to fight opportunistic infections. A key factor in assuring affordable access to drugs is helping countries to benefit from WTO declarations

and decisions, such as the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and Public Health declaration adopted at the WTO Ministerial Meeting held in Doha in 2001, as well as the decision adopted on 30 August 2003 by the General Council of WTO. These allow countries facing AIDS and other public health problems with insufficient domestic manufacturing capacity to import low-cost pharmaceutical products, including active ingredients, finished products and diagnostic kits, at affordable prices.

36. Regarding prevention, universal access to sexual and reproductive health services is essential given that HIV is principally spread through sexual transmission. Beyond the health sector, every government ministry should be assessing how it can help; fighting AIDS successfully requires a multisectoral approach which covers prevention, care and treatment. This should include both the establishment of prevention, care and treatment programmes for its own workforce, as well as the integration of AIDS prevention activities into their regular work. In the context of chronic and recurrent food insecurity in Southern Africa, the providers of emergency services, just like in any other sector, must look at how AIDS activities can be integrated into their work. This includes prevention, care and treatment work with refugees and displaced persons.

**Action 6. *Capacity-building to fight AIDS.*** *United Nations agencies, within their respective mandates, to assist with capacity-building with their partners in all sectors to tackle the AIDS crisis, especially in the sectors of health care (including the equitable roll-out of affordable anti-retroviral treatment and technical and legal assistance), education, rural development and agriculture, youth programming, support to women, employment and emergency relief.*

37. Beyond improving capacity to fight AIDS, capacity-building assistance is also required in all sectors to help Governments cope with the attrition of staff caused by AIDS. If societies are to avoid a collapse of services (whether in the provision of water, agricultural extension, health care, education or the assurance of security by uniformed corps) and an associated disappearance of development opportunities for communities, the United Nations with its partners must support Governments to take extraordinary measures to bolster the human and financial capacities of its institutions. The United Nations must support Governments to formulate and implement new approaches such as fast-track training or national service programmes, to use adaptive strategies, such as a change in retirement ages or labour laws, or to tap underutilized resources, such as from private institutions, academia and civil society. In line with an approach which combines “humanitarian” and “development” perspectives, immediate assessments and actions must be taken to provide external help with service delivery (e.g. health care and education) in cases where populations are lacking access to basic services, even while longer-term work is taken to build national capacity. Tensions between maintaining macroeconomic stability and the need for and absorption of increased resources for scaling up programmes should be resolved within national poverty reduction strategies.

**Action 7. *Capacity-building to deal with AIDS impact.*** *United Nations agencies, within their respective mandates, to assist sectoral partners counter the devastating affects of HIV/AIDS on their human resources, and provide such emergency assistance as is necessary to ensure the continuous provision of basic services.*

38. Analytical gaps remain. While there are many sector-specific studies concerned with how the epidemic impacts upon education or agricultural extension, there are few analyses that integrate the different sectoral studies into a comprehensive, integrated framework. Furthermore, there are few if any analyses targeting the impact of HIV/AIDS on local authorities and urban governance.

### **C. AIDS as a core development issue**

39. Generalized AIDS epidemics cripple countries' efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, as highlighted by declines in life expectancy of more than a decade in several African countries. Consequently, all principal macrolevel development instruments, such as national development plans or poverty reduction strategy papers, must include a strategy to prevent and/or mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS. In high-impact countries, including all of the mainland SADC countries, which have an average adult prevalence of 20 per cent, and countries in the Horn of Africa, including Ethiopia, as well as in countries where the impact even threatens to be high, integrating AIDS activities into the principal development plans is a matter of urgency.

*Action 8. Mainstreaming AIDS into development planning. Support the efforts of Governments and their partners to take into account how AIDS affects the context for basic development planning (such as in poverty reduction strategy papers), and to mainstream AIDS activities in those plans as appropriate.*

### **D. Leadership and management of the fight against AIDS**

40. Strong leadership on the part of government and non-governmental actors in society is the key to an effective AIDS response. Leaders need both reliable data and opportunities to debate policy options, evaluate successes and failures and identify gaps to help inform fund-raising and programming.

41. The United Nations will undertake several programmatic actions to ensure the full participation of key groups, such as communities, people living with HIV/AIDS, non-governmental organization service providers, faith-based organizations, women, and a range of government ministries and public service agencies. United Nations agencies and programmes will invest in improving data collection and dissemination, harmonizing, where possible, to minimize duplication, and building capacity of local partners to undertake monitoring and evaluation activities. Locally designed, implemented and owned programmes are the most successful and are able to attract and absorb foreign funding effectively. It will be necessary to have an accurate country-by-country review of resource utilization and flows — covering the origins of funds from the United Nations system, bilateral donors and other sources — in support of HIV/AIDS programmes.

42. By supporting the involvement of all actors in forums where such information is used, the United Nations will contribute to the transparent, democratic development and implementation of public policy on AIDS. Actions 9 to 11, noted below, have already been committed to by the regional directors of United Nations system agencies in Africa for application in Southern Africa and in the Horn.

**Action 9. Leadership and programme reviews.** Support leadership development programmes and country-led, broad-based participatory reviews of national strategic plans in order to assist Governments in identifying and addressing implementation obstacles, capacity-strengthening requirements and resource availability and mobilization needs.

**Action 10. Participatory partnership forums.** Assist in the development of national and decentralized HIV/AIDS partnership forums to ensure broad-based participation of public and private actors and effective coordination of the response.

**Action 11. Monitoring, evaluation and tracking systems.** Assist in the development of national systems for monitoring the epidemic and tracking resource flows and utilization to fully leverage and operationalize larger funding commitments from the Global Fund, the World Bank's Multi-Country HIV/AIDS Program and others, as well as to evaluate the impact of programmes.

## **V. A system-wide response**

43. In order to implement the programmatic actions outlined above in an urgent manner which addresses simultaneously short-term needs and long-term challenges, requires a reorganization and an intensification of United Nations action. The United Nations must employ the tools at its disposal, in particular those of United Nations reform, direct its moral authority and invest managerial and financial resources to help its partners to defeat AIDS.

### **A. Building on United Nations reform**

44. United Nations reform efforts led by the Secretary-General and enacted by bodies, including the Chief Executives Board (CEB), the High-Level Committee for Programmes (HLCP) and the United Nations Development Group provide a platform for accelerating United Nations action. An important element of United Nations reform is the attempt to rationalize the Organization's efforts and reduce duplication. It remains a goal of the United Nations to reduce burdensome transaction costs for partners, particularly Governments.

### **B. Common country assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Framework**

45. Together, the common country assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework provide a vehicle for the United Nations to dialogue jointly with government and other partners to identify how United Nations actions will support national efforts. In the context of Southern Africa, United Nations country teams must use United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks — as the country team's principal "business plan" — innovatively so that they meet the urgent time frame and scaling-up requirements of Governments. This may mean reviewing common country assessments and/or United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks mid-stream, or altering expected time frames,

or integrating them with the consolidated appeals process, to ensure all needs are covered efficiently and without duplication.

***Action 12.** United Nations country teams in Southern Africa are to review with Governments common country assessments, United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and other relevant strategic frameworks to ensure that United Nations resources are focused as appropriate on the AIDS epidemic and its compounding of other development challenges. The United Nations Development Group or other relevant bodies to provide support for any such reviews and assist with quality control.*

46. The United Nations resident coordinator system provides a means of ensuring unified United Nations leadership and priority-setting, jointly addressing issues which cross agency mandates and improve transparency and accountability of the United Nations. United Nations theme groups can help resident coordinators to facilitate coordinated action by United Nations agencies, and UNAIDS has learned that the presence of a dedicated staff can boost their effectiveness. The United Nations resident coordinator system and the common country assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Framework process have helped to redefine how the United Nations works at the country level, although slowly evolving headquarters practices do not yet sufficiently encourage coherent programming. The interrelated crises in Southern Africa provide, however, an opportunity to accelerate the utilization of these tools to improve the delivery of United Nations assistance, while underscoring the need for continued strengthening of the United Nations resident coordinator system. Experience has shown that additional capacity to support the resident coordinator in his or her performance of these functions is key.

***Action 13.** United Nations theme groups on AIDS to develop immediately Joint United Nations Implementation Support Plans on AIDS in each country in Southern Africa to assist national efforts through joint United Nations programming, and pooling United Nations technical and financial resources for HIV/AIDS. Plans must fit within United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks — as the United Nations principal “business plan” — which is in turn defined with respect to supporting national policies and programmes. Annual reports on these plans and progress will be incorporated into the resident coordinator annual reports, reviewed by the United Nations Development Group and UNAIDS.*

***Action 14.** Review the capacity of the United Nations resident coordinator system in Southern Africa and take appropriate actions to strengthen capacity where necessary.*

### **C. Small countries: opportunity for United Nations reform pioneers**

47. Some of the most highly affected countries in the Southern Africa region, such as Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland, are small geographically and/or in population. Despite the damage to development caused by the AIDS-compounded crisis, they tend to receive less investment by the United Nations agencies, in terms of staff and resources, due to their small size. To address this problem, it is proposed that United Nations reform in its most visionary form be implemented in one or more of these small countries.

*Action 15. In one highly affected small country, to be recommended by the United Nations Development Group, consider implementing an accelerated version of United Nations reform by establishing, on a pilot basis, a single United Nations office hosting multiple agencies, allowing for joint programming of HIV/AIDS funding, and consolidating cooperation frameworks. The pilot initiative would be evaluated before replication.*

#### **D. Better partnerships to expand the national response**

48. In order to work quickly addressing both short-term and long-term needs, and to ensure that households and communities are at the centre of analysis and action, the United Nations must improve its ability to work with civil society and community organizations. Modalities of implementation must include, but go beyond, Governments as partners. The United Nations, using its unique space in the development community, must use its authority to bring together different actors, including Governments, bilateral agencies, international and national non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academic institutions, religious bodies and other community organizations. The United Nations should focus more of its capacity-building, technical assistance and financial resources on these actors. Support to these institutions will also help bolster capacity gaps in government.

*Action 16. United Nations agencies must increase their skills and establish modalities to build partnerships with local organizations to better access communities and households and to facilitate dialogue and joint planning across governmental and non-governmental sectors.*

#### **E. Efficient coordination**

49. Management of the relationships with numerous development partners, each of whom often desires individual agreements and implementation arrangements, further burdens Governments' overstretched human and financial resources. United Nations reform is designed to reduce this burden, with regard to government relations with the United Nations, by unifying and rationalizing United Nations planning. The Organization should also use its position and authority to encourage a rationalization of agreements, negotiations, resource mobilization efforts, committees, reporting requirements and monitoring and evaluation programmes of all development partners. In order for the United Nations to be in a position to use its influence credibly, a strong theme group on HIV/AIDS and adequately staffed offices with expertise on AIDS are essential. The experience of UNAIDS, whose field staff have helped make United Nations theme groups on HIV/AIDS a success, should be learned from and built upon. High-quality common country assessments and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks will also help by serving to bring together partners around common objectives, thus facilitating common proposals and implementation modalities.

50. A key opportunity in the case of the crisis in Southern Africa is the consolidation of committees involved in resource mobilization and the scaling up of national multisectoral responses to AIDS. To the extent possible, the United Nations should work to support government leadership of a single rational, participatory committee structure which can efficiently manage funds mobilized from the Global

Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the World Bank's Multi-Country HIV/AIDS Program and bilateral donors.

