



Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations

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Statement by Ambassador Jiro Kodera
Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations

Open Consultations on System-Wide Coherence
United Nations General Assembly
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Excellencies,

First, let me join other delegations in thanking the Co-chairs, Ambassadors Mahiga and Kavanagh, for their continued and energetic efforts to maintain the momentum of the system-wide coherence debate. My delegation would like to reiterate its assurance for walking together along your roadmap of our discussions.

Governance is an easy word to say, but quite a complex subject to discuss. My delegation therefore would like to keep to a pragmatic and empirical approach. Not only is it our intention to support our Co-chairs, our goal is for the UN system to efficiently and effectively deliver assistances that it will follow the roadmap you have laid out for our discussions

To begin with the overall situation of the UN system, my delegation, too, finds there is a reluctance on the part of the funds and programmes, ECOSOC and the GA to tackle the issue of aid effectiveness, as clearly mentioned by the delegation of Switzerland at the last open consultation.

Recognizing that system-wide coherence should be underpinned by the pursuit of aid effectiveness, my delegation encourages the UN system to more seriously promote system-wide coherence in cooperation with Member States, so that the governance of the UN system will improve.

The High Level Panel has recommended the establishment of some governing bodies such as a UN Development Board and a Development Policy and Operations Group. My delegation, in this regard, would appreciate it if the UN Secretariat could give institutional opinions on what kind of further discussions among related organizations have been held so far and on what kind of process should take place from here on out.

With regard to establishing a UN Development Board, it would be highly important to reclassify the functions and mandates of existing governing bodies such as ECOSOC, CEB, UNDG and each Executive Board, with their distinct responsibilities. It goes without saying that the other debate(s), such as ones on UN mandate review or reform of development activities, should also be taken into account.

In order to promote system-wide coherence, changing the culture of the UN system is also essential. The staff of an organization should not have the sense that he/she belongs to that organization only, but also to the UN system. In this context, my delegation hopes that UN staff mobility among agencies will be further enhanced through reprofiling and redeployment of staff, as proposed in the TCPR(62/208).

Finally, I would like to raise the issue of a neutral budgetary management system at both the central level and country level, as governance is inseparable from financing, a point made at the last open consultation.

As a central budgetary system is the key to actual, rational reform of the UN system, we should take quick but decisive action on this issue. As regards the management of financing at the country level, I reaffirm our view that this function should be delegated to the Resident Coordinator as a further step toward decentralization of the UN system. It goes without saying that the RC's budget mandate must be strengthened at the same time.

Before concluding, I would like to say that my delegation is pleased the distinguished Co-Chairs will be attending the Chief Executive Board meeting at the end of this month, and we are looking forward to receiving their feedback as part of this proactive process.

Thank you very much.