



PAKISTAN

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

BY

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ACTING PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
ON
UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM-WIDE COHERENCE
(UN DELIVERING AS ONE)

28 March, 2008

New York

Distinguished Co-chairs,

We thank the Co-chairs for giving an overview of the initial information regarding the Pilot countries they visited (Tanzania, Cape Verde, Mozambique & Vietnam) and their observation from the UNIDO conference on System-wide Coherence, in Vienna. We align ourselves with the statement of Antigua and Barbuda, on behalf of the Group of 77 & China. However, we would like to make some additional points in our national capacity.

2. Mr. Co-chairs, Pakistan is one of the 8 Pilot countries. We chose to volunteer as a Pilot in January 2007 because of the earthquake experience that underlined the need for a coherent UN system capable of effective and efficient delivery in special situations. The One UN Pilot in Pakistan is still at an initial and evolutionary stage and needs time before full appraisal of the performance could be made. It is, therefore, too early for my government to offer any definite assessment in regard to its impact on the effective delivery of UN development assistance at the country level. Pakistan will be happy to make a comprehensive presentation after we have had further experience with the "One UN Pilot".

3. We are nevertheless moving towards "One UN" in a concrete and deliberate manner in close collaboration with our UN colleagues. We are confident that the outcomes will be positive and that a successful, dynamic, and coherent UN programme will be developed in Pakistan, in line with our national priorities and plans. In this, we will continue to need full support from the UN system and other development partners.

Co-chairs,

4. The One UN Pilot is still in an experimental phase. The usefulness of its results may vary from country to country. Hence, no one size fits all. The progress of Pilots should not be assessed only in terms of coordination and coherence achieved by the UN system at the county level, but by more importantly, its overall impact on the achievement of national development goals and priorities.

5. Apart from the promotion of a One-UN approach at the country-level, it is essential to focus on the other three main objectives of the High – level Panel Report: Funding, Governance and Harmonization of Business

Practices. There should be equal and simultaneous progress on all of the four areas.

6. The achievement of 4 central objectives of the Coherence exercise should not be sacrificed by the lateral endeavors to address so-called “cross-cutting” issues. Each of these “cross-cutting” issues should be addressed separately in other relevant forums not within the UN system-wide coherence exercise. There is no intergovernmental mandate to the UN development system to apply a human rights based approach to development cooperation at the country level.

7. We strongly believe that the Pilots should be led and driven by the national governments and not the UN agencies or the donors. Meaningful coherence can only be achieved if there is full national ownership and leadership of the programme country at all stages of the process, including the full participation of national authorities in the preparation and development of country programmes in line with the nationally determined plans and priorities.

8. And, the purpose of the coherence process should be to provide more efficiency in the delivery of development assistance. Any savings generated from the efficiencies achieved at the country level must be ploughed back into the programmes in the country itself.

9. The One-UN Pilot Project was initiated in Pakistan in January 2007 with the ownership and leadership of our Government. The Pilot Project in Pakistan has moved forward towards achieving the establishment of joint programmes, one fund and development of an operational system at the country level. The Government of Pakistan has taken several measures to implement the requirements of the UN Pilot. These measures include the formation of a High Level Committee, chaired at the Prime Minister level.

10. In conclusion, let me assure you that Pakistan is committed to the success of “UN Delivering as One” and our proactive engagement with the UN, donors and other stakeholders would continue to that end.

I thank you, Co-chairs.