***Action 17.** United Nations agencies, through the United Nations resident coordinator system, United Nations Theme Groups on HIV/AIDS and individual agencies, to support Government efforts to rationalize structures to manage and coordinate partners' efforts. Government capacity should be built and mechanisms supported to better coordinate donor programming and investments and promote accountability.*

## **F. United Nations country and regional advocacy**

51. A number of United Nations agencies are already engaged in a range of information and communication activities designed to increase awareness, prevent the transmission of AIDS and facilitate access to services to mitigate its impact. Many are focused on youth. Other agencies are focusing their communications efforts on poverty and livelihoods. These important sector-specific activities must remain core programmatic work of the United Nations.

52. In addition, the United Nations must also engage in advocacy targeted on influencing the policy environment. The Organization has an opportunity, given its mandate, to articulate and promote policy positions, based on research, to promote the achievement on an individual, household and community level of the rights outlined in the Charter of the United Nations and United Nations agreements, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the General Assembly's Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS. At the country level, United Nations country teams must similarly use their combined moral authority and neutral positioning to develop integrated policy advocacy plans, based on research and strategic information.

***Action 18.** Principally through the Regional Inter-Agency Coordination and Support Office and supported by individual agency efforts, the United Nations should undertake advocacy with regional bodies, including SADC, NEPAD and the African Union, to ensure Government commitments to address the AIDS-compounded crises in a coordinated way.*

***Action 19.** The United Nations should undertake advocacy with international partners, including donor-nation Governments and multilateral institutions to promote coordinated investment, increased financing to fight the triple crisis facing Southern Africa and threatening other regions, accelerated debt relief, the easing of macroeconomic conditionalities in the light of the crisis, and the scaling up of AIDS programmes, including access to affordable treatment.*

***Action 20.** United Nations country teams should develop informed advocacy plans to utilize strategic information for ongoing advocacy on key national issues surrounding HIV/AIDS (such as access to treatment, women's issues, HIV prevention centring on young people, and orphans and vulnerable children's issues) and how it compounds other development challenges.*

## **G. Headquarters, regional and field management of commitments**

53. In order to achieve the objectives and implement the programmatic actions outlined in the present paper, United Nations agency resources must be secured, invested at the country level and managed accountably.

54. First, clear directives and resources must come from headquarters and regional offices. Directives are helpful to country offices because they provide a mandate to country representatives to review and reorient existing plans. However, headquarters instructions alone, without resources to back them up, is a formula for failure. Moreover, United Nations actions and levels of investment at the country level must be made transparently.

55. Second, in regions where the confluence of AIDS with other crises threatens multiple countries, regional leadership mechanisms can focus management attention and ensure accountability. Regional directors, with line responsibility over country programmes, have the requisite authority to be accountable for results. In Southern Africa, for example, regional directors from the United Nations system have constituted themselves as a responsible body to oversee deliverables listed in their declaration following a meeting held on 9 July 2003 in Maputo. This group will be supported by a multi-agency regional office, based upon the existing Regional Inter-Agency Coordination and Support Office and the UNAIDS Inter-Country Team. This multi-agency office will organize periodic meetings of the regional directors, monitor the activities of the United Nations system in the region, prepare reports for the regional directors on progress or obstacles, share information and document case studies for rapid dissemination and provide a consistent interlocutor for regional bodies, such as SADC.

***Action 21.** In collaboration with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, and utilizing the experience of the Regional Inter-Agency Coordination and Support Office, and the United Nations Development Group should provide direct operational support and guidance to resident and humanitarian coordinators to ensure a coordinated response to AIDS-compounded crises, and United Nations agency headquarters should strive to provide increased funding.*

***Action 22.** A regional directors' group which met for the first time in Maputo in July 2003 should continue to serve as an oversight authority in Southern Africa and the Horn of Africa to provide United Nations leadership and assure accountability for United Nations action. They will rely upon the Regional Inter-Agency Coordination and Support Office (or its successor) as a secretariat to support their responsibilities and represent the group of directors regionally on AIDS and related issues.*

## **VI. Actions by the Chief Executives Board**

56. The CEB may wish to:

(a) Endorse the general analysis and programming approach outlined in the present paper, in particular the five areas requiring United Nations innovation and scaling up;

(b) Endorse the 11 proposed programmatic actions and the 11 proposed institutional actions for the United Nations, and suggest that the United Nations Development Group, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and the other pertinent United Nations inter-agency bodies to help to initiate follow-up by undertaking measures to ensure capacity exists for their implementation;

(c) Provide the necessary political support to carry out the action points;

(d) Stress the importance of striving to increase financial investments in country-level actions directed at HIV/AIDS in Southern and Eastern Africa;

(e) Make the present paper public as an indication of the intentions of the United Nations system with regard to the interlinked crises of food security, weakened capacity for governance and AIDS in the Eastern and Southern Africa region;

(f) Suggest that the paper be made available to all countries and regions threatened by AIDS, so that they may take it into consideration in formulating and implementing their own plans and strategies;

(g) Consider requesting the United Nations Development Group, in coordination with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, and in consultation with the Regional Inter-Agency Coordination and Support Office as appropriate, to take the lead on follow-up and to inform CEB periodically on progress in implementing the 22 actions contained in the paper.

## Appendix

### **Declaration adopted by United Nations regional directors at their meeting held in Maputo on 9 July 2003**

#### **Accelerating country and regional action on HIV/AIDS in Eastern and Southern Africa**

We, the UNAIDS Executive Director, Regional Directors, Heads of Delegations of the United Nations agencies, meeting in Maputo on 9 July 2003, are greatly concerned by the combined devastation caused by the continuing HIV/AIDS epidemic and the food crisis in Southern Africa and the Horn of Africa.

- We commit ourselves to a major intensification of United Nations support for national HIV/AIDS responses in the region, as well as firmly and explicitly centring HIV/AIDS within the humanitarian and development work of the United Nations system in Southern Africa and the Horn of Africa.
- We commit ourselves to ensuring that the United Nations system role is strategic, that it directly responds to the national priorities in countries, and that it addresses the capacity constraints critical to their successful implementation. In particular, we commit to developing country-level, joint United Nations implementation support plans to support national efforts, and we commit to providing annual reports by United Nations theme groups on achievements against these plans.
- We commit ourselves to working with Governments and regional bodies, such as the Southern African Development Community, the Commission on HIV/AIDS and Governance in Africa and the New Partnership for Africa's Development to develop more effective short, medium and long-term strategies to respond to the HIV/AIDS crisis and to support the findings of the High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) on the nexus of HIV/AIDS, governance, and food security.
- In this respect, we commit ourselves to reinforcing the United Nations system and to investing the necessary financial and human resources to strengthen our overall capacity to confront the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the region.

#### **We agree to the following key deliverables to intensified and unified United Nations action:**

We commit ourselves to defining a limited number of objectives and measurable "United Nations system deliverables" needed to focus leadership attention and support, to catalyse further action, and to respond to partner expectations and demands of the United Nations system as a whole in each country in the region.

We commit ourselves to improving the monitoring and evaluation of United Nations country-level performance, including the development of an accountability mechanism for United Nations theme groups on HIV/AIDS.

We propose the following actions for achievement by the United Nations system (in collaboration with Governments and partners) in Southern Africa and the Horn of Africa region by the end of 2004:

- We commit to supporting country-led, broad-based participatory review of national strategic plans in order to assist Governments in identifying and addressing implementation obstacles, capacity strengthening requirements and resource availability and mobilization needs to address short-term and long-term development and humanitarian challenges.
- We commit to developing joint United Nations implementation support plans to assist national efforts through joint United Nations programming, pooling United Nations technical and financial resources, and using common country assessments, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, the Millennium Development Goals and other development instruments, including the poverty reduction strategy papers.
- We commit to assisting the development of national systems for monitoring the epidemic and tracking resource flow and utilization to fully provide leverage and operationalize larger funding commitments from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the World Bank's Multi-country AIDS Program, and others, as well as evaluating the impact of the programmes.
- We commit to assisting the development of national HIV/AIDS partnership forums to ensure broad-based participation of public and private actors and effective coordination of the response.
- We commit to assisting United Nations country teams in developing informed advocacy plans to utilize strategic information for ongoing advocacy on key national issues surrounding HIV/AIDS (such as access to treatment, women's issues, HIV prevention centring on young people, and orphans and vulnerable children issues).
- We commit to assisting the establishment of integrated "safety net" programmes — as highlighted in the United Nations Special Envoy for Humanitarian Needs in Southern Africa's Next Steps paper — to ensure sustainable provision of humanitarian assistance to highly vulnerable groups, households, and communities with continuing needs.
- We commit to the full implementation of United Nations HIV/AIDS workplace programmes, meeting the International Labour Organization (ILO) minimum standards described in its *ILO Code of Practice on HIV/AIDS and the World of Work*.

#### **Support and oversight mechanism**

- We agree to ensure that oversight and support mechanisms and management systems are put in place to achieve the key deliverables.
- We commit ourselves as the Regional Directors' Group on HIV/AIDS in Africa as the oversight body, with the authority already vested in us as United Nations regional directors to holding at least annual meetings to review progress towards meeting key deliverables, identifying the gaps and opportunities in implementation, and to refine or adjust guidance as needed.

- We agree to the decision by the UNAIDS secretariat to jointly locate its UNAIDS inter-country team in eastern and southern Africa with the Regional Inter-Agency Coordination and Support Office in Johannesburg, South Africa and to work as an inter-agency resource on HIV/AIDS in the region.

*(Signed)* Dr. Peter **Piot**  
UNAIDS Executive Director

*(Signed)* Mr. Abdoulie **Janneh**  
UNDP Regional Director for Africa

*(Signed)* Ms. Regina **Amadi-Njoku**  
ILO Regional Director for Africa

*(Signed)* Mr. Mike **Sackett**  
WFP Regional Director and  
Regional Coordinator for the Special Envoy

*(Signed)* Mr. Lupwishi **Mbuyamba**  
Representative UNESCO Office Maputo  
and Regional Cultural Adviser

*(Signed)* Ms. Christiane **D'Almeida**  
UNODC Representative, Dakar

*(Signed)* Dr. Ebrahim **Samba**  
WHO-AFRO Regional Director

*(Signed)* Ms. Fama **Hane-Ba**  
UNFPA Director for Africa Division

*(Signed)* Mr. Ayalew **Abai**  
UNICEF Acting Regional Director  
Eastern and Southern Africa Region (ESARO)

*(Signed)* Mr. Chris **Kaye**  
Head, OCHA Regional Office  
for Southern Africa

*(Signed)* Mr. Peter **Vandor**  
FAO Representative to Mozambique and  
Swaziland

*(Signed)* Mr. Bert **Voetberg**  
Lead Health Specialist at the World Bank  
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## Annex V

### Follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development

#### I. Introduction

1. The present report is prepared pursuant to the decision of the intersessional meeting of HLCP, held in Geneva on 2 July 2003, which called for specific proposals on collaborative arrangements in four areas of follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development: (a) Freshwater and water and sanitation; (b) energy; (c) oceans and coastal areas; and (d) changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production. The meeting approved elements of a proposed work plan for follow-up to the Summit.<sup>a</sup> The Committee endorsed a function-based approach with emphasis on implementation, greater integration in follow-up programmes and actions, while underlining the need for reduction in transaction costs for coordination and for drawing upon the experience of past coordination mechanisms.<sup>b</sup>

2. In developing proposals for inter-agency collaborative mechanisms, due regard needs to be given to ensuring that these provide enhanced support to Governments for country-owned implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation; effective links to the normative work with operational activities; strengthening implementation at the regional level; foster partnerships and inclusive approaches; and promote greater synergies among the work of the organizations of the system as well as ensuring integrated approach to not only follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development but also that of other conferences and the Millennium Declaration.<sup>a</sup>

#### II. Background

3. At its spring 2003 session, held in Paris on 25 and 26 April, CEB concurred with the overall approaches to the follow-up to the Summit developed by HLCP. It asked the Committee to elaborate further its recommendations and focus its work on the substance of the follow-up. This will help to ground modalities for inter-agency and other collaborative arrangements, as well as the policy guidance to be provided for technical work and operational activities and further strategic discussions on the matter, in substantive objectives and tasks.<sup>c</sup>

4. CEB highlighted the need for: coherence and consistency, at the operational, regional and global levels, and strong linkages among those levels; country ownership of the follow-up process, coordination support for capacity-building and full use of existing country-level mechanisms; a focus on sustainability and productivity and on natural resources as the engine for sustainable growth; greater attention to the regional dimensions of the follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, given the growing need for cooperation on issues that cut across national borders; implementation to be linked to the broader processes of integrated follow-up to United Nations conferences and summits, in particular the Millennium Summit; and HLCP to assist in identifying ways of streamlining parallel processes and duplicative reporting.

