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Agenda item 14(a)

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EXTERNAL RELATIONS

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

Outcome of the second regular session for 2005 of the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Co-ordination

Note by the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document reports on the outcome of this year's second regular session of the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) held in New York on 28 October 2005

Action to be taken: Paragraph 13

Related documents: None

Introduction

1 The second regular session of the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) for 2005 was held under the Chairmanship of Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 28 October 2005. The session was preceded by a private meeting of CEB members, which was devoted to a review of recent developments in the political area.

2 As proposed by Mr. Annan, this session of CEB focused on a discussion on the implications of, and follow-up to, the outcome of the 2005 World Summit. Background information included reports of the High Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) and the High Level Committee on Management (HLCM), respectively, United Nations General Assembly resolution A/60/L.1 setting out the outcome of the Summit (Outcome Document) and the CEB publication "One United Nations: Catalyst for Progress and Change".

Report of the Secretary-General on the 2005 World Summit Outcome

3 Secretary-General Annan stressed that the 2005 World Summit Outcome should be seen as a call to action for Member States, civil society, other stakeholders, and for the UN system as a whole. The implications of the Summit were clear: the UN system had been challenged to be more effective, more efficient across the breadth of its agenda and to demonstrate greater coherence. Despite general agreement on the need for change, Member States had not yet reached agreement on reforming the Security Council and that the Summit had only taken holding action on the environment and climate change.

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4 In the area of development, the 2005 World Summit served as the trigger for important commitments that the system had been seeking for many years on debt relief, quick-impact projects, developing country plans for achieving the Millennium Development Goals and donor plans for reaching the 0.7% target by the year 2015. Trade remained the main outstanding issue and, in this context, the December Ministerial Meeting of the World Trade Organization in Hong Kong, China, would be crucial.

5 On the subject of peace and collective security, Mr. Annan remarked that another important step was taken by the 2005 World Summit with a clear, unqualified UN condemnation of terrorism “in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes” and that it now fell to the General Assembly to conclude a comprehensive convention within a year. He expressed his readiness to support those efforts and to update the anti-terrorism strategy outlined by him earlier this year in Madrid.

6 Mr. Annan highlighted that the 2005 World Summit had agreed with the direction of the managerial reform proposals outlined by him, which include steps to strengthen oversight, streamline the budget process and increase transparency. The UN Secretariat was moving forward with the creation of an independent ethics office, a new whistleblower policy and a new management performance board. Existing financial regulations and human resources rules were also being reviewed, with a view to developing a more flexible business model. Follow-up work fell into four broad clusters of activity: institutional innovations; oversight/audit arrangements; financial regulations and human resources rules; and system-wide coherence.

Implementation of the Summit Outcome by the organizations of the UN system

7 CEB Members exchanged views on the implications of the 2005 World Summit for their Organizations and specific measures the system could undertake to advance the follow-up to the Summit, based on the recent discussions which had taken place in the HLCP and HLCM. In particular, the CEB report “One United Nations - Catalyst for Progress and Change” was considered pivotal to the implementation of the Summit Outcome with regard to strengthening the United Nations. HLCP was requested to assist CEB in developing a roadmap with appropriate indicators and milestones for the measures outlined in the Outcome Document. CEB members also pledged their support for the strengthened role of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in driving and monitoring the implementation of internationally agreed goals and targets.

8 CEB Members noted with satisfaction that the Outcome Document not only reaffirmed the goals and commitments in the Millennium Declaration and the internationally agreed development goals emanating from the UN summits and conferences but also recognized the importance of new elements that were at the centre of their work. Of particular significance for IMO was the strong reaffirmation by Member States of their commitment to achieving the objectives of ensuring environmental sustainability and the renewed emphasis given to development in the Outcome Document.

Environmental sustainability/development

9 With regard to development, the IMO Secretary-General stressed the positive role of shipping in economic and social development as the carrier of world trade and its efficiency and environmental friendliness. The work of IMO, through its Technical Co-operation Programme, to promote sustainable development, human resource development and capacity-building ensuring proper implementation of its environmental protection standards, including sound management of chemical and hazardous wastes, as well as the strengthening of the maritime administrations and infrastructures of the developing countries, was highlighted.

10 He added that IMO's commitment to respond positively to the call for improvement in co-operation and co-ordination at all levels on issues related to the oceans and seas reinforces IMO's leadership role in promoting integrated coastal zone management through the GEF/UNDP/IMO Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA Project) and its potential application in other regions. In this connection, he stressed the readiness of IMO to work in an integrated and co-ordinated way within the UN system on issues such as climate change, natural disasters and energy.

Peace and collective security - terrorism

11 CEB members noted the importance for the system of building a new security consensus; the concept of human security; the right to protect; mainstreaming of human rights and strengthening the human rights machinery; and scaled-up efforts to fight crime and for combating terrorism. In this connection, the IMO Secretary-General informed CEB of the successful outcome of the 2005 International Conference on the Revision of the SUA Treaties; and expressed concern over the increasing number of piratical attacks on merchant shipping off the coast of Somalia.

Management reforms

12 CEB members expressed support for the management reforms being undertaken by Secretary-General Annan and noted that the Outcome Document provided useful guidance and direction for the UN Secretariat and the system as a whole. Taking into account the diversity of mandates, governance structures, management approaches, budgetary and staffing patterns that existed in the UN system, it was agreed that further discussions should take place at the HLCP and HLCM to formulate a coherent response by the UN system to the challenges posed by the Summit in this area.

Action requested of the Council

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