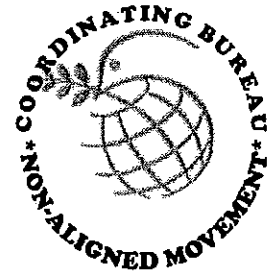


**THE JOINT
COORDINATING
COMMITTEE**

United Nations

New York



**JOINT STATEMENT BY G-77 AND NAM ON INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS OF
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM-WIDE COHERENCE:
Reforming United Nations system business practices
(New York, 13 June 2008)**

Distinguished Executive Director Mrs. Thoraya Obaid, Chairwoman of the High Level Committee on Management of the Chief Executives Board (CEB) and Mr. Adnan Amin, Director of the Chief Executives Board (CEB)

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

Allow me, on behalf of the Joint Coordinating Committee of the Group of 77 and China and the Non-Aligned Movement, to reiterate the willingness of the Group of 77 and China and the Non-Aligned Movement to constructively engage in the intergovernmental consideration of the recommendations contained in the High-Level Panel's Report. We appreciate your able stewardship thus far and fully trust that you will continue to guide this process in an open, transparent and inclusive manner.

The Joint Coordinating Committee of G-77 and NAM reaffirms all its general and substantive views voiced during this year's and last year's informal plenary meetings of the General Assembly, for consideration of the different aspects of the System-wide Coherence process, including the elements expressed in the informal meeting of the General Assembly on this matter, on 28 June 2007.

The JCC wishes to recall its principle position with regard to this process. It's our preference for an integrated process. As we have stated before, the position on this approach could evolve further, depending on the results of the consultations. It's important that all areas are discussed before we come to a decision point, when we will have a single decision without artificial deadlines. Funding, development and governance are areas of priority interest for both groups.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

1. The Joint Coordinating Committee of the G-77 and NAM is of the view that many of the recommendations contained in the High Level Panel's Report on this cluster of issues are already before the General Assembly's Fifth Committee, where many decisions have been made and future Reports from the Secretary General are expected. This may be in part due to the timing of the finalization of the Report coinciding with the adoption of relevant resolutions in the General Assembly on many of the issues addressed. We look forward to the full implementation of the resolutions

of the Assembly thereon. Bearing in mind the adoption of several resolutions in the 60th and 61st sessions of the Assembly on Secretariat and Management reform related matters, we believe that the issues in this section should be dealt with in the Fifth Committee. We further would like to stress that our discussions here today on the Report's recommendations should not in any way detract from the ongoing consideration of these issues in the Fifth Committee nor infringe upon the role of the Fifth Committee to make decisions on such matters, under relevant agenda items of that Committee. We maintain our principled position that the Fifth Committee is the only body that can pronounce on budgetary and administrative matters.

2. We believe that the General Assembly is in the process of a comprehensive reform of Human Resources Management. Some issues have been agreed upon in the 61st session of the General Assembly, most notably in Resolution 61/244, while agreement on other issues is likely to be realized in upcoming meetings of the Fifth Committee. We consequently are not convinced of the necessity to review human resources management policies and stress the full implementation of the resolutions of the General Assembly on human resources management reform, in particular resolution 61/244, and administration of justice.

3. The equitable, geographic representation of developing countries particularly at senior level of management is an issue to which members of the G-77 and NAM attach high importance. In the context of the recommendations contained in the Report, the Group seeks clarification on the criteria utilized in the selection of senior management and who would be making such appointments. The G-77 and NAM calls upon the UN Secretariat to improve its level of reporting to member states on issues related to staffing and Human Resources Management. The Group also wishes to stress the primary oversight role of the General Assembly and the Fifth Committee concerning administrative and budgetary matters.

4. On the issue of the International Civil Service Commission and its role, we feel that the recommendations in the Report are rather detached from realities on the ground as the ICSC is not meant to serve as an instrument for defining human resources policy but to clarify technical aspects of areas such as contracts or conditions of service. The Fifth Committee of the Assembly is the only body that may legislate and approve human resources management policies. Furthermore, the General Assembly, through the Fifth Committee, is already seized of the matter and pronounced on the strengthening of the Commission in its resolution 61/239. We consequently believe that this matter has been dealt with and there is no need for a review of the Commission by an external panel.