### III. Inter-agency collaborative mechanisms

5. HLCP approved, in principle, a set of considerations that should guide the development of inter-agency coordination/collaborative arrangements for an effective and integrated framework for follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development. These broad principles included focusing on implementation at all levels (global, regional and national); placing the Summit within the context of broader summit/conferences follow-up processes; taking into account the two-year “implementation cycles” set out by the Commission on Sustainable Development for reporting requirements; taking into account and, if need be, building upon existing coordination arrangements; and the decision of the Commission to avoid creating standing subsidiary bodies, using new innovative and flexible modalities.<sup>d</sup>

6. The Committee had also considered the generic objectives for future inter-agency mechanisms. These include:<sup>e</sup>

- “Advocacy/public profile: promoting public profile of the issues through outreach to media, advocacy campaigns and the active involvement of a broad range of actors.
- Clearinghouse: serving as a clearinghouse for policy and programme information exchange, and for sharing lessons learned and experiences. This could include preparation of a comprehensive annual report providing an assessment of the state of play. While this should be approached as a continuing function, the conveying of special annual meetings of all relevant actors, including bilateral donors, may prove desirable for sharing information and future plans.
- Policy coherence/development: promoting policy coherence at all levels in line with the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and identifying specific areas where there is a need or opportunity for further policy development.
- Promoting collaboration among actors: encouraging and facilitating collaborative arrangements in relation to programmes and projects among relevant actors, in order to avoid duplication and ensure optimal utilization of resources.
- Strengthening the knowledge base: establishing linkages among and with research centres, institutes, networks and other sources of knowledge related to a particular sector.
- Encouraging linkages: serving as a link between global, regional and national level activities.
- Capacity-building: supporting initiatives for capacity-building in developing countries.
- Monitoring and evaluation: evaluating progress towards the achievement of goals or targets and harmonizing the reporting formats”.

7. The United Nations system has pursued a number of different approaches to promote inter-agency collaboration. Some of these are summarized below:

(a) Single lead agency designated by the system to provide leadership focus for other cooperating agencies. Examples are: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations-led United Nations Atlas on the Oceans; United Nations

Environment Programme-led Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA); and UNESCO-led United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014);

(b) A group of agencies that have comparable levels of expertise in a specific area working through a coordinating body. An example is the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP);

(c) Agencies agree to establish a joint programmatic arrangement which provides the overall focus and impetus for the actions to be taken on behalf of the co-sponsoring agencies Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS);

(d) Issue management approach, where time-bound groups or teams comprising all relevant institutions are set up with a mandate to develop recommendations and proposals on a specific issue. The Environmental Management Group is following this approach for environmental issues in the context of the follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

(e) Setting up country-level processes for coordinated implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit and other conferences' follow-up processes. The United Nations Development Group pursues this approach at the country level.

8. While looking to future collaborative mechanisms in the United Nations system, it is noted that, when CEB decided to streamline its subsidiary machinery and discontinue its standing bodies, it made clear that the intention was not to discourage inter-agency collaborative work in specific areas. Rather, the idea was to enable CEB and its new high-level committees to concentrate on key policy issues and matters of strategic concern, freeing it from having to deal with technical issues and numerous reports from the standing bodies for which the Executive Heads had little time to carry out a realistic review. At the same time, it was felt that more dynamic methods were needed to ensure concrete progress in the different areas of inter-agency concern beyond the United Nations system, involving new stakeholders and other key external partners. Executive Heads continued to attach importance to the need for effective coordination in many areas, but were encouraging a more flexible and function-based approach to replace formalistic and bureaucratic machinery. Thus, the four areas addressed in the present report are approached in the spirit of the CEB decision and with the objective of attaining the goals and targets in each of these sectors.

9. The above information is provided to assist the Committee in considering future collaboration in the United Nations system and, where specific mechanisms are promoted, serve as guiding principles for their terms of reference and functions.

10. The sections under Freshwater and energy in the present report have been slightly expanded to provide a more detailed analysis of substantive issues in those areas. Since the United Nations system and its partners have only recently completed comprehensive studies in both these areas, namely, *The United Nations World Water Development Report*<sup>f</sup> and *The World Energy Assessment: Energy and the Challenge of Sustainability Energy Study*,<sup>g</sup> the report draws on their findings so as not to duplicate efforts and to build upon work already accomplished, including by the Open-Ended Group of HLCPC on follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

## A. Freshwater and water and sanitation

11. Freshwater. Beginning with Mar del Plata Action Plan (1977), which later led to the International Drinking Water and Sanitation Decade (1981-1990), the International Conference on Water and Environment (1992) and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (1992), the World Water Forum, the Millennium Summit (2000) and the World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002), the international community has tried to identify the political, economic, ecological, social and strategic challenges related to freshwater and to develop approaches on how to address these challenges.

12. The *World Water Development Report: Water for People, Water for Life*, launched in 2003 by the United Nations World Water Assessment Programme, is a key success story of the United Nations system. It has also helped in crystallizing the challenges of freshwater which include meeting basic needs, securing the food supply, protecting ecosystems, sharing water resources, managing risks, valuing water, governing water wisely, monitoring industrial usages of water, assessing water and energy needs production, ensuring the knowledge base and assessing water in the cities.

13. There is a general view that the water crisis faced by the global community is mainly one of mismanagement of water resources and its cascading impact on the lives of world's inhabitants. The *World Water Development Report*<sup>h</sup> considers the issue of distribution of water as another challenge — overabundance of water in some regions and serious shortage in others — and is calling for pricing water more sensibly to reflect the costs of providing it (including environmental costs), as well as its marginal utility. The case for privatization, however, is seen as being flawed when it comes to developing countries and where it would imply a serious increase in water tariffs — a burden on the already impoverished population and among other reasons, politically unacceptable.

14. There is no panacea for dealing with issues of governance and distribution. Thus far, there is no single model, public, private or a combination of private and public, that can be identified as being ideal for all situations. Experience has been mixed and the key to a successful public/private partnership, as made clear in the *World Water Development Report*, is to have “good governance and the right institutional framework, notably effective regulation”.

15. Major international events, in particular the Rio Summit, the Millennium Summit, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Third World Water Forum and the publication of the *World Water Development Report* have not only drawn the attention of Governments, the United Nations system, international financial institutions, business and industry, non-governmental organizations and civil society to these challenges. They have also helped in generating international consensus to deal with them in the broader context of sustainable development, poverty eradication, health, education and capacity-building, economic and social development and a host of other economic, social and environmental factors.

16. According to Agenda 21, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, “Water is needed in all aspects of life. Adequate supplies of water of good quality should be maintained for the entire population of this planet, while preserving the hydrological, biological and chemical functions of ecosystems, adapting human activities within the capacity limits of nature and

combating vectors of water-related diseases". The Millennium Declaration commits Governments to halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation not only reaffirmed the Millennium Declaration goal, but also added the issue of access to basic sanitation. It adopted four major objectives with regard to water, namely, (a) halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water and the proportion of people who do not have access to basic sanitation; (b) develop integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans by 2005; (c) develop programmes for mitigating the effects of extreme water-related events; and (d) establish and/or develop national monitoring networks and water-related databases.

17. To move forward on the water agenda emanating from the Summit's Plan of Implementation will require political will and major policy shifts by Governments. An effective response from all stakeholders, and in particular by the United Nations system, to the four objectives mentioned above, is essential. For the United Nations system, it is critical to formulate strategies for the effective follow-up to the Summit and to ensure the implementation of existing agreements within the agreed-upon time frames. The United Nations system must also contribute constructively to the programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development and its sessions in 2004 and 2005, which will focus on water, sanitation and human settlements.

18. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation calls for effective coordination among various international and intergovernmental bodies and processes working on water-related issues, both within the United Nations system and between the United Nations and international financial institutions, drawing on the contributions of other international institutions and civil society to inform intergovernmental decision-making; and promoting close coordination in developing and implementing activities related to the International Year of Freshwater, 2003 and beyond.

19. Within the United Nations system, water is dealt with by a number of specialized agencies, United Nations programmes and other United Nations entities. Implementation of the complex and ambitious international agenda is, therefore, a collective responsibility and challenge, beginning with the United Nations system, but also involving progressively other "non-traditional" partners and stakeholders into a global, comprehensive effort.

20. There are important implications for the United Nations system that need to be addressed as a matter of urgency, especially taking into consideration the need to support and actively participate in the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development. Prior to the reform of the Administrative Committee on Coordination in 2001, its Subcommittee on Water Resources played a key role in ensuring United Nations system-wide coordination and cooperation. This Subcommittee, like other ACC subsidiary bodies, was discontinued in favour of new, flexible and substance-driven arrangements for inter-agency coordination.

21. Since 2001, the members of the former Subcommittee have continued to informally coordinate their activities. In October 2002, immediately after the Johannesburg Summit, this informal arrangement became known as "UN Water" and brought together the senior managers of the water programmes of 24 United Nations system entities. It was responsible for the preparation and publication of the first edition of the *World Water Development Report* in March 2003. UN Water's World Water Assessment Programme, of which the *World Water Development Report* is a

part, was created to provide the kind of global water assessment and policy advice called for by the Summit and the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eleventh session. Its priorities are to lay the basis for implementing system-wide activities in support of the Plan of Implementation, the Millennium Development Goals concerning water and sanitation, and to support the work of the Commission.

22. UN Water should be able to manage new partnerships with the main actors outside the United Nations system, such as the Global Water Partnership, the World Water Council, the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council and the World Conservation Union, and the private sector. A number of donors have already indicated their willingness to establish operational relations with UN Water to contribute to implementation of the global water agenda through country-level solutions. It has already constituted a subgroup that deals specifically with sanitation issues and will shortly add a second on capacity development. It has also incorporated a task force on gender and water.

#### **Decision No. 1**

The Committee confirmed UN Water as the inter-agency mechanism for follow-up of the World Summit on Sustainable Development water-related decisions and the Millennium Development Goal concerning freshwater; requested it to finalize, before the end of 2003, its terms of reference and modalities of work, including arrangements for progressive and effective participation of non-United Nations actors in the World Summit on Sustainable Development follow-up, bearing in mind the guiding principles and functions established by the High-Level Committee on Programmes.

#### **Decision No. 2**

The Committee requested the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction to inform HLCP on progress achieved in developing programmes, in cooperation with UN Water as may be necessary, for mitigating the effects of extreme water-related events (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, para. 26 (d)).

