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Agenda item 18(a)

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## EXTERNAL RELATIONS

### (a) Relations with the United Nations and the specialized agencies

#### Outcome of the 2009 first session of the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination

#### Note by the Secretary-General

##### SUMMARY

<i>Executive summary:</i>	This document reports on the outcome of this year's first session of the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), held in Paris on 4 and 5 April 2009.
<i>Strategic direction:</i>	1.1
<i>High-level action:</i>	1.1.2
<i>Planned output:</i>	Co-operation with UN bodies and agencies
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	Paragraph 12
<i>Related documents:</i>	None

## INTRODUCTION

1 The first session of the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) for 2009 was held under the chairmanship of Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, at UNESCO Headquarters, in Paris, France, on Saturday, 4 and Sunday, 5 April 2009 and was attended by the Secretary-General.

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2 During the first part of the session, the reports of the High-level Committee on Programmes (HLCP), the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) and the High-level Committee on Management (HLCM) were presented by their respective Chairs. The Board noted the progress reported since its last session and endorsed the decisions taken by these bodies. The Board devoted the remaining part of its formal meeting to the issue of staff safety and security, which it had already discussed at some length at previous sessions.

3 Prior to the CEB session, the Director of the Administrative Division had participated in the seventeenth session of HLCM (which took place in Rome on 24 and 25 February 2009) and the Director of the Technical Co-operation Division had represented IMO at the seventeenth session of HLCP (which was held in Geneva on 26 and 27 February 2009).

4 From a general perspective, the global financial and economic crisis was clearly top of the agenda for this CEB session. It was alluded to on a number of occasions during the formal session and was thoroughly discussed by Executive Heads at the Retreat.

#### **HLCP REPORT**

5 CEB was informed that HLCP had also concentrated, at its 17<sup>th</sup> session, on the financial and economic crisis. It elaborated an action framework, which was submitted to the Retreat, containing the following initiatives: additional financing for the most vulnerable; food security; trade; green economy; global jobs pact; social protection floor; humanitarian, security and social stability; technology and innovation; and monitoring and analysis. The importance of other work, including progress on climate change, was also underlined.

#### **UNDG REPORT**

6 CEB was updated on the UN “Delivering as One” initiative; reference was also made to various areas requiring coordination, i.e. climate change, the food crisis, the economic crisis and the Millennium Development Goals.

#### **HLCM REPORT**

7 CEB was informed that, once again, HLCM had focused mainly on staff security and safety.

#### **STAFF SECURITY AND SAFETY**

8 At its February 2009 meeting, HLCM had been briefed on latest developments regarding the security situation of UN system staff; in this connection, the growing gap between the seriousness of the threats/attacks and the UN response had been highlighted. The Steering Committee on Staff Safety and Security, tasked with developing a comprehensive plan for a system-wide security management system, had presented its report, which HLCM endorsed.

9 At the CEB meeting, a number of points were raised by agencies most concerned with security issues, including the need to adopt a “how to stay” (rather than a “when to leave”) approach (based on security levels instead of security phases and taking into account perception implications of the security measures themselves) and the importance of engaging with Member States on funding aspects.

10 CEB endorsed the policy recommendations produced by the HLCM Steering Committee and, following an intervention by the Secretary-General stressing the importance IMO attaches to the safety and security of delegates to IMO meetings and the staff both at Headquarters and while on mission abroad, adopted a statement (attached as annex 1) expressing its strong commitment to implementing a comprehensive plan for a strengthened and enhanced system-wide security management system as well as the need to increase financial resources for it.

