



Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations

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Statement by Ambassador Jiro Kodera
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At the Informal Meeting of the General Assembly on System-Wide Coherence
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New York

Mr. President,

First of all, let me join the other speakers in congratulating Ambassador Mahiga of Tanzania and Ambassador Kavanagh of Ireland and thank them for convening this meeting. My delegation is ready to work closely with them on this important and challenging task.

In their letters to member states, the co-chairs suggested that we begin with a thorough assessment of the progress that has been made thus far, in particular, the status of the "One UN" pilot projects. My delegation supports this pragmatic and empirical approach. We should also take into account the latest TCPR, as it covers many important areas of system-wide coherence. The momentum and trust built during the negotiations on the TCPR should be maintained to accelerate the work now before us.

Mr. President,

Japan believes that the ultimate objective of the pursuit of coherence should be finding the most effective means of delivering services to communities and people in need. The UN must therefore improve the effectiveness and efficiency of its activities by streamlining its operations. This would surely contribute to the achievement of the MDGs as well. Having said this, let me share with you Japan's stance on some of the outstanding issues.

First, as was discussed during the joint meeting of the Executive Boards last month, the prerequisites for the success of One UN at the country level are the ownership and leadership of pilot countries and the neutrality of the resident coordinator system. UN agencies must exercise greater ownership of the RC system at all levels, so that RCs have clear mandates and the endorsement of the entire UN

system. Although Japan supports the idea of assessing the pilots, we recognize that some member states believe that it may be too early to evaluate the progress of the programs.

In case the funding mechanism is discussed in conjunction with the One UN, the “One Budgetary Framework” of the pilot programs should be thoroughly analyzed. A rigid mechanism that places undue emphasis on the predictability of resources may eventually lead to decreased funding available for the UN operational activities. An emphasis should therefore be placed on flexibility.

The idea of channeling savings gained through reform back into the system should be seriously considered. The High-Level-Panel report recommends the establishment of an “Empowerment Fund,” which would deliver assistance directly to the people in need. The lessons learned from the multi-sector, multi-agency approach taken in the Human Security Trust Fund projects can provide us with some insights in this regard.

Let me also say a few words about cross-cutting issues. Mainstreaming gender and human rights is an important part of achieving system-wide coherence. We hope that this issue will be discussed in a way that addresses the interests and concerns of all member states. We should approach the issue of gender from the viewpoint of how the UN activities in the field can bring about tangible benefits in the lives of women in need.

Finally, in order to improve the overall efficiency of the UN system, we should consider unifying UN in some sectors, such as health, in addition to the country-level unification that is being discussed. In the preparatory process for TICAD IV, relevant international organizations and funds and programs have formed clusters corresponding to major issues. My delegation is ready to share the lessons learned from this “cluster lead agency approach” to facilitate discussion on the idea of “delivering as one” in each sector.