23. Water and sanitation. As stated earlier, the Plan of Implementation envisaged halving by the year 2015, the proportion of people who do not have access to basic sanitation. To this end, the Plan underlined the need for action in developing efficient household sanitation systems; improving sanitation in public institutions, promoting safe hygiene practices, promoting education and outreach focused on children, promoting affordable and socially and culturally acceptable technologies and practices; developing innovative financing and partnership mechanisms and integrating sanitation into water resources management strategies. The Plan also highlighted the need to support capacity-building for water and sanitation infrastructure and services development and to promote technologies for safe water, sanitation and waste management for rural and urban areas.

24. In addition to these areas for action, water and sanitation is also seen as a complex governance issue that is critical for urban basic services with social (health and education), economic (poverty eradication) and environmental (water quality, ecosystem and aquifer protection) dimensions. There is now a better understanding of the key urban governance issues, which affect delivery and performance of urban basic services. The issues of decentralization of government functions to local levels and the importance of involving local communities in operation and management of

services at neighbourhood level have also been recognized. Attention must also be given to the interlinkages with health issues, population and the role of women in managing water resources. The priority is now to shift to mainstreaming these concepts into national policies and legislation and demonstrating the validity and sustainability of these approaches through well-conceived programmes and projects at the local level.

25. Some of the policy priorities that have emerged in this context from the ongoing intergovernmental and inter-agency consultations, through technical assistance to national and city governments, are improving governance of basic services; services for the poor; promoting innovative financing mechanisms (encouraging private sector to invest in urban basic services, including in the water and sanitation sector); enhancing livelihood and environment linkages in urban basic services, greater focus on information, advocacy and communication; collaboration with the private sector, international financing institutions including strengthening partnership between organizations of the United Nations system and the World Bank, as well as the regional development banks; and finally, monitoring and evaluation based on a strong inter-agency partnership in monitoring improvements in the living conditions of slum-dwellers around the world. UN Water seems well placed to deal with these issues.

### **Decision No. 3**

The Committee requested UN Water to prepare a detailed plan, through its subgroup on sanitation, for an effective follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation in the field of water and sanitation linked to the work related to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

## **B. Energy**

26. Building on the outcome of the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the World Summit on Sustainable Development identified five key areas as critical to achieving the goal of energy for sustainable development. These areas include:

(a) Increasing access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services and resources. Two billion people lack access to modern energy services. Continued reliance on traditional fuels and technologies brings hardships, health problems and ecological strains;

(b) Improving energy efficiency. The potential for more efficient energy use is enormous, since overall global energy efficiency is estimated at 37 per cent. Many energy efficiency gains have already been realized, especially in centralized processes, for example, power stations. A large unrealized potential for greater energy efficiency exists at the point of end-use, for example, through more efficient vehicles, appliances and buildings. Gains in energy efficiency of 25 to 35 per cent are achievable in industrialized countries over the next 20 years, with higher potentials of 30 to 45 per cent in developing and transitional economies with effective policy measures to encourage energy conservation;

(c) Increasing the proportion of energy obtained from renewable energy sources. Renewable energy (biomass, small hydropower, wind, solar, and

geothermal energy) contributes just 2 per cent of global energy supplies. The future prospects for renewables are dependent on an enabling policy environment, including the phasing out of subsidies for fossil energy and factoring in the environmental costs into the price of energy;<sup>1</sup>

(d) Diversifying energy supply through advanced, cleaner, more efficient, affordable and cost-effective energy technologies. Accelerated development, deployment and diffusion of new energy technologies is critical for meeting the challenges ahead. Continued technological advances are needed in all aspects of the energy system, especially in renewables, energy-efficiency and fossil fuel utilization. Advanced nuclear energy technologies could play a role in decarbonizing the world energy system but only if public concerns about reactor safety, proliferation and waste disposal can be satisfied. Increased investments in research and development in both the public and private sectors are essential to meeting the challenges of energy diversification for the future;

(e) Implementing transport strategies for sustainable development. Access to clean, safe and efficient transport services is essential to meeting the Millennium Development Goal of reducing poverty as well as improving urban air quality, improving health and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The transport sector is the fastest energy-consuming sector and energy-linked emissions pollute and degrade the environment and produce adverse health effects (some 3 million premature deaths per year, equivalent to 5 to 6 per cent of global mortality). About 78 per cent of human-caused carbon dioxide emissions are linked to fuel combustion. In cities in the developing countries, the most pressing need for pollution control is to reduce and eventually eliminate small and medium-scale combustion of dirty fuels.

27. A whole range of goals and targets has been agreed in these five areas. At the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and more specifically at Johannesburg, Governments underlined the significance of increased investment in energy activities in the pursuit of sustainable development. It was also recognized that this would require contributions from all stakeholders. This point was reinforced in the preparations of Johannesburg with an emphasis on partnerships, with a view to bringing together major stakeholders to more effectively support activities related to energy for sustainable development.

28. It is widely recognized in the United Nations system that the issues of energy use and efficiency are closely linked with climate change. The mandates of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change are essential for future work in this area and should thus be taken into account.

29. The economic, social and environmental goals of sustainable development as expressed in the United Nations conferences and summits of the 1990s cannot be achieved unless energy is produced, distributed and utilized in fundamentally different ways in the future. In this context, emphasis needs to be placed on the development and application of new and renewable sources of energy. An appropriate mix of public policies and private sector incentives, complemented by efforts at the local, national, regional and international levels, are essential to achieving a sustainable energy future. The policy options include: (a) removal of subsidies to conventional fuels; (b) rational pricing approaches that reflect social and environmental costs associated with various forms of energy use; (c) complementing market approaches with regulatory measures to protect public benefits;

(d) encouraging technological advance at every stage of the energy innovation chain; and (e) supporting technological leapfrogging in developing countries.

### **Existing capacity of the United Nations system**

30. The work of the United Nations system in the area of energy covers a wide array of activities. Members of the United Nations system working in the field of energy include the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Bank, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The United Nations regional commissions also have significant energy activities. Most of the activities of United Nations system organizations at the country level focus on improved energy efficiency, renewable energy and clean fossil fuel technologies, including through support for capacity development and policy dialogue.

31. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs supports the work of intergovernmental bodies, in particular the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Economic and Social Council, and carries out technical assistance activities in several countries, in addition to analytic reports on specific energy topics. It also plays a key role in the follow-up to transport-related issues within the United Nations system. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs and UNEP, along with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, are partners in the World Summit on Sustainable Development Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles, which has attracted more than 50 partners from the private sector, the non-governmental organization community, Governments and international and regional institutions.

32. IAEA has been engaging in building capacity in overall energy-environment planning. The Agency develops and transfers energy-environment planning models tailored to the special circumstances of particularly developing country Member States. It transfers the latest data on technologies, resources and economics; health and environmental impacts, trains local experts; jointly analyses national options; and helps to establish continuing local planning expertise. The Agency currently leads World Summit on Sustainable Development Type-2 partnerships on Indicators for Sustainable Energy Development and on Country Profiles on Sustainable Energy Development.

33. UNDP supports country-level capacity-building for energy focusing on upstream policy dialogue, access to rural energy services, low emissions technologies and new energy financing mechanisms. UNDP also works directly with community groups on energy through its participation in the Global Environmental Facility and supports global advocacy on energy and poverty linkages, in line with the Millennium Development Goals. Along with the World Bank and UNEP, UNDP is one of the implementing agencies under the Global Environmental Facility, the largest source of grant financing for clean energy projects aimed at mitigating climate change.

34. UNESCO has been involved in promoting renewable energies since 1952, beginning with the UNESCO Arid Zone Programme. It organized the first international solar energy congress in 1973, as well as a high-level expert meeting in

1993 on the potential of all forms of renewable energies (solar, wind, biomass, geothermal, tidal, ocean, etc.) and their applications. Subsequently, UNESCO initiated in 1996 a World Solar Summit that led to the World Solar Programme 1996-2005. UNESCO is also involved in promoting technical demonstration and capacity-building projects. A notable example is its Global Renewable Energy Education and Training Programme, which aims at advocacy for renewable energies, mobilizing functions in raising awareness and promoting sustainable use of renewable energies, provision of related policy advice, capacity-building, development of competent human resources geared to improve the use, maintenance and management of renewable energy projects, as well as transfer of technological know-how.

35. UNEP undertakes analysis on energy's links to environmental degradation, including climate change, local and regional air pollution issues. It helps to develop approaches addressing the environmental dimensions of energy policies and supports the UNEP Collaborating Centre on Energy and Environment. As follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, UNEP has launched the Global Network on Energy for Sustainable Development. The Network brings together leading institutions in developing and developed countries to work together on energy, environment and sustainable development issues.

36. The World Bank has its own lending and technical assistance programme in energy, which is focused on access, private sector development and environmental protection. It is the largest source of energy investment financing in the multilateral system. Energy activities carried out at the national level include support for energy sector reform, energy supply expansion through infrastructure development, support for expanded private sector investment in energy projects and improving macroeconomic and fiscal balances related to the energy sector. Efforts to include energy considerations in poverty reduction strategy papers processes are expanding. The World Bank and UNDP are partners in the Global Village Energy Partnership which brings together developing and industrialized country Governments, public and private organizations, multilateral institutions, consumers and others in an effort to ensure access to modern energy services by the poor. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNDP, UNEP, World Bank and UNIDO all support activities related to the Clean Development Mechanism, one of the financing mechanisms supported under the Kyoto Protocol.

37. UNIDO has worked extensively on energy efficiency, in particular in large and medium-scale enterprises, and on energy supply issues in the industrial sector. UNIDO provides technical assistance and pre-investment support on energy projects in numerous countries.

38. FAO continues to address, at the policy level, the linkages between energy in general, and renewable energy in particular, with rural economic activity in order to promote growth and poverty alleviation. It is launching a new strategy on bioenergy with a wood energy component and an agroenergy component designed to consolidate efforts related to the critical situation of traditional biomass in many rural areas of developing countries, and to promote the entry of modern biomass energy conversion, such as agricultural and forestry sub-products and, more specifically, energy crops. In close cooperation with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, FAO continues to assess the close linkages between bioenergy and climate change

and to develop baseline criteria and methodologies to promote Clean Development Mechanism-eligible projects on reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through agricultural practices. FAO continues to promote the application of biomass, solar and wind energy systems in rural areas, with the design and promotion of productive uses of renewable energy an important area of focus.

39. UNCTAD has developed expertise on the interface between the multilateral trade rules, trade in energy goods and services and domestic policies and strategies, especially in energy-rich developing countries. Its work in this field has led to a number of publications and intergovernmental expert meetings on the issue of energy and environmental services, international trade and development priorities as well as technical cooperation activities and joint initiatives with other intergovernmental organizations, including the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. A memorandum of understanding with the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries led to two studies in 2003 on implications of the interface between environment and trade policies for oil-exporting countries. Through its Carbon Market Programme, UNCTAD has also focused on exploring the economic, trade and investment impacts of climate change in developing and transitional countries and works to promote their effective participation in the emerging carbon market.

40. Through the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) assists stakeholders in ensuring that they achieve efficient and sustainable energy use. Weather and climate information are vital to the development and efficient use of renewable energy resources which, in turn, are critical for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and protecting our future climate. In this regard, WMO supports activities related to sustainable energy and efficient use through: coordination of observations of weather, climate and water; provision of assistance to countries in establishment and maintenance of reliable meteorological data bases; support of pilot projects and capacity-building activities on application of climate information in energy-related issues; co-sponsorship of energy-related international activities and programmes, such as those of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; and provision of technical advice on policy matters related to sustainable energy.