5. The G-77 and NAM are supportive of the frameworks of Results Based Budgeting and Results Based Management as important tools to be relied upon by the UN system in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on results based budgeting. We feel however that more work needs to be done to fully implement these ideas and that staff must be better trained to ensure the effective utilization of these frameworks by the organization. While reports on the IPSAs are anticipated, we note with concern that recommendations contained in the Report link these mechanisms to questions of funding which we feel should be strictly allocated on the basis of the host countries development needs and national priorities. We wish to stress that the Fifth Committee has already pronounced on the proposals related to

the implementation of IPSAS and a new ERPS system. It will receive and consider several reports in the 62nd session on accountability, results based management, evaluation and monitoring and the progress made towards implementing its resolution 60/283 on new accounting standards and new ICT systems.

6. The Joint Coordinating Committee of G-77 and China and NAM stressed that the role of the Chief Executive Board for Coordination as highlighted in the Report is another matter of concern. It should be recalled that the CEB ascribed a coordination role for Senior Management of the UN System and any effort to transform it into a policy making body would mistakenly be overstepping the parameters of its mandate. In the course of any review of the CEB, the Joint Coordinating Committee of the G-77 and NAM feel that a mechanism of intergovernmental oversight of the body should be given due consideration as the General Assembly is ultimately responsible for deliberating, deciding on and overseeing management related matters. We furthermore wish to reaffirm the role and mandate of the Committee for Programme and Coordination in monitoring and evaluation matters.

In addition, the Group of 77 and China and the Non-Aligned Movement wishes to outline the following fundamental elements on the work of the Chief Executive Board for Coordination:

1. The CEB should not be seen as a counterpart to the ECOSOC or a high-level decision making forum in the UN. The ECOSOC is the principal intergovernmental body that serves as the central forum for discussing international economic and social issues, and for formulating policy recommendations addressed to Member States and the United Nations system. In this regard, it is important to emphasize the Coordination Segment of the ECOSOC, and to pay particular attention to the overall strengthening of ECOSOC.
2. Member States should be informed officially in detail and on a regular basis about the work of the CEB in order to develop more transparency and accountability of the system and to avoid lack of information. In this spirit, JCC reiterates the importance of CEB reporting to the ECOSOC and CPC.
3. While greater coordination and coherence within the development cooperation system is desirable, exhortations at the Secretariat-level for closer coordination and cooperation within the CEB or the UNDG may not produce positive results in themselves unless there is some mechanism for intergovernmental oversight and monitoring of such cooperation and coordination.
4. The continuing imbalance between "core" and "non-core" resources highlighted in the report continues to remain a matter of concern and needs to be addressed more clearly as one of the causes of the fragmentation of the system. We feel that this is a major cause for incoherence in the UN development system, including at the country level, and leads to distorted and uneven approaches by the UN towards the implementation of development programs in accordance with national host-government development goals. JCC regrets that the resources allocated in the UN regular budget for development activities is still far below the needs of developing countries and,

at the same time, stresses that the growing trend of extra budgetary resources vis-à-vis regular budgetary resources for operational activities for development could continue to introduce conditionalities on international development assistance, which are not acceptable to developing countries, and does not lead to effective development.

5. General Assembly resolution 62/208 on the Triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (TCPR) constitutes the intergovernmentally agreed guiding policy framework for addressing the UN operational activities for development, and hence it should guide also the issues we are considering today.
6. JCC wishes to reiterate its position expressed in its previous statements with regard to the recommendations of the report related to the work of UNDP and the system of resident coordinator. The JCC highly appreciates the great contribution of the UNDP's work, particularly in the development area, and would like to stress the need to implement the TCPR, which states that "the resident coordinator system is owned by the United Nations development system as a whole." In this context, taking into account the participation of the Administrator as a member of the CEB, JCC 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 on 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 on their expected impact. It is important to respond to any concerns regarding these functions vis-à-vis prerogatives of national governments. 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.
8. It is important to foresee an independent, objective and impartial evaluation processes of the One UN Pilot programs, with a 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. 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, including CEB, prior to consideration by member states. JCC recognizes the right of any Member State to volunteer as a pilot country but reiterates that there is no legal basis for a systematic expansion of the pilot process prior to an intergovernmental consideration.
9. The JCC would welcome more information on the reform of the CEB and the work of the subsidiary bodies of the CEB, including the plan of action for the harmonization and reform of Business Practices in the UN system, the work of the High-level Committee on Programmes, the security management system, its interaction with any entity outside the UN. Also the JCC would welcome

more clarification on the common understanding of "coherence" and "coordination" at the institutional level.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

8. The Joint Coordinating Committee of the Group of 77 and China and the Non-Aligned Movement will continue to participate actively and constructively in the intergovernmental consideration of the recommendations contained in the High Level Panel Report.

I thank you.