



COUNCIL  
96th session  
Agenda item 14(a)

C 96/14(a)  
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## EXTERNAL RELATIONS

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

#### Note by the Secretary-General

##### SUMMARY

**Executive summary:** This document reports on the outcome of this year's first regular session of the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) held in Madrid on 7 and 8 April 2006

**Action to be taken:** Paragraph 14

**Related documents:** TC 56/3/1, TC 56/3/2 and TC 56/3/3

#### Introduction

1 The first regular session of the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) for 2006 took place in Madrid (Spain), at the Headquarters of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), on Friday, 7 April 2006, under the chairmanship of the United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan. The Executive Heads of various UN specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, including the IMO Secretary-General, participated in the meeting. A CEB retreat was also held in Segovia on the evening of 7 April and on Saturday, 8 April.

#### Follow-up to the 2005 World Summit

2 The regular session was organized around the reports of the High Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) and the High Level Committee on Management (HLCM). With respect to the follow-up to the 2005 World Summit, Executive Heads were informed of relevant developments, including the establishment of the Peace-Building Commission, the new Human Rights Council and the report by Secretary-General Annan on UN management reform entitled "Investing in the United Nations: for a stronger Organization worldwide" (A/60/692). During the discussion Secretary-General Annan stressed the linkages between employment, sustainable growth and poverty reduction, as well as migration and development (the theme for the High-level Dialogue of the General Assembly scheduled to meet in September). CEB called on HLCP to continue to contribute actively to a coherent and effective follow-up to the World Summit, and to support CEB in providing further guidance to the system's response to the challenges posed by the Summit.

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3 CEB members had an initial meeting with six of the 15 members of the High-level Panel on UN System-wide Coherence, established by Secretary-General Annan to explore how the United Nations system could work more coherently and effectively across the world in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment. The Panel, which is composed of a small group of prominent individuals with a strong background on the issues, was established pursuant to the Outcome Document (A/Res/60/1) adopted by global leaders at the 2005 World Summit. That document invited the UN Secretary-General to “launch work to further strengthen the management and co-ordination of the United Nations operational activities”. This is intended to enable the United Nations to maximize its contribution to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and to present proposals for consideration by Member States for “more tightly managed entities” in the fields of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment.

4 IMO has a particular interest in mainstreaming environmental issues and in enhancing system-wide coherence and effectiveness through mobilization of all the capacities of the UN system. The improvement of international trade capacities of developing countries and the role of transport infrastructure, including ports and shipping in this regard, are increasingly being recognized as an important contribution to achieving sustainable development and the Millennium Development Goals. The Technical Co-operation Committee, at its 56th session, will examine the linkage of the ITCP to the 2005 World Summit Outcome and the achievement of the relevant Millennium Development Goals on the basis of separate submissions by Angola and South Africa reproduced in documents TC 56/3/1 and TC 56/3/2, respectively. The 2005 World Summit Outcome has been circulated through document TC 56/3/3. This consideration will constitute a timely input to the World Maritime Day Theme for 2006 i.e. “Technical Co-operation: IMO's response to the 2005 World Summit” with special emphasis on the maritime needs of Africa. The decisions of TC 56 will be reported to Council in an appropriate manner.

### **World Summit of the Information Society**

5 CEB approved the establishment of the United Nations Group on Information Society (UNGIS), which is one of the main outcomes of the Tunis phase of the World Summit on the Information Society held in 2005, along with the earlier phase in Geneva in 2003. Both of these phases established the United Nations system as a central factor in addressing the many issues involved in achieving the goal of bringing the benefits of the information revolution to everyone.

### **UN Atlas of the Oceans**

6 CEB received a report on the status of the UN Atlas of the Oceans. In response to the appeal to the organizations most directly concerned to continue financial support for this project, IMO has made US\$5,000 available to support it. The UN Atlas of the Oceans is a powerful tool for disseminating IMO information, sharing maritime knowledge and promoting the image of shipping as a safe, secure and environmentally friendly activity. IMO manages a large variety of different pages of the Atlas, which are updated regularly, and which feature, among other things, the Organization's press releases.

### **Gender mainstreaming and women, peace and security**

7 CEB expressed serious concern over the lack of sufficient progress in achieving gender equality and empowerment of women, and in the elaboration and implementation of a gender mainstreaming policy and strategy. It called on the system to strengthen ongoing initiatives in this area and to take additional and concrete actions expeditiously and with appropriate

benchmarks. CEB decided to revert to the issue at its Fall session when it will consider further concrete actions to be taken by the Executive Heads, on the basis of proposals by the Special Adviser and the recommendations of the two High Level Committees.

8 IMO has been committed to gender mainstreaming for many years, and has sought to implement these policies in its programmes as well as in its staffing policy. Steady progress has been made in both these areas. Among the most successful activities towards achieving this end, the encouragement of the participation of women at the World Maritime University and the International Maritime Law Institute merit special mention here, as they have improved access by women to maritime training and technology and their subsequent employment in the maritime industry. As gender mainstreaming in many Member States is progressing, the recruitment base for the IMO Secretariat is expanding accordingly.

### **Avian flu**

9 CEB was briefed on the two progress reports given to HLCP by the United Nations System Influenza Coordination (UNSIC) as well as the WHO/FAO Information Note on Avian Influenza “Food Safety Implications”, which stressed the need to appoint a focal point on this matter.

10 From an early stage, IMO established avian influenza preparedness measures to deal with the health and safety of the Organization's staff and of delegates attending meetings in London. These measures include keeping the staff and delegates informed; establishment of a Disaster Committee; designation of an IMO human influenza co-ordinator; preparation of contingency plans; and procurement of preventative/treatment medicines and masks. To this effect, Circular letter No.2694 on Highly Pathogenic H5N1 Avian Influenza was issued in January 2006 and was drawn to the attention of delegates attending IMO meetings since then.

### **Management issues/Inter-agency collaboration on accountability and transparency**

11 HLCM reported to CEB on the progress made on the request addressed to Secretary-General Annan in the Outcome Document of the 2005 World Summit “to submit an independent external evaluation of the United Nations, including the specialized agencies’ auditing and oversight system, including the roles and responsibilities of management.” It was agreed that the evaluation of auditing, investigatory and other related oversight functions would include the UN Secretariat, its funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, while the governance review would cover only the UN Secretariat and its funds and programmes. The Steering Committee established by Secretary-General Annan to oversee the study held its first session on 16 March 2006 and met, on that occasion, with members of HLCM.

### **Security and safety of the staff**

12 CEB expressed appreciation for the work done by HLCM and reaffirmed its commitment to the implementation of the new security management system, which envisages ensuring the security and safety of staff in the light of current and projected threats to UN personnel and premises. It was reported that nearly 600 additional security personnel were recruited; training had been substantially enhanced; and the operational chain had been streamlined and reinforced with a key role for the Designated Officials who are best placed to leverage the primary role of host countries for the security of UN personnel.

13 The IMO Secretary-General has been requested to assume the role of Designated Official for London and has indicated his willingness to accept, subject to clarification regarding the scope of his responsibilities.

**Action requested of the Council**

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

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