



**THE JOINT
COORDINATING
COMMITTEE**



United Nations
New York

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE JOINT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA AND THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT,
DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR ABDULLAH M. ALSAIDI, PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN TO THE UNITED
NATIONS AND CHAIRMAN OF THE GROUP OF 77, AT THE INFORMAL
CONSULTATIONS OF THE PLENARY ON SYSTEM-WIDE COHERENCE**

(Delivering as One and Approval of Common Country Programmes)

New York, 10 March 2010

Distinguished Co-chairs,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Joint Coordinating Committee of the Group of 77 and China and the Non-Aligned Movement.

At the outset, allow me to thank you for all your efforts in guiding this process forward and assure you in this context of our continued active and constructive engagement.

I would like to thank the Deputy Secretary-General for all the efforts and dedication in support of the issue of system-wide coherence. Likewise, I would also like to express our appreciation for the comprehensive briefing provided to us today on the arrangements for the Independent Evaluation of the “Delivering as One” pilots and the presentation on the outcome of the intergovernmental meeting on “Delivering as One” held in Kigali, Rwanda from 19 to 21 October 2009.

Distinguished Co-chairs,

I would like to begin by reaffirming the JCC’s comments made during previous informal plenary meetings on system-wide coherence and further emphasize the importance of the integrated approach leading to one decision or resolution at the end of this process.

I would also like to reaffirm that the overall aim of system-wide coherence is to increase the effectiveness of delivery of operational activities for development, based on national leadership and ownership of national development plans and strategies. We thus reiterate, that development cooperation should be demand-driven and grant-based in nature and that there is no “one size-fits all” approach to development. Furthermore, development cooperation is premised on its response to the specific needs, priorities and conditions of each country. Thus, the JCC would not support the introduction of new conditionalities through this reform process, and equally underscores that it should not be merely a cost-cutting exercise.

Moreover, I would like to reiterate that efforts to achieve more coordination and coherence at the country level should be carried out in tandem with preserving the respective and specific mandates of individual UN funds, programmes and specialized

agencies, with the aim of benefiting from the unique wealth of expertise and experience that each of them has to offer.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

Now, I would like to turn to the matter at hand. To begin with, the JCC underscores the relationship between the independent evaluation and the approval of common country programmes, and we appreciate, in this context, the updated version of work plan in response to the position of the JCC on this issue. The JCC would also like to stress the importance of the independent, inclusive, transparent and objective nature of the comprehensive evaluation to be conducted of the “Delivering as One Pilots” as mandated in GA resolutions 62/208 and 63/311. Accordingly, and with respect to the management options put forward in the Secretary General’s Report A/64/589, the JCC is looking favorably at option 1 identified in the report; which is to mandate the Joint Inspection Unit to undertake this evaluation. The JCC believes that this option seems to be more suitable, taking into account the cumbersome nature and possible complications that may arise with respect to option 2 presented in the report, particularly in relation to setting up ad hoc arrangements in order to undertake this evaluation. Having said that, we kindly request the secretariat to brief member states on the strengths and weaknesses of the two options presented, as well as the terms of reference for the evaluation as mandated in paragraph 19 of GA resolution 63/311.

Furthermore, I would like to highlight that the JCC attaches great importance to the voluntary country-led evaluations carried out by pilot countries, which aim to provide valuable information to member states on current developments on their experiences, as evidenced by today’s briefing on the meeting held in Kigali from 19-21 October 2009. At the same time, useful as the information is, we believe that the lessons from the pilot countries cannot be generalized for all programme countries. Hence, JCC does not support the direct linking of the results of these voluntary country-led evaluations to the Independent Evaluation, which is mandated by previous GA resolutions.

On the issue of the approval of common country programmes, I would like to highlight that the JCC does not support undertaking any institutional changes in this context. Accordingly, we would not be in a position to support introducing changes to the

mandates of ECOSOC or the Joint Annual Meeting of the Executive Boards as outlined in options 3 and 4 of Secretary General's report. Therefore, the JCC is considering option 2 of the report as a possible course of action, which, as the report states, would not require changes in the current approval process of specialized agencies and of funds and programmes. The JCC would appreciate receiving more detailed information from the secretariat on this option.

The JCC also emphasizes, in this context, that any arrangement reached with regard to the approval of common country programmes, would also be subject to evaluation within the comprehensive independent evaluation. The JCC equally stresses that any arrangement reached on the approval of common country programmes should not in any way undermine the importance of the independent evaluation, which will still be put for the consideration of member states at the 66th session of the General Assembly as stipulated by GA resolution 63/311.

Finally, the JCC looks forward to benefiting from more working level discussions during the upcoming period within cluster 4 on delivering as one and the approval of common country programmes. Once again, we assure you of our confidence in your leadership of this process and of our continued engagement.

I thank you.