

COUNCIL
110th session
Agenda item 18(a)

C 110/18(a)
15 May 2013
Original: ENGLISH

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 the 2012 second regular (8 November 2012) and the 2013 first regular session of the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) (5 and 6 April 2013)

Strategic direction: 1

High-level action: 1.1.1

Planned output: 1.1.1.1

Action to be taken: Paragraph 10

Related documents: None

Introduction

1 The Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) brings together the executive heads of United Nations system to strengthen the coordination of United Nations bodies on matters of system-wide concern.

2 This document reports on pertinent matters of the Board's 2012 second regular session and the 2013 first regular session.

General issues

3 On both occasions, the Board was briefed by, inter alia, the Chairman of the High-level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) (Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme), the Chairman of the High-level Committee on Management (HLCM) (Mr. Francis Gurry, Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization) and the Chairman of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) (Miss Helen Clark, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme) on the work of their respective bodies; these reports were endorsed by CEB.

The second regular session of the CEB for 2012

4 The second regular session of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) for 2012, chaired by the United Nations Secretary-General, was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 8 November 2012. Due to the impact of Hurricane Sandy, the meeting was reduced to a few pressing matters, and the remaining agenda was cancelled. CEB members not present from New York participated in the session via video and audio connections, including the IMO Secretary-General participating from London.

5 The CEB was briefed by Mr. Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary-General on the issue of the Rule of Law. The Deputy Secretary-General reported that, at the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Rule of Law held on 24 September 2012, Member States unanimously adopted a Declaration which proclaimed that "all persons, institutions and entities, public and private, including the State itself, are accountable to just, fair and equitable laws and are entitled without any discrimination, to equal protection of the law". The text further reaffirmed that the rule of law was upholding respect for human rights, as well as peace and security, and sustainable development. He further noted that the rule of law was a critical component of the work of the United Nations system and many United Nations organizations were already active in its promotion and implementation.

6 CEB members recognized that a strong link existed between the rule of law and the sustainable development agenda and that the rule of law was critical for achieving human security. Many CEB members pointed to existing normative frameworks that provided the mandate and guidance for their organizations' work and the CEB members favoured the mainstreaming of rule of law indicators across a number of goals or targets in the post-2015 development agenda.

The 2013 first regular session of the CEB

7 The Board considered the matter of International Migration and Development as an issue of system-wide concern, and the following points had been identified as relevant:

- .1 facilitating greater mobility;
- .2 making migration a genuine choice (and not a desperate necessity);
- .3 prioritizing the protection of migrants and their human rights;
- .4 focusing on the human development potential of migration;
- .5 harmonizing migration policies and development goals;
- .6 addressing negative public perceptions of migrants and migrations;
- .7 recognizing that forced and voluntary forms of migration were not always distinguishable;
- .8 committing to cooperation with all partners; and
- .9 finding balanced measures to combat harmful forms – such as trafficking in persons – and effects of migration.

8 The CEB members agreed on the centrality of human rights to migration and proposed that human rights issues were prioritized and promoted by the United Nations system, and decided to consider the matter further in a future session.

9 In the private session, a central theme was the post-2015 Development Agenda. The session of CEB coincided with the 1,000 day-mark until the end of 2015, the Millennium Development Goal deadline. The post-2015 Development Agenda is central to the future of the United Nations system, as it aims to align with a changing world in which development can no longer only be seen as a "north/south" issue, and a world where the United Nations is competing for funds to ensure global development. Further, the post-2015 Development Agenda will need to take into account the ongoing efforts to create Sustainable Development Goals. The CEB will continue considering this matter.

Action requested of the Council

10 The Council is requested to note the information provided and comment as it may deem appropriate.
