

Informal meeting of the General Assembly on System-wide Coherence

6 June 2007, Trusteeship Council

Mr. Co-Chair,

Like many other delegations before me, I would like to congratulate you and Ambassador Hackett/Hoscheit on your appointment and wish to express our full support to you both in the challenging task to move the discussions on System-wide Coherence forward in a result-oriented and focused manner. We welcome that you have chosen an informal meeting to start this process and encourage you to continue using flexible settings which allow for the necessary interactivity between delegations. Such flexible settings facilitate exchanges that provide for more than the reaffirmation of general principles of which we have heard many during the first phase of discussion.

We share the view that it is high time to concentrate our deliberations at this stage on the definition of those areas in the report of the High-level Panel and the reply of the Secretary-General where no process exists so far to mold the recommendations into intergovernmental agreement. Such complementary processes concerning new areas may also be used, at the beginning, to ensure better understanding of the relevant proposals by the whole membership. [We welcome in this regard your suggestions on how to start with the discussion of those new areas.] This approach does, of course, not rule out the possibility of an evaluation by the General Assembly of the report in its entirety and of its implementation at a later stage. Such overall evaluation would have to highlight and remedy any inconsistencies in the outcomes of the different processes since inconsistency runs counter the overall objective of system-wide coherence.

As to the areas which are currently not addressed in any existing intergovernmental process and where there is a lack of consistency in terms of structured attention given by governments to the implementation of the whole report, we agree with others that the recommendations in areas like governance, finance and gender will need clarification and are therefore most usefully discussed at this stage. In order to examine the proposals on their own merits, it may be considered to establish a limited number of subgroups whose discussions would help clarify the understanding of the concrete decisions and measures that would have to be taken by the General Assembly.

These are just a few remarks, Mr. Co-Chair, on a pragmatic way forward in this important part of UN reform. It is actually too important to lag behind any further. The challenges of poverty eradication, sustainable development and humanitarian relief are of such amplitude that we cannot afford to enter again into lengthy discussions on general principles while allowing incoherence of the system to continue hampering the effectiveness of the United Nations field activities. We are looking forward to start focused and result-oriented discussions as soon as possible.