#### **GLOBAL FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC CRISIS**

11 The Retreat debate on the financial and economic crisis revolved around the recent G-20 Summit (which took place in London on 2 April 2009). While its outcome was generally considered positive, there was no overwhelming optimism regarding developments in the near future due to the severe impacts of the crisis so far and the uncertainty surrounding its dimensions. Mr. R. Zoellick (World Bank), Mr. D. Strauss-Kahn (IMF) and Mr. P. Lamy (WTO), as well as Mr. J. Somavia (ILO) in his role as Chair of HLCP, led a roundtable discussion, which resulted in the adoption of a CEB communiqué. This document, attached as annex 2, reflects the UN system's undertaking to take decisive and urgent action through the nine joint initiatives referred to in paragraph 5 above. IMO has indicated its willingness to participate in three of these initiatives, namely, the green economy, global jobs pact and humanitarian, security and social stability initiatives, which will be taken forward by HLCP. The Council will be kept informed of any relevant developments.

#### **ACTION REQUESTED OF THE COUNCIL**

12 The Council is invited to note the information provided in this document and to comment as it may deem appropriate.

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## ANNEX 1

## CEB STATEMENT ON SAFETY AND SECURITY OF UN SYSTEM STAFF

Thousands of women and men working for the United Nations system around the world regularly face violence and threats from armed conflict, terrorism, kidnapping, banditry, harassment and intimidation. Given the increasingly difficult and dangerous conditions faced by staff, the UN is at a critical juncture. Urgent and dramatic action is needed to strengthen a UN security framework which seeks to protect staff and allow operations to continue in insecure and unstable environments. We need to adopt a shift in culture and mindset from a “*when to leave*” to a “*how to stay*” approach to security management.

As Executive Heads of the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and members of the Chief Executives Board, we:

- will urgently address deficiencies in the current security management system;
- will provide guidance for the design of a new stronger, more dynamic and pro-active security and risk management architecture;
- recognize that Safety and Security of UN system staff is an integral part of the activities undertaken by the UN, and should be included in the earliest stages of programme planning and at all levels, particularly at the country level;
- act collectively to implement a comprehensive plan for a strengthened and enhanced system-wide security management system as agreed by the Board at its 2009 Spring session;
- recognize that there are financial costs associated with providing adequate security, and that there may be conflict between the mandate to carry out operations and the ability to do so without sufficient security resources;
- call on the Governing Bodies of CEB member organizations to ensure that Safety and Security of staff be mainstreamed at all levels of United Nations system activities, with the strategic aim of promoting security management as an integral and enabling part of policy, planning, operational and administrative consideration for United Nations system programmes and activities;
- urge Member States to fully uphold their responsibility as host governments by recognizing the changed security environment within which UN system staff must operate and ensuring that all necessary mitigating measures are taken to protect staff from identified threats; and
- call on Member States to support the core resources for the UN security system at a level that is adequate to match the new reality as well as ensure that UN system organizations are provided with appropriate and sustainable funding for security to enable the safe and effective execution of their mandates.

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## ANNEX 2

## CEB COMMUNIQUÉ

We, the United Nations System Chief Executives, are meeting at a time of the worst global financial and economic crisis since the Great Depression of the 1930s. What began as a collapse of the US sub-prime mortgage market has quickly spread through global financial markets impacting the real economy, undermining consumer and business confidence and triggering further contraction in demand. World trade is falling and commodity prices have declined sharply. The world faces multiple financial, economic and social crises compounded by vulnerability from earlier food and energy crises. Livelihoods of rural and urban poor families are deteriorating rapidly. Jobs are being lost everywhere at an alarming pace. The crisis will affect all countries with a serious and disproportionate impact on the poorest. Accelerating trends of climate change present unprecedented new risks and demand a fundamental reorientation of production and consumption patterns. It is imperative that we turn this crisis into an opportunity for a sustainable future.

We welcome the historic decisions of the recent G-20 Summit and the commitment of \$1.1 trillion of additional resources to address the crisis. We underscore the central importance of a truly global stimulus, strengthened financial regulation and oversight to prevent a recurrence of the crisis and the need for coordinated policies to ensure that all available resources for stimulus have the maximum global impact. We welcome the strong emphasis of the G-20 on assisting developing countries on keeping opening trade, and on the additional financing for trade. However, specific commitments to additional resources are also required to assist the poorest, while avoiding the risk of resuming a cycle of unsustainable indebtedness.