41. The United Nations regional commissions regularly undertake a significant number of energy-related analytical and technical cooperation activities aimed at strengthening national capacities of its members and associate members. The Commissions also support and contribute to the global process, including the Commission on Sustainable Development, and undertake regional implementation of the outcomes of international conferences, including the Millennium Summit and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in partnership with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNEP, UNDP and other United Nations and regional governmental and non-governmental agencies. Recent activities of the regional commissions in the field of energy are already in the process of reorientation towards the implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, focusing on all the key issues identified in it and as referred to earlier in the present report.

**Gaps in the United Nations system capacity on energy**

42. A preliminary review of existing capacity in the United Nations system undertaken by the HLCP working group led to the identification of gaps within the United Nations system both in terms of the programmatic reach of institutions, and the financial resources available to them to implement their mandates.

43. Some of these specific gaps include:

- Lack of integration of energy-related aspects in the overall socio-economic development programmes and projects
- Lack of quality information, statistics and indicators: information used in decision-making varies in quality and criteria for its collection differ. Measurement of progress towards targets/goals requires accurate, accessible and relevant information
- Lack of guidance on deregulation and energy sector reform: the general trend towards market reform holds true also for the energy sector. Developing countries face particular challenges and the United Nations system should be active in responding to them
- Need for better integration of normative, analytical and operational activities of the United Nations in the field of energy
- Need for better balance between upstream activities dealing with policy advisory services and downstream activities dealing with operational activities at the country level
- Lack of effective means for translating global goals into country-level and sectoral action plans
- Lack of mutually reinforcing collaboration and enhanced policy coherence between various intergovernmental processes relevant to energy for sustainable development and climate change
- Lack of effective collaborative and cooperative mechanisms in the area of energy within the United Nations system and between the United Nations system and non-United Nations actors.

44. No single entity in the United Nations system has primary responsibility for energy and, as such, independent approaches have been taken by each entity within its mandate, with the result that a system-wide approach to addressing energy issues has not yet emerged. Progress in addressing the issue of cooperation and coordination has been rather slow. An adequate response to the call for joint actions on energy by the United Nations and by all stakeholders in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation would require far more inclusive and broad-based arrangements. This is an area where other development actors, particularly in the private sector, have clear comparative advantages and must be effectively engaged in the follow-up efforts.

45. The Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Energy, which supported the work of the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, elaborated on a system-wide approach to energy and sustainable development. It was agreed in the Task Force that such an approach should provide a reference framework for the energy-related activities of the United Nations system and the strategy should promote a balanced and mutually reinforcing approach to the economic, social and

environmental aspects of sustainable energy development.<sup>j</sup> The Task Force reached an agreement on general principles for a common approach to energy and sustainable development and undertook joint activities related to the implementation of the World Solar Programme, development of Sustainable Energy Indicators and inputs to the Commission, as well as facilitating cooperation among agencies on a number of World Summit partnerships. The Task Force established working modalities to exchange and disseminate information to enhance coordination on energy activities up to the Johannesburg Summit. However, no inter-agency consensus emerged on the modalities or mechanism for system-wide coordination in the area of energy.

46. Developing a coherent and coordinated response to the follow-up to the World Summit in the area of energy represents a major and critical challenge to the United Nations system's efforts in support of sustainable development. Due to the complexity of the issues, their interrelationships within the broader sustainable development framework and the diversity of mandates and approaches that exist, a significant further effort will be required to develop a coherent, collaborative and effective United Nations system response.

#### **Decision No. 4**

The Committee requested its Vice-Chairman to convene a subgroup of the most concerned member organizations to undertake a comprehensive review of current activities in the light of the World Summit on Sustainable Development mandates, prepare proposals, drawing upon the experience to date, on system-wide collaborative arrangements on energy that also include provisions for participation of non-United Nations actors, and submit an interim report to HLCP by the end of 2003. Progress achieved would be reflected in the report for the next (twelfth) session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, to be held in April 2004. It requested the subgroup to submit its final report to HLCP at its spring 2004 session.

### **C. Oceans and coastal areas**

47. The World Summit on Sustainable Development emphasized that oceans, sea islands and coastal areas form an integrated and essential component of the Earth's ecosystem and are critical for global food security and for sustaining economic prosperity. Recognizing the critical importance of this issue, the Summit adopted a number of concrete goals in the areas of ecosystem approach, fish stocks, biodiversity, protection of the marine environment, particularly from land-based activities, maritime safety and improving the scientific understanding and assessment of marine and coastal ecosystems. Some of the specific goals or targets contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation are as follows:

(a) Encourage the application by 2010 of the ecosystem approach for the sustainable development of oceans;

(b) Maintain or restore fish stocks to levels that can produce the maximum sustainable yield with the aim of achieving these goals for depleted stocks on an urgent basis and, where possible, not later than 2015;

(c) Put into effect the FAO international plans of action by the agreed dates for the management of fishing capacity by 2005 and to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing by 2004;

(d) Develop and facilitate the use of diverse approaches and tools, including the ecosystem approach, the elimination of destructive fishing practices, the establishment of marine protected areas consistent with international law and based on scientific information, including representative networks by 2012;

(e) Establish by 2004 a regular process under the United Nations for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment;

(f) Eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and to overcapacity.

48. In adopting these specific goals, the Summit recognized that ensuring sustainable development of the oceans, covering such wide range of issues, would require effective coordination and cooperation, including at the global and regional levels, as well as among the relevant bodies. In this context, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation called for steps to establish an effective, transparent and regular inter-agency coordination mechanism on ocean and coastal issues within the United Nations system. The Summit's recommendation was subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 57/141 of 12 December 2002.

49. Until the restructuring of the CEB machinery, the former ACC Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas was the principal inter-agency mechanism addressing since 1993, issues of environmental protection and sustainable development, a mandate derived from chapter 17 of Agenda 21 adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The issue of international coordination and cooperation in this area was repeatedly raised during various intergovernmental meetings, particularly the fourth and seventh sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development. It was emphasized that the issues of ocean space need to be pursued in an integrated manner with the involvement of all relevant actors. At the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, held in 1999, it was emphasized that, building on existing arrangements, a more integrated approach was required to all legal, economic, social and environmental aspects of the oceans and seas both at intergovernmental and inter-agency levels. As far as the intergovernmental level was concerned, the Commission recommended to the General Assembly the establishment of an open-ended informal consultative process.

50. Acting on the recommendation of the Commission, the General Assembly, by its resolution 54/33 of 24 November 1999 decided to establish an Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea. This process was mandated to cover both the issues related to the legal framework provided by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the goals of chapter 17 of Agenda 21, and to facilitate the annual review by the General Assembly by suggesting particular areas where coordination and cooperation at the intergovernmental and inter-agency levels should be enhanced.

51. The Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea has held four meetings thus far. The issue of inter-agency coordination mechanism has been discussed during those meetings and has been strongly emphasized, particularly during the third (2002) and fourth (2003) sessions. The Consultative Process has identified a number of functions that need to be pursued through such a mechanism, including: (a) coordinating and harmonizing the agencies' activities related to oceans; (b) reviewing programmes and activities and

identifying issues needing to be addressed, with a view to updating and enriching the relationship between the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and Agenda 21; (c) ensuring integrated ocean management at the international level; (d) coordinating inputs to the annual report of the Secretary-General on oceans and law of the sea. In addition, both in the Consultative Process and at the inter-agency level, the need is increasingly felt for dedicated but flexible processes to undertake joint activities to address emerging challenges and such issues as Global Marine Assessment, regional ocean governance and developing guidelines for the application of ecosystem approach.

52. There is a widely shared view, also reflected in the report of the HLCP Open-Ended Group on World Summit on Sustainable Development Follow-Up, that enhanced coordination of activities relating to oceans and coastal areas would require both review and harmonization of ongoing activities, as well as addressing the emerging challenges and launching of new joint initiatives. To cover all aspects, including political, legal, security, economic, social, and environmental, this mechanism should include not only members of the former Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas, but also international financial institutions and other institutions such as the International Seabed Authority and secretariats of multilateral environment treaties, for example, the Convention on Biodiversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, etc.

53. Future inter-agency mechanisms should thus be capable of performing at least the two core functions mentioned above, namely reviewing ongoing work in this area and developing coordinated/joint responses to emerging challenges, and/or launching new joint initiatives. It should work in a flexible manner in accordance with the CEB mandates.

54. The first set of activities mentioned in paragraph 48 above could be pursued through an open-ended network covering a wide range of issues and composed of the relevant programmes, entities and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and the secretariats of the relevant international conventions, including the International Seabed Authority. Such a network could operate as a flexible mechanism to review joint and overlapping ongoing activities and to support related deliberations of the Consultative Process. A steering group of the network, composed of senior representatives of the most directly involved organizations and programmes should meet as required to coordinate programmes, harmonize reporting and review ongoing activities. The timing of such meetings could be coordinated with the sessions of the Consultative Process.

55. At the same time, the network could pursue time-bound initiatives, with well-defined terms of reference, through task-oriented groups, open to the participation of non-governmental organizations and other international stakeholders. Emerging challenges or new initiatives could be identified by the network, based on relevant work inside and outside the United Nations system. An example of such task-oriented groups could be the establishment of a task force comprising leading agencies dedicated to the coordination, planning and implementation of the Global Marine Assessment or on regional ocean governance.

56. The modalities of this approach to coordination could include the intensive use of electronic communication; holding meetings normally in conjunction with other related meetings; the establishment of written agreements among heads of agencies or responsible managers; and open dialogue with non-United Nations system actors

and transparent communication with all partners, including through the use of a dedicated web site.

57. The proposed new coordinating mechanism should build on the experience and make full use of existing inter-agency cooperative mechanisms or projects, including the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment, the Global International Water Assessment, the United Nations Atlas of the Oceans, the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection, the Global Oceans Observing System, and others.

#### **Decision No. 5**

The Committee approved the above-mentioned approach and the creation of an Oceans and Coastal Areas Network, building upon the Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas and in line with the CEB call for a more dynamic arrangement, which leaves it possible for non-United Nations actors to contribute to the achievement of Johannesburg Plan of Implementation targets, in accordance with agreed criteria that are transparent and balanced. It requested the Network to urgently set up a task group to draw up the Network's terms of reference and work programme, which should be submitted to HLCP before the end of the current year.

#### **Decision No. 6**

The Committee requested the Division for Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea to keep it informed of progress achieved in the establishment by 2004 of a regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, as called for by the Plan of Implementation and General Assembly resolution 57/141.

### **D. Changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production**

58. The Plan of Implementation highlights the essential actions required to achieve fundamental changes in the way societies produce and consume, changes that will be indispensable for achieving global sustainable development. It also calls (in para. 15) for a 10-year framework of programmes in support of regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production to promote social and economic development within the carrying capacity of ecosystems by addressing and, where appropriate, delinking economic growth and environmental degradation. The Framework will focus on achieving efficiency and sustainability in the use of resources and production processes to help to reduce resource degradation, pollution and waste. It also envisions collaboration between nations, with developed countries in the lead, to mobilize from all sources, financial and technical assistance, as well as capacity-building for developing countries. As follow-up to the Plan, a meeting of international experts was held in Marrakech, Morocco, from 16 to 19 June 2003, to develop a 10-Year Framework of Programmes for Sustainable Consumption and Production on the basis of the outcomes of two preparatory meetings of experts held in Argentina and Indonesia.

59. The Marrakech Process is a basic step towards the development of a 10-year framework of programmes for sustainable consumption and production and identified the following as guide for future work: integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development in formulating policies for promoting sustainable consumption and production; ensuring the integration of sustainable consumption

and production in national sustainable development strategies and where applicable, in poverty-reduction strategies; the need for political commitment at all levels and sectors; setting out of specific priorities with targeted and effective international cooperation; institutional and social capacity-building; development and diffusion of sustainable technologies and financial means for implementing policies and programmes; dissemination of information including awareness raising, education, training, media and advertising; and finally ensuring the active involvement of all stakeholders.

