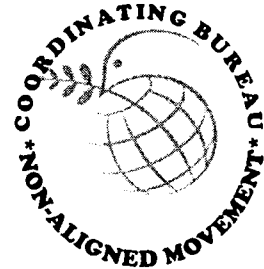




**THE JOINT
COORDINATING
COMMITTEE**

United Nations

New York



**Joint Statement by G-77 and NAM during the informal meeting of the
General Assembly for the consideration of the Report of the High-Level
Panel on United Nations System-wide Coherence and the report of the
Secretary General on its recommendations**

**UN Delivering as One at Country Level
(Friday, 28 March 2008)**

Mr. Co-Chairs:

Allow me at the outset to reiterate the willingness of the Group of 77 and China and the Non-Aligned Movement to constructively engage in the process that you have set up to facilitate an intergovernmental consideration of the recommendations emanating from the High-Level Panel's Report and the Secretary-General's comments thereon, to ensure sufficient 'buy in' and support from all stakeholders in order to make the process fully owned and successful. We are very confident of your able leadership and fully trust that you will guide the process in an open, transparent and inclusive manner.

We reaffirm all the general elements stated by the Joint Coordinating Committee of G-77 and NAM during the plenary meeting of the General Assembly on last 7 February. Consequently, we reiterate the preliminary views of both Groups on the Report that were conveyed in the letter addressed to the Secretary-General by the Chairs of the JCC on 19 March 2007 and in all JCC General and Thematic Statements during last year's informal meetings of the General Assembly for consideration of different aspects of the System-wide Coherence process.

In this regard, the JCC is willing to go along with the proposals you have made to start the discussions on the understanding that:

- a. All areas are going to be discussed before we come to a decision point.

b. When we come to a decision point, we will have a single decision.

We seize the opportunity to recall that:

- Both groups would prefer an integrated process instead of a divided one. Our position on this approach could evolve further, depending on the results of the consultations.
- Funding, development and governance will be areas of priority interest for both groups.
- No *a priori* decision with regard to when decisions will be taken on the Panel report; this should flow from the consultations. In other words there should not be any artificial deadlines.

Likewise, let me stress once again what was stated in the joint letter of G-77 and NAM that the implementation of recommendations contained in the report should follow intergovernmental consideration and agreement by the General Assembly.

With regard to the issue that we are discussing, Delivering as One, the JCC considers that group's statement during the informal meetings of the General Assembly on this matter, on 03 August 2007, remain fully relevant.

1. In this regard, The JCC reiterates that the implementation of System-wide Coherence recommendations towards "delivery as one" is voluntary in nature and subject to the authority and leadership of national governments.

2. The "Pilots" for the one-country approach in several developing countries should be, as recognized in the Panel's Report, entirely voluntary, decided and led by the national governments taking into account national particularities and conditions. These should neither create any systemic changes in the methods of formulating, approving and financing country programmes, nor lead to any systemic expansion of the number of pilots, without open and inclusive intergovernmental consideration.

3. There is no "one size fits all", as recognized by the Panel. With this in mind, we reiterate that there should be no restrictions on the ability and sovereignty of national governments to determine their own development priorities or select their development partners, as well as the type of relations they pursue with UN development entities at the country level. The UN development system should continue to support development efforts of

developing countries principally by assisting in the implementation of nationally determined development plans, strategies and priorities.

4. We declare in favor of a greater coordination and coherence among the UN Funds, Programs and Agencies in order to avoid unnecessary duplications and overlaps of their functions and maximize the effectiveness of their work. Nevertheless, the necessary coordination among them shall not mean the loss of their identity whatsoever. It has to be studied further the possibility of common management frameworks or field-level programming.

5. The field work those entities perform in different areas of development, for which they have accumulated unique experiences, provides them with a privileged position as to being aware of and addressing the real needs of developing countries, hence the key importance of preserving the valuable contribution of the development funds, programs and agencies.

6. While the JCC highly appreciates the great contribution of the UNDP's work, particularly in the development area, it considers that further clarification is needed regarding the implications of the new functions suggested for the UNDP. Before taking decisions in this regard, it will be important to have clarity not only in the implications of these changes in terms of mandates but also in term of cost and effectiveness.