The social effects of the crisis are already disturbing and could worsen. If action is not taken urgently, it can be devastating for the most vulnerable and voiceless, with growing social insecurity and displacement of people. The achievement of the MDGs is at stake. Progress in reducing poverty and hunger in developing countries is being set back. The 850 million people already suffering from chronic hunger in 2006 will increase to around one billion in 2009. The middle class in many countries is being weakened. The vulnerable groups, children, women, youth, elderly, migrants and people with disabilities, are hit the strongest.

Even before the onset of the current financial crisis, significant challenges existed in terms of food, education, health, water and sanitation, housing and minimum welfare for the most needy. Poverty and deprivation define the lives of too many.

In the face of this unfolding crisis, the multilateral system must deploy all its resources and capacities in a rapid and effective response, while upholding the principles, values and goals to which the international community has committed. Open economies and societies must be defended to avoid the risk of reverting to inward-looking policies, protectionism and even xenophobia. Human rights, democracy, social justice and peace must be preserved.

CEB underlines the risk of a reduction in development assistance at this time and the need to ensure that all efforts are made to prevent a global economic crisis from becoming a humanitarian and security crisis of potentially immense proportions. CEB reiterates that the commitments made earlier to increase ODA must be met. This means that donors will deliver at least \$300 billion in aid over the next two years.

International policy coordination is crucial. The crisis is multidimensional and calls for policy coherence at global, regional and national levels. It is impacting countries differently and requires policy responses specific to national priorities. We call upon stakeholders to build on the current momentum of intensified multilateral cooperation in order to promote a fully inclusive framework of global governance.

The capacity of governments to design, afford and implement the right policies, while coordinating them with international partners, must be strengthened. The multilateral system plays a central role in articulating and delivering a global and coherent response to the crisis, and in translating it into action at the country level. At the country level, United Nations and IMF/WB representatives should work together in a joint and complementary approach to the crisis.

We, the United Nations System Chief Executives, are determined to take decisive and urgent action. In view of the multiple facets of the crisis and our collective mandates and responsibilities, we have agreed on nine joint initiatives. This common commitment is designed to assist countries and the global community to confront the crisis, accelerate recovery and build a fair and inclusive globalization allowing for sustainable economic, social and environmental development for all, while facing the future in a spirit of conviction of the need for transformational change:

1. **Additional financing for the most vulnerable:** advocating and devising a joint World Bank – UN system mechanism for the common articulation and implementation of additional financing, including through the World Bank proposed Vulnerability Fund.
2. **Food Security:** strengthening programmes to feed the hungry and expanding support to farmers in developing countries.
3. **Trade:** fighting protectionism, including through the conclusion of the Doha round and strengthening aid for trade initiatives and finance for trade.
4. **A Green Economy Initiative:** promoting investment in long-term environmental sustainability and putting the world on a climate-friendly path.
5. **A Global Jobs Pact:** boosting employment, production, investment and aggregate demand, and promoting decent work for all.
6. **A Social Protection Floor:** ensuring access to basic social services, shelter, and empowerment and protection of the poor and vulnerable.
7. **Humanitarian, Security and Social Stability:** Emergency action to protect lives and livelihoods, meeting hunger and humanitarian needs, protecting displaced people and shoring up security and social stability.
8. **Technology and Innovation:** developing technological infrastructure to facilitate the promotion and access to innovation.



**9. Monitoring and Analysis:**

- strengthening macroeconomic and financial surveillance and implementing an effective economic early warning system;
- urgently establish a UN system-wide vulnerability monitoring and alert mechanism to track developments, and report on the political, economic, social and environmental dimensions of the crisis.

Policy coherence and coordination are essential. Promoting coordination of strengthened financial oversight and of economic stimulus packages will enhance their overall effectiveness; and providing relevant policy advice on countercyclical policies will contribute to protecting people, accelerating the way out of this crisis and preventing its recurrence.

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