60. The Marrakech Process has reaffirmed the existing inter-agency collaborative arrangements and has produced a 10-Year Framework of Programmes for Sustainable Consumption and Production with a clear set of objectives and work modalities. This envisages expert meetings every two years to monitor, evaluate and guide the work of the United Nations system and other partners as follow-up to the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The biennial meeting will be supported by informal task forces or focused round table.

61. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs and UNEP are the principal organizations within the United Nations system concerned with sustainable consumption and production in general, while a number of other organizations have been involved with specific issues, such as UNIDO on cleaner production, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on sustainable human settlements, UNCTAD on trade and sustainability, the Basel Convention secretariat on waste management, UNESCO on education for sustainable development, and the International Labour Organization on working conditions, to give a few examples.

62. Both the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and UNEP are, however, involved with broad policy questions and have responsibilities with regard to specific issues. The activities of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs include environmental management accounting, national industrial strategies for sustainable production, national policies for sustainable public procurement, indicators of sustainable consumption and production and assessments of global trends in that regard. UNEP has programmes addressing consumer awareness and advertising, ecolabels, the life-cycle approach, cleaner production, procurement training, procurement by international organizations, partnerships with business and financial institutions, ecodesign and product service system.

63. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs and UNEP could take the lead in convening the biennial broad international meetings and a regional consultative process, in collaboration with the regional commissions. In accordance with requirements, they may organize task forces, round tables and other expert meetings on specific issues in consultation with other concerned organizations.

64. The Marrakech Process recognized the importance of intergovernmental and institutional communication and of inter-agency collaboration. It will also provide input to intergovernmental decision-making. It would appear that collaboration and coordination for follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the implementation of its Plan of Implementation through the 10-year Framework does not require the setting up of a formal collaborative mechanism and that the principal organizations involved are taking the lead in carrying out tasks associated with different aspects of the Framework.

**Decision No. 7**

The Committee endorsed the approach adopted by the Marrakech Process and requested the lead organizations, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and UNEP, in cooperation with other organizations concerned, in particular UNIDO and UN-Habitat, to implement the Framework and keep HLCP informed on further developments in this area. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs and UNEP should consult on all aspects of work and also develop a joint web site, so that all concerned are kept fully informed, on a timely basis, of ongoing activities and other developments in the context of the Framework.

*Notes*

- <sup>a</sup> World Summit on Sustainable Development Follow-up — Elements of work plan (CEB/2003/HLCP/CRP.18).
- <sup>b</sup> Report of Open-Ended Group (CEB/2003/HLCP/CRP.5).
- <sup>c</sup> CEB summary of conclusions (CEB/2003/1).
- <sup>d</sup> Report on HLCP intersessional (CEB/2003/6).
- <sup>e</sup> CEB/2003/HLCP/CRP.2.
- <sup>f</sup> *Water for People, Water for Life, United Nations World Development Report*, published by UNESCO and Bergham Books, 2003.
- <sup>g</sup> *World Energy Assessment: Energy and the Challenge of Sustainability*, produced jointly by UNDP, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the World Energy Council, United Nations publications, New York, November 2000.
- <sup>h</sup> See also *The Economist*, 19 July 2003.
- <sup>i</sup> World Energy Assessment.
- <sup>j</sup> Report of the second session of the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Energy, Vienna, 8 September 1999.

## Appendix

### Inventory of existing inter-agency coordination mechanisms and collaborative arrangements and joint projects

#### Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
EHP	Environmental Health Perspectives
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GESAMP	Joint Group of Experts on Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection
GOOS	Global Oceans Observing System
GWP	Global Water Partnership
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (of UNESCO)
ISCU	International Council of Scientific Unions
ISDR	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
IUCN	World Conservation Union
IWMI	International Water Management Institute
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFIP	United Nations Fund for International Partnerships
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNU/INWEH	United Nations University/International Network on Water, Environment and Health
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WHC	Wildlife Habitat Canada
WHO/PAHO	World Health Organization/Pan-American Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WRI	World Resources Institute
WSP	Water and Sanitation Program
WSSCC	Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council
WUP	Water Utility Partnership
WWC	World Water Council

## Appendix

### Inventory of existing inter-agency coordination mechanisms and collaborative arrangements and joint projects

<i>Nomenclature</i>	<i>Goals and objectives</i>	<i>Membership</i>	<i>Chair/Convener secretariat support service</i>	<i>Outputs and activities</i>	<i>Calendar of activities</i>	<i>Contact details</i>
<b>A. Freshwater and water and sanitation</b>						
<b>1. Freshwater</b>						
A. UN Water: inter-agency mechanism on freshwater has assumed the functions of the former Administrative Committee on Coordination Subcommittee on Water Resources (ACC/SWR). UN Water has a forward-looking and implementation-oriented approach and has been charged with an important series of mandates both from the General Assembly and the Commission on Sustainable Development.	Provide a United Nations-system mechanism for coordination, implementation and follow-up of the water agenda in collaboration with stakeholders.	FAO, IAEA, IBRD, ISDR, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNDP, UN-Habitat, UNEP, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNU/INWEH, WHO, WMO, ECA, ECE, ECLAC, ESCAP, ESCWA; United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, IFAD, OSA	P. Aggarwal (IAEA); Secretariat provided by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.	Took over mandates of ACC/SWR Secretary-General reports on water for twelfth and thirteenth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development Production of the World Water Development Report (WWDR); Partnerships on water with different stakeholders; coordination of activities for International Year of Freshwater; Inter-agency Task force on Gender and water.	July 2003: meeting UN Water August 2003: International Freshwater Forum, Dushanbe March 2004: meeting in Dakar April 2004: twelfth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, thematic cluster water and sanitation.	Manuel B. Dengo Room DC2-2020, United Nations New York, NY 10017 T 1-212-963-4208 F 1-212-963-4340 dengo@un.org

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B. World Water Development Report (WWDR) (This is part of UN Water activities)	In response to the sixth session of the Commission mandates: provides an authoritative picture of the state of the world's water resources, description of critical problems, and options for improved and sustainable water resources management; a tool for monitoring implementation of water-related Millennium Development Goals and World Summit on Sustainable Development outcomes.	All members of UN Water, plus ISDR; 80 governments	Secretariat hosted by UNESCO Division of Water Sciences	The first WWDR was issued in March 2003 at the Third World Water Forum in Japan; the second edition will be issued in 2006. UN Water discussed its contents in July 2003.	May 2003: presentation to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eleventh session July 2003: discussion of contents of second edition of World Water Development Report Dec 2003: regional Water Development Report for Africa March 2006: Second edition of WWDR	WWAP secretariat 1, rue Miollis 75732 Paris, Cedex 15 33 1 45683904 (P) 33 1 45685829 (F) wwap@unesco.org
C. World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) (This is also part of UN Water activities)	In support of the sixth session of the Commission mandate and to strengthen national capabilities for the WWDR process, the WWAP is to: assess the availability and quality of water resources and the demands on the resource; define critical problems; and assess the ability to nations to cope with water-related stress and conflict.	All members of UN Water	Secretariat hosted by UNESCO Division of Water Sciences	Develop monitoring and assessment tools; compile and interpret data; prepare biannual reports; improve capacity in water resources assessment; establish global network on water issues.	Briefing to Commission on 7 May 2003 July 2003: discussion on indicators and country reports 2003-2006: preparation of research and compilation of assessment data for second edition of WWDR	

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D. Global Environment Monitoring System (GEMS)/Water	<p>The twin goals of GEMS/Water are to improve water quality monitoring and assessment capabilities in participating countries and to determine the status and trends of regional and global water quality.</p> <p>It provides authoritative, scientifically sound information on the state and trends of global inland water quality required as a basis for the sustainable management of the world's freshwater to support global environmental assessments and decision-making processes.</p>	Partners include UNEP, FAO, IAEA, UNDP, WHO, UNESCO, World Bank, WMO	GEMS/Water is a UNEP programme, and is hosted at Environment Canada's National Water Research Institute.	<p>GEMS/Water is a multi-faceted water science programme oriented towards knowledge development on freshwater quality issues throughout the world. Major activities include monitoring, assessment and capacity-building.</p> <p>GEMS/Water develops and maintains a global freshwater quality information system with a series of national and international partners.</p>		<p>United Nations GEMS/Water Programme Office c/o National Water Research Institute 867 Lakeshore Road Burlington, Ontario L7R 4A6 CANADA Dr. Richard Robarts Director 1-306-975-6047 richard.robarts@ ec.gc.ca www.gemswater.org</p>

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E. Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA)	The aim of GIWA is to produce a comprehensive and integrated global assessment of international waters, the ecological status of and the causes of environmental problems in 66 water areas in the world, and focus on the key issues and problems facing the aquatic environment in transboundary waters.	Partners include UNEP, GEF, World Bank, UNDP, and GESAMP.	GIWA is led by UNEP  GIWA is funded about 50 per cent by the GEF.  Its main executing agency is Kalmar University, Sweden, where the GIWA Core Team and Co-ordination Office is located.	Development of a GIWA network and an assessment protocol.  Gathering and analysis of information necessary for applying the GIWA Assessment Protocol at the subregional level.  Analysis of scenario development and policy options.  Preparation and dissemination of the global and regional GIWA products, such as reports, reviews, databases etc. that are easily comprehensible to various sectors of society.		Global International Waters Assessment, GIWA SE- 391 82 Kalmar, Sweden  Phone: +46- 480 44 73 53. Fax: +46- 480 44 73 55. E-mail: info@giwa.net www.giwa.net
<b>2. Water and sanitation</b>						
Water and Sanitation in the World Cities Report	In response to the Habitat Agenda on “Environmentally sustainable, healthy and livable human settlements” and to the Millennium Development Goals; aims to monitor, analyse and report on the situation of water and sanitation in world cities and provide practical policy options for achieving the Millennium Development Goal.	In collaboration with: UNEP, UNICEF, WHO, World Bank, World Solar Programme, IIED, WSSC. Governments of Japan and Sweden	UN-Habitat	First edition launched at World Water Forum, Japan in March 2003	Second edition to be published in 2006	Kalyan Ray UN-Habitat Room M-135 P.O. Box 30030 Nairobi  Tel: + 254 20 623039 Fax: 254 20 623588 kalyan.ray@unhabitat.org

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Water for African Cities Programme (WAC)	To support African countries to effectively address the growing urban water crisis and protect water resources from being polluted. Special focus is given to Water demand management, integrated water resource management, awareness raising, improved information and transfer of best practices in the region. The programme also includes subprogrammes in water education and training and capacity-building.	In collaboration with: UNEP, UNFIP, UNDP/United Nations Volunteers, World Bank, WSSC, WUP, Governments of Sweden, the Netherlands, Germany, Finland	UN-Habitat	Assessment and development of strategies/generic tools for water demand management and pollution control of water resources. Documentation of best practices and development of information kit. Training workshops and building on capacity of regional resource centres. Media campaigns	First phase completed.  Expert Group Meeting held in August 2003 for the establishment of a framework for the second phase.  Second phase due to begin in late 2003.	Kalyan Ray UN-Habitat Room M-135 P.O. Box 30030 Nairobi  Tel: + 254 20 623039 Fax: 254 20 623588 kalyan.ray@unhabitat.org
Water for Asian Cities programme, WASC	To promote pro-poor investments in water and sanitation in Asian Cities in support of the Millennium Development Goals and the World Summit on Sustainable Development Plan of Implementation. Programme priorities include: mobilization of political will, community-based initiatives, urban sanitation and pro-poor urban water governance.	In collaboration with: Asian Development Bank, Government of the Netherlands	UN-Habitat	Develop monitoring and assessment tools. Capacity-building through Asian Ministerial forum, development of media strategy, public awareness campaigns and training programme. Generic toolkits for integrated water and sanitation management. Pro-poor governance framework, investment proposals and secure investment funding.	Officially launched at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg 2002	Kalyan Ray UN-Habitat Room M-135 P.O. Box 30030 Nairobi  Tel: + 254 20 623039 Fax: 254 20 623588 kalyan.ray@unhabitat.org