7. In connection with the new functions envisaged for the Resident Coordinator it would be also necessary to have more clarity in their impact. It is important to respond to any concerns regarding these functions vis a vis prerogatives of national governments.

The Joint Coordinating Committee also expects the inclusion of important additional elements in the consideration of the issue under discussion.

8. The JCC recalls that the General Assembly resolution 62/208 on the Triennial comprehensive policy review operational activities for development of the United Nations system constitutes the intergovernmentally agreed guiding policy framework for addressing the UN operational activities for development and hence it should guide the consideration of the present issue.

9. This resolution on the TCPR stresses that reform efforts should enhance organizational efficiency and achieve concrete development results and that the value of UN operational activities for development should be assessed on the basis of their impact on the recipient countries. The JCC believes that reform of UN operational activities for development should be aimed at ensuring both efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of assistance. It should not be merely

a cost-cutting exercise. Significant consideration should be given to avoiding the unnecessary elimination or erosion of mandates which play important developmental roles.

10. For the JCC, there should be no restrictions on the ability and sovereignty of national governments to determine their own development priorities or select their development partners, as well as the type of relation with the UN development entities they wish to establish at the country level. The UN development system should continue to support development efforts of developing countries principally by assisting in the implementation of nationally determined development plans, strategies and priorities.

11. Appreciating the Co-Chairs for the information on their recent field visits, it is recognized that in order to begin consideration of the recommendations linked with Delivering as One it is important to foresee an independent, objective and impartial evaluation processes of the pilot programs, with clear methodology and terms of reference, as well as with precise criteria of success and ways to compare the results of the pilots with the UN development activities in non-pilot countries.

12. Any criteria and methodology to assess the impact of One UN Pilots should be inter-governmentally agreed first, and should not be put in place by the Secretariat prior to consideration by member states.

13. As already stated by JCC, there should not be any systemic changes in the methods of formulating, approving and financing country programmes, or any systemic expansion of the number of pilots, without open and inclusive intergovernmental consideration.

14. The only intergovernmental reference to One UN Pilots is in the TCP/R resolution 62/208 (paragraph 139), which notes the voluntary efforts in this regard, and emphasizes the need for an independent evaluation by member states, without prejudice to a future intergovernmental decision. Notwithstanding the right of any Member State to propose itself as a pilot country, there is no legal basis for a systematic expansion of the pilot process prior to an intergovernmental consideration.

15. While the concept of coherence has been given relevance, there has not been enough focus on how the One UN model has resulted in more effective delivery in support of the national development priorities of programme countries. This logic could avoid the consideration of other ways and means of improving delivery of the United Nations assistance at the country level. For instance, it is possible to enhance existing coordination tools such as UNDAF as well as to

strengthen the role of Governments in the coordination of the delivery of the UN assistance, including avoiding duplications of efforts in this regard. Since there is no "one size fits all", there is not a unique approach for improving efficiency of the delivery of the UN assistance.

16. It cannot be denied that the most important component for operational activities for development is an expanding and adequate source of funding based on development assistance from the UN system and other sources responsive to the national development plans and programmes of countries.

17. The fourth recommendation concerning the One UN Programme in the High-Level Panel report on SWC calls for ensuring that there is no potential for, or perception of, a conflict of interest. This leads the Report to call to the UNDP to establish an institutional firewall between the management of its programmatic role and the management of the resident coordinator system (including system-wide strategic and policy support). Further elaboration is needed on this issue.

18. The High-Level Panel Report has set the milestone for 2007 to have finalized a code of conduct. A follow-up and an update is needed.

Mr. Co-Chairs:

Finally, let me reiterate that The Group of 77 and China and the Non-Aligned Movement will participate actively and constructively in the intergovernmental process and will continue to discuss, within the JCC, on the merits of the Panel's recommendations to follow the program of work that you designed, confident that there wouldn't be any rush in making decisions against artificial deadlines. We look forward to continued engagement on this matter.

Thank you.