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Agenda item 23(b)

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RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

(b) Co-ordination within the United Nations system

Note by the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

Executive summary: A report on the outcome of the second regular session of 2002 of the Chief Executives Board of the United Nations for Coordination (CEB) held in November 2002

Action to be taken: Paragraph 14

Related documents: C 89/23(c)/Add.1

CEB Second regular session 2002

1 As envisaged in document C 89/23(b), the second regular of the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) was held in the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 7–8 November 2002, under the chairmanship of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. A private meeting to discuss the most recent political developments under the framework of the Security Council meeting was held during the session. A retreat of CEB members to discuss in particular the United Nations system's support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the campaign for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) also took place as scheduled. The Secretary-General participated in the meetings, which were also attended by the Executive Heads of other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system.

Follow-up to the Millennium Summit: Preventing armed conflict

2 As a follow-up to the "road map" of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the implementation of the Millennium Summit, CEB focused on the theme "Preventing Armed Conflict" on the basis of an executive note prepared by the UN Department of Political Affairs (DPA) and finalized in the light of the observations and conclusions by the High Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) at its fourth session in Vienna on 23-24 September 2002.

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3 CEB welcomed the recommendations of the DPA executive note and in particular, noted that a collective approach of the UN system to conflict prevention should encompass a set of mutually reinforcing actions. Advancing implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular poverty eradication was seen as central to eliminating the potential causes of armed conflict. Education and training are equally crucial in promoting conditions of peace and social harmony. Also extremely important is to seek durable solutions for refugees through enhanced legal protection and programmes deliberately aimed at addressing refugees as potential agents of development. A greater role for women in conflict situations, fighting organized crime and corruption, creating more jobs and addressing environment-related and resource based conflicts in a co-ordinated manner were cited as major components of the system's strategy for preventing armed conflict. The need for inter-agency co-ordination on issues that cut across the mandates of organizations of the system was also highlighted.

Maritime security

4 The Secretary-General of IMO briefed CEB to the effect that, about a year ago, IMO had recognized that the maritime sector was exposed to the possibility of terrorist attacks, which was confirmed by the recent attack on the VLCC tanker **Limburg**, off the coast of Yemen.

5 It had therefore made a risk analysis as to whether ships were at risk, either as targets or as weapons of attack. As a result, the IMO Assembly had decided to review the security measures relating to shipping. In accordance with the provisions of Assembly resolution A.924(22), the Committees had made a thorough examination of the regulatory regime and it was found that additional actions should be taken. The IMO Assembly had also decided that a Diplomatic Conference should be held in December 2002 to introduce a new set of measures recommended by the Committees, in particular, an International Ship and Port Facility Security Code.

6 CEB noted the information provided by the Secretary-General to the effect that IMO has also established co-operation with the International Labour Organization on the issue of seafarer identification, and has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the World Customs Organization, mainly aimed at strengthening co-operation in the field of container examination and integrity in multimodal transport and matters relating to the ship/port interface.

7 CEB also noted that IMO has taken initiatives to assist developing countries in contributing to the world effort to protect shipping from terrorist attacks to the best of their ability and in line with the standards under elaboration by the Organization. Three regional seminars and workshops had already been held in Mombasa, Singapore and Sydney, which will be followed-up by similar seminars in other regions.

Future role of HLCP in follow-up to the Millennium Declaration

8 Satisfaction was expressed by CEB at the attention given by the High Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) to system-wide follow-up and monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). With regard to the various components of the MDGs strategy, CEB stressed the need to avoid the proliferation of co-ordinating arrangements that impose high transaction costs. It was pointed out that the MDGs core strategy is a means for the system to raise public awareness, measure progress, review approaches, and maintain pressure towards the attainment of the goals and targets of the Millennium Declaration, which should serve to reinforce, rather than replace or add to, existing co-ordinating arrangements.

9 CEB also welcomed HLCP's decision to keep the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and ongoing monitoring processes under review, bearing in mind the concern of CEB to ensure mutual reinforcement between global and country monitoring activities.

World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)

10 Regarding the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), CEB welcomed the establishment of an open-ended working group of HLCP to give focussed attention to the issue of follow-up and assist HLCP in preparing CEB's further discussion on the matter at its next session. It was agreed that it is necessary, due to the renewed political impetus to the implementation of commitments and agreements reached in Rio in 1992, both to focus inter-agency co-operation for sustainable development on advancing the implementation of the outcomes of WSSD, and to work towards effectively integrating relevant conference and follow-up processes so that they become mutually reinforcing and serve, together, to maximize their impact on the attainment of the MDGs. The main focus of action should be at the country level, avoiding the creation of new co-ordination mechanisms, while building on and reinforcing existing ones. IMO has participated actively in the WSSD. A report on the outcome is reported in document C 89/23(c)/Add.1 and in paragraph 6 of the document, the Council is informed of the key issues that are relevant to the activities of IMO.

Management issues

11 The report of the High Level Committee on Management was noted by CEB, in particular the five areas that were addressed: information and communication technologies, the security and safety of the staff, the impact of management and programmes on the changing relationship between regular and voluntary funding, emergency preparedness and the development of business contingency plans and the reform of pay and benefits system being pursued by International Civil Service Commission (ICSC).

12 CEB underlined the importance it attached to compliance with minimum operating security standards whose ownership should reside within each country's security management team and the need for all agencies to meet security and aviation safety standards.

13 Strong support was expressed by CEB for the proposals being put forward by the (ICSC) to reform the pay and benefits system. CEB also expressed appreciation to the Federation of International Civil Service Associations (FICSA) for their positive reaction to the ICSC's reform proposals and concurred with the priority attached by FICSA to making careers in the international civil service more rewarding.

Action requested of the Council

14 The Council is invited to take note of the above information and to comment, as it may deem appropriate.