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Pro-poor Urban Water Governance	The project aims to support global efforts in sector reform, partnerships and decentralization.	In collaboration with: WSP, Bank Netherlands Water Partnership, GWP, World Bank Institute, L'Alliance Maghreb Machrek pour l'Eau	World Bank and UN-Habitat	Develop a methodology to assess governance regimes in urban water supply and sanitation sector. To develop toolkits for national and local government policy makers to improve urban water management for cities.	Workshop to be held in Nairobi in October 2003.	Kalyan Ray UN-Habitat Room M-135 P.O. Box 30030 Nairobi Tel: + 254 20 623039 Fax: 254 20 623588 kalyan.ray@unhabitat.org
Millennium Project Task Force 7 for Water and Sanitation. Ten task forces were created to perform the core analytical work of the Millennium Project. Task Force 7 will focus on the Millennium Development Goals on water and sanitation	In response to the Millennium Development Goals the challenge of the Task Force is to develop a strategy for meeting the water and sanitation Millennium Development Goals.	UN-Habitat , UNEP, UNDP, UNICEF, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, World Bank, UNESCO, UNICEF, WWC, WSSCC, GWP, IWMI, IMF	Co-chaired by Dr. Roberto Lenton and Dr. Albert Wright	An operational strategy at scale but with local specificity which takes into account physical, financial and institutional constraints and put forward operational strategies	To date two meetings have been held: New York, 2002 and Nairobi, 2003.  Interim report to be submitted to the Secretary-General in 2004.  Final recommendations of Millennium Project submitted in 2005.	Dr. Roberto Lenton International Research Institute for Climate Prediction (IRI) Lamont Hall, 61 Route 9W - PO Box 1000 Palisades, NY 10964-8000 USA Tel: +1 845 680 4414 Fax: + 1 845 680 4870 rlenton@iri.columbia.edu

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WASH Campaign – Water Supply Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC)	Based on the principles of Vision 21 and the Iguacu Action Plan, it is a global alliance for making safe water, sanitation and hygiene a reality for all.	WSSCC, UN-Habitat, WHO, UNICEF	WSSCC UN-Habitat for the urban component of WASH	The campaign raises consciousness about sanitation and hygiene through the commitment of political, social and opinion leaders around the world. The Campaign has adopted various approaches to achieve this: community mobilization, promotion of people-centred approaches, building partnerships, promoting management and institutional reform, collecting scientific information and sharing experiences, working with the media.	Launched in December 2001 at the International Conference on Freshwater.	Dr. Albert M. Wright Arica Water Task Force, C-10 Manet Court Accra  Tel: + 233 24 685 233 amwright2@awright.org  Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council International Environment Hse Chemin des Anémones 9 1219 Châteline Geneva, Switzerland
Urban Indicators Programme	In response to Habitat's mandate (including goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals, specifically target 11) the programme aims to monitor, report and analyse global urban indicators. The indicators are: shelter, economic and social development, governance and basic service delivery.	UNICEF, ECLAC, European Union, United States Agency for International Development and governments	UN-Habitat	Assist in developing local monitoring systems, to strengthen local policy formation, develop capacity to use urban indicators as a policy decision tool, promote exchange of information and strengthen the role of local authorities, communities and non-governmental organizations in the selection and collection of indicators.	The first phase of indicators were developed in 1991-1993, the second phase in 1993-1996. The third phase will be launched later on in the year, October 2003 "Global sample of Cities".	Nefise Bazoglou UN-Habitat Room N-313 P.O. Box 30030 Nairobi  Tel: + 254 20 624545 nefise.bazoglu@ unhabitat.org

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WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme on Water Supply and Sanitation	Provide the official United Nations reference data for measuring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals on access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation – Strengthen monitoring capacity of national agencies	Advisory group members: EHP, UN-Habitat, LSHTM, ORCMACRO, Water, Engineering and Development Centre (UK), World Bank, WSSCC, WWAP and sector professionals	Secretariat: WHO and UNICEF	Yearly reports with updated coverage estimates based on evidence-based sources like household surveys and national census. Five-yearly global sector assessments reports Harmonization of survey instruments (Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, Demographic and Health Surveys, Living Standards Measurement Survey, World Health Survey, Census etc.) and expansion of survey indicators on hygiene behaviour and quality of services	Biannual advisory group meetings.	vtobin@unicef.org mhenderson@unicef.org bartramj@who.int huebj@who.int World Health Organization Water, Sanitation and Health 20, Avenue Appia - 1211 Geneva 27 Switzerland e-mail: who@wssinfo.org United Nations Children's Fund WES Section 3 United Nations Plaza New York 10017 USA e-mail: wesinfo@unicef.org

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Inter-agency Initiative FRESH (Focusing Resources on Effective School Health)	Improving the health and learning of schoolchildren through school-based health and nutrition programmes through (a) health-related school policies; (b) provision of safe water and sanitation—the essential first steps towards a healthy physical, learning environment; (c) skills-based health education; and (d) school-based health and nutrition services.	FRESH was launched by UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO. The World Bank and Education International during the World Education Forum, Dakar, April 2000. It now regroups activities by UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO, the World Bank, Education International, FAO, WFP, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Education Development Centre and Partnership for Child Development.	No lead agency. The main strategy is for the supporting agencies to speak with one voice when providing guidance at both policy and implementation level vis-à-vis school health in order to ensure that school health planning and programming includes all four components of the FRESH Framework. Within this agreed-upon framework the plan of action is decided by each participating agency.	At the policy level activities include integration of fresh framework international Education for All Action Plans or other educational reform documents; at the level of training/ capacity building activities include integrating the FRESH Framework into WHO, Information Series on School Health; at the school level, activities include campaign to assist schools in planning and implementing their own school health projects. (additional details may be obtained from UNESCO)	Field testing of FRESH best practices tools kit will be accomplished during 2004. Review of Education for All national action plans to determine the extent to which school health issues based on the FRESH framework are incorporated will be undertaken in 2004.	Am.Hoffmann@unesco.org Agillespie@unicef.org gollmarc@who.int Dbundy@worldbank.org

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<b>B. Energy</b>						
Ad-hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Energy	Established in February 1997 to facilitate coordination and cooperation among United Nations agencies, programmes and entities in energy and related areas. Produced inputs for the ninth session of LSD and produced a World Energy Assessment Report. More recently the Task Force has been dormant.	Open to all UN entities working in the area of energy. Department of Economic and Social Affairs, IAEA, UNEP, UNDP, UNIDO, UNFPA, WHO, WMO, UNESCO, FAO, UNFCCC, GEF, regional commissions, World Bank	Department of Economic and Social Affairs Chair J. DiSano Secretary: K. Abdalla	Inputs to the Commission on Sustainable Development, the World Summit on Sustainable Development Side events on “Energy Activities in the UN” and “The Rural Energy Challenge” Matrix of Activities Publications on Task Force activities, briefing paper, consolidated activities, case studies, United Nations activities in energy.	Meetings were held as needed. Reports available at < <a href="http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev">http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev</a> >	K. Abdalla +1-212-963-8416 adballak@un.org

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Global Network on Energy for Sustainable Development (GNESD)	GNESD is a UNEP-facilitated knowledge network of developing world centres of excellence and network partners, renowned for their work on energy, development, and environment issues. GNESD aims to enhance the capacity of national institutions to develop policies and undertake planning and research efforts that integrate solutions to energy, environment and development challenges, and reduce pollution from energy activities while allowing developing countries to meet growing needs for energy services.	Partners include UNEP, UNIDO, UNDP, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, World Bank	UNEP An international Steering Committee representing the GNESD partners was created to provide strategic direction and oversight.	As its first work theme the GNESD Steering Committee has chosen to focus on "Energy Access". The following types of activities can be undertaken by the GNESD centres of excellence and network partners: building knowledge and sharing lessons learned, improving capabilities (capacity development on multiple levels, facilitating development of new approaches and projects, and generating new knowledge (through structuring energy policy research projects)).		Interim Secretariat Global Network on Energy for Sustainable Development Risoe National Laboratory, Bldg. 142 Frederiksborgvej 399 P.O. Box 49 DK 4000 Roskilde Denmark tel: +45 4677 5131 fax: +45 4632 1999 email: gnesd@risoe.dk www.gnesd.org Secretariat Head: John Christensen

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Clean Fuels and Vehicles Partnership	The partners will work to: help developing countries to develop action plans to complete the elimination of leaded gasoline and start to phase down sulfur in diesel and gasoline fuels; provide a platform for exchange of experiences and successful practices, as well as technical assistance; develop public outreach materials, educational programmes, and awareness campaigns; adapt economic and planning tools for clean fuels and vehicles analyses in local settings; and support the development of enforcement and compliance programmes, with an initial focus on fuel adulteration.	Partners include UNEP, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, World Bank, ADB, WHO/PAHO.	Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNEP, United States Environment Protection Agency	Activities are aimed at building capacities, improving availability and accessibility of technical information, setting up a network of experts from auto, oil and technology industries to advise on refinery reformulation, technical progress in the vehicle and fuel sectors, costs and means of financing as well promoting the raising of vehicular standards and encouraging more effective inspection and maintenance programmes.		<a href="http://www.un.org/esa/gite/cleanfuels/index.html">http://www.un.org/esa/gite/cleanfuels/index.html</a> Ms. Kathleen Abdalla, <a href="mailto:abdallak@un.org">abdallak@un.org</a> Rob de Jong UNEP, P.O. Box 30552, Nairobi Phone: 254-2-624-184 Fax: 254-2 624-324 E-mail: <a href="mailto:rob.jong@unep.org">rob.jong@unep.org</a>

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Indicators for Sustainable Energy Development (ISED) Partnership	(1) To provide comprehensive and consistent set of indicators to help assess progress towards sustainable energy development, (2) to assist countries in energy and statistical capacity-building for sustainable development and (3) to supplement the broad indicators work of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development.	IAEA, Department of Economic and Social Affairs Division for Sustainable Development and Statistics Division, Eurostat, ECE, European Environment Agency (EEA), Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE), Italian Environmental Agency (APAT), Southwest Energy Efficiency Project, (SWEEP) USA, Center for Energy-Environment Research and Development (CEERD) Thailand, Brazil, Cuba, Lithuania, Mexico, Russian Federation, Slovak Republic	IAEA	(1) ISED, (2) activities to promote inclusion of ISED in national and regional databases and (3) to facilitate energy analyses and energy policy formulation.	(1) 1st workshop May 2002, 2nd Workshop May 2003, 3rd Workshop September 2004; (2) ISED Inter-Agency publication Autumn 2004; (3) Final reports from 7 participating countries, March 2005.	Mr. Ivan Vera IAEA P.O. Box 100 Wagramer Strasse 5 A-1400 Vienna Phone: +43 1 2600 22773 Fax: +43 1 2600 29598 E-mail: ivan.vera@iaea.org

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Country Profiles on Sustainable Energy Development Partnership	Assist countries in developing country profiles on sustainable energy development for use in planning policy and assessing progress relative to sustainable development objectives.	IAEA; Department of Economic and Social Affairs; ECLAC; Centre for Biomass (CENBIO), University of Sao Paulo; Graduate School of Engineering (COPPE), Federal University of Rio de Janeiro; Ministry of Environment, State of Sao Paulo; Brazilian Ministry of Mines and Energy; Brazilian Ministry of Science and Technology; Electrobas; SWEEP, USA; OLADE; World Energy Council member committee in Brazil.	IAEA	(1) data collection, training, ISED implementation and comprehensive analysis of energy sectors to develop (2) country profiles on sustainable energy development for selected countries and (3) continuing capabilities for updating and using the profiles in sustainable development planning.	(1) Meeting of Expert Committee for Brazil: December 2002, April 2003, August 2003 and March 2004; (2) Publication of Brazil Energy Country Profile December 2004; (3) Initial meeting Expert Committee for South Africa, October 2003; (4) Initial meeting Expert Committee for Cuba, November 2003.	Mr. Ivan Vera IAEA P.O. Box 100 Wagramer Strasse 5 A-1400 Vienna Phone: +43 1 2600 22773 Fax: +43 1 2600 29598 E-mail: ivan.vera @iaea.org
World Solar Programme (WSP)	The main aim of this is to encourage the wider use of all forms of RES to alleviate poverty and promote sustainable development. WSP has the purpose of sensitizing Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, financial institutions academia and private institutions on the need to support the development and utilization of renewable energy for sustainable development.	UNESCO and other United Nations entities, World Solar Commission	UNESCO	Increasing availability of sustainable energy, rural development, establishing or improving existing institutional frameworks, provision of adequate financing and increasing participation of industry in renewable energy activities.		Osman Benchikh UNESCO Division of Basic and Engineering Sciences. Tel: 33 45683916 E-mail: o.benchikh @unesco.org

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Global Renewable Energy Education and Training (GREET) Programme	Advocacy for renewable energies, capacity-building, and provision of related policy advice.	Lead agency is UNESCO	UNESCO	-Enhanced capacity; -Publication of learning/ teaching material; -Creation of organizational framework for national action plan on education and training on renewable energies.		Osman Benchikh UNESCO Division of Basic and Engineering Science Tel: +33 45683916 Mail: o.benchikh@unesco.org
Global Village Energy Partnership (details to be provided by Department of Economic and Social Affairs and UNDP)		UNDP, World Bank, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNEP, UNIDO				
<b>C. Oceans and coastal areas</b>						
UN Atlas on the Oceans	Further develop and maintain an Internet-based Atlas of the Oceans, including providing expert inputs and editing for updates and its interactive use.	Lead agency FAO, IAEA, IMO, UNEP, WMO, UNESCO/ IOC, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity constitute the core group	FAO, Fisheries Department Two years funding from the United Nations Foundation with assistance from a few Governments	Atlas was launched in June 2002 after more than two years of preparatory work. The CD ROM is under preparation with continuous updating and expansion of topics.	FAO convenes meetings of the core group as well as editorial and advisory panels as required. Otherwise, e-mails are used	Serge.gracia@fao.org John.Everett@fao.org

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Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the protection of the Marine Environment from land-based activities (GPA)	Facilitate United Nations agency implementation of the GPA in accordance with General Assembly resolution 51/189 and relevant UNEP decisions on the same subject. The GPA is designed to be a source of conceptual and practical guidance to be drawn upon by national and/or regional authorities for devising and implementing sustained action to prevent, reduce, control and/or eliminate marine degradation from land-based activities.	GPA provides for implementation through partnerships, including through its clearing-house nodes, i.e. sewage (WHO), persistent organic pollutants, heavy metals and physical alterations (UNEP), Radioactive substances (IAEA), Nutrients and sediment mobilization (FAO) oils and litter (IMO).	UNEP/GPA Coordination Office (The Hague, the Netherlands)	Inputs to reports submitted to the first intergovernmental review of the GPA in Montreal in November 2001, and other UNEP meetings; support to GPA clearing-house mechanism	Regular intergovernmental meetings, and inter-agency meetings on an as-needed basis.	Veerle Vandeweerd, Coordinator GPA GPA Coordination Office United Nations Environment Programme P.O. Box 16227 2500 BE, The Hague (+31) 70.311.4460 v.vandeweerd @unep.nl www.gpa.unep.org

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Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP)	The functions of the Joint Group are: to provide advice relating to the scientific aspects of marine environmental protection to the sponsoring organizations on specific questions referred to it and to other organizations of the United Nations system and to Member States of the United Nations organizations on particular problems referred to it through a sponsoring organization; and to prepare periodic reviews and assessments of the state of the marine environment and to identify problems and areas requiring special attention.	Sponsoring agencies: IMO, FAO, UNESCO-IOC, WMO, WHO, IAEA, United Nations, UNEP	IMO	Activities include: assessment of the potential effects of marine pollutants; scientific bases for research and monitoring programmes; international exchange of scientific information relevant to the assessment and control of marine pollution; scientific principles for the control and management of marine pollution sources; and scientific bases and criteria relating to legal instruments and other measures for the prevention, control or abatement of marine environmental degradation.		Administrative Secretary of GESAMP International Maritime Organization 4 Albert Embankment London SE1 7SR Tel: +44 (0)20 7587 3119 Fax: +44 (0)20 7587 3210 E-mail:
Global Oceans Observing System (GOOS)	GOOS is a permanent global system for observations, modelling and analysis of marine and ocean variables to support operational ocean services worldwide	Sponsoring agencies: WMO, UNEP, IOC-UNESCO and ISCU	UNESCO/IOC	GOOS provides accurate descriptions of the present state of the oceans, including living resources; continuous forecasts of the future conditions of the sea for as far ahead as possible; and the basis for forecasts of climate change		GOOS Project Office c/o Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission 1, rue Miollis 75732 Paris Cedex 15 France

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Global Marine Assessment	At WSSD, Governments called for the establishment by 2004 and under United Nations auspices of a regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of marine environment, including socio-economic aspects, both current and foreseeable, building on existing regional assessments. This was supported by the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session, the UNEP Governing Council and the Informal Consultative Process held in June 2003.	Partners include the Division for Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea, UNEP, IOC-UNESCO, FAO, IMO, WHO, IAEA, WMO, Convention on Biological Diversity (as identified in General Assembly resolution 57/141).	Division for Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea, UNEP	Report to General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session, which will prepare a detailed plan for the GMA for consideration by an intergovernmental meeting that would define the role of the scientific community and the possible contributions of non-governmental organizations.	An informal meeting was held at UNEP in The Hague in May 2003 to develop the scope, methodology, structure, concept issues and further process of the Global Marine Assessment, particularly the environment component as UNEP's contribution to the implementation of the United Nations-wide global marine assessment process. The outcome of the meeting was used during the Informal Consultative Process meeting held in New York, in June 2003, and it will also assist the scientific expert meeting to be organized later this year at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi.	Annick de Marffy, Director, Division for Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea  Salif Diop UNEP Division for Early Warning and Assessment, UNEP Salif.diop@unep.org

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<b>D. Sustainable consumption and production</b>						
Inter-agency cooperation on 10-year framework on sustainable consumption and production	Promote international cooperation and inter-agency coordination in support of national and regional activities to change “unsustainable patterns of consumption and production” as called for in chap. III of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.	Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNEP, UNIDO, UN-Habitat, UNCTAD, ILO, UNDP, ESCAP, and the Basel Convention secretariat but open to United Nations system organizations.	Department of Economic and Social Affairs and UNEP as lead agencies.	International and regional expert meetings on sustainable consumption and production patterns, e.g., International Expert Meeting in Marrakesh, Morocco (16-19 June, 2003) preceded by regional meetings on the 10-year framework in Latin America and the Asia-Pacific region.  Informal task forces and round tables on specific issues, web site for information and experience sharing, network building, and dissemination of best practices.		Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Division for Sustainable Development

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<b>E. Biodiversity and sustainable ecosystem management</b>						
Ecosystem Conservation Group (ECG)	Established in 1974 and operating through 1991, the ECG was reactivated in 1998 with the objectives to: (a) identify interlinkages and areas of cooperation in programmes and projects, and in information exchange; (b) interact in a complementary manner with other relevant scientific and technical organizations and bodies, including the Commission on Sustainable Development, United Nations Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development, secretariats of the global environmental conventions in order to add value to the work of these organizations and bodies and to seek to bridge the gap between science and policy; (c) develop synergy and linkages among biodiversity-related activities of ECG members and observers; and (d) review and/or synthesize scientific and technical information on relevant emerging issues, and issues which are not dealt with comprehensively elsewhere.	ECG core membership comprises UNEP, FAO, UNESCO, UNDP, World Bank, IUCN, WWF and WRI.	<p><i>Convener:</i> ECG meetings are organized under the auspices of UNEP, which is the convener and provides the Secretariat.</p> <p><i>Chair of the ECG meetings:</i> Meetings of the ECG are chaired on a rotational basis.</p>	The ECG has produced a range of background papers on emerging issues of concern to the international community such as on: 1. Biodiversity and urban environment, 2. Large-scale ecosystems management with special reference to the marine and coastal environment, 3. Trade, investment and ecosystems, 4. Impact of climate change on ecosystems, 5. Protected areas and ecosystems, 6. United Nations List of Protected Areas — Harmonizing biodiversity-related conventions, etc. The ECG has also supported the launching of important international initiatives such as the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment	Meetings are demand-driven and linked to major global events as appropriate, but should not exceed two a year. Full use is made of electronic communication technologies for consultations among ECG members, and observers.	Mr. Bai-Mass M. Taal, UNEP, Nairobi E-mail: Bai-Maas.Taal@unep.org

## Annex VI

### High-Level Committee on Programmes work programme for 2003-2004

March HLCP 2003	April CEB 2003	July HLCP intersessional meeting 2003	September HLCP 2003	October CEB 2003
HLCP work programme		HLCP work programme	HLCP work programme	
Millennium Declaration: comprehensive review	Millennium Declaration: comprehensive review	Millennium Declaration: comprehensive review	Millennium Declaration: comprehensive review	Millennium Declaration: comprehensive review
Follow-up to World Summit on Sustainable Development: Energy, Water	Follow-up to World Summit on Sustainable Development	Follow-up to World Summit on Sustainable Development	Follow-up to World Summit on Sustainable Development	
HIV/AIDS and its linkages with food security, governance	International trade: the Doha development agenda	Financing for development	Financing for development	Financing for development
Conflict prevention		HIV/AIDS and its linkages with food security, governance	HIV/AIDS and its linkages with food security, governance	HIV/AIDS and its linkages with food security, governance
		Communication strategy	Communication strategy	International trade: the Doha development agenda
		Indigenous issues	International trade: the Doha development agenda	
		Follow-up to the World Assembly on Ageing	Conflict prevention	
			Other items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Indigenous issues</li> <li>▪ Follow-up to the World Assembly on Ageing</li> <li>▪ Migration</li> <li>▪ Civil society organizations</li> <li>▪ NEPAD</li> </ul>	

<b>February HLCP 2004</b>	<b>April CEB 2004</b>	<b>September HLCP 2004</b>	<b>October CEB 2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
HLCP work programme		HLCP work programme		
Millennium Declaration: comprehensive review		Millennium Declaration: comprehensive review	Millennium Declaration: comprehensive review	Millennium Declaration: comprehensive review
Transnational crime	Transnational crime	Digital divide	Digital divide	
Multilateralism				
Follow-up to World Summit on Sustainable Development: energy				
Peace and security: conflict prevention				
Communication strategy				
Other items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Global programmes</li> <li>• Africa-NEPAD</li> <li>• Civil society organizations: dialogue with the Secretary-General's Panel</li> </ul>				