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Agenda item 7

Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-second session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Ms. Imelda Smolcic (Uruguay)

Addendum

Coordination questions: report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination

(Item 4 (a))

Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2011/12

1. At its 9th and 10th meetings, on 8 June 2012, the Committee considered the annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) for 2011/12 (E/2012/67).
2. The Secretary of CEB introduced the report and responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

3. The annual overview report was welcomed, and linkages between the strategic framework and the report of CEB were stressed. Appreciation was expressed for information provided in the report such as on preparations for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, harmonization and simplification of business practices, disaster risk reduction and cooperation with other inter-organizational bodies, among others. At the same time, the view was expressed that the format of the annual overview report did not make it clear whether the Committee's recommendations from its fiftieth session had been implemented.
4. Some delegations expressed concern with regard to concepts and ideas such as "green economy" and "Delivering as one", which could prejudice the outcome of intergovernmental discussions. With respect to the use of "Delivering as one",



support was expressed for the use and work carried out under this area of activity, particularly in pilot countries. At the same time, the need to ensure that intergovernmental decisions were properly reflected in this area of activity was noted. Several delegations expressed the view that the Secretariat must strictly abide by mandates of intergovernmental bodies. Clarification was also sought on how CEB and its subsidiary mechanisms were incorporating lessons learned from pilot countries of the “Delivering as one” concept, particularly in countries which were transitioning from conflict, such as Liberia and Sierra Leone.

5. With regard to cross-cutting issues included in the report, which various delegations supported, the view was expressed that clarity should be provided on the choices, criteria and linkages between priorities of CEB and intergovernmental decisions and discussions. Clarification was sought on the overall functioning of the Board, including on whether any funding challenges existed in the operations of the Board’s activities and on whether consideration by CEB of safety and security was aimed at United Nations staff.

6. Support was expressed for the increased dialogue between CEB and other inter-organizational bodies. However, the view was expressed that there was a need to include specific information on the frequency of participation and cooperation with other inter-organizational bodies, such as the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) and the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), given their importance for coordination activities. To this end, delegations expressed support for the inclusion of a specific indicator on cooperation with ICSC and JIU in the strategic framework of CEB.

7. Points were raised on implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), particularly on post-IPSAS implementation matters and on the number of organizations currently implementing them.

8. In relation to the Committee’s recommendations from its fiftieth session on increasing the participation of developing countries in the procurement processes of the United Nations system, the view was expressed that more information would be useful in the annual overview report. Delegations thus requested more information on the outcome of the activities of the CEB Procurement Network.

9. Clarification was sought on whether negotiations with the International Association of Conference Interpreters and the International Association of Conference Translators was an activity carried out by CEB or the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management on behalf of the United Nations system.

Conclusions and recommendations

10. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly bring to the attention of the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, the need for the Board to act in accordance with its mandate of enhancing system-wide coordination and in conformity with the intergovernmental mandates of its member organizations.**

11. **The Committee noted with concern the implementation of activities or initiatives relating to subjects that are still under consideration by Member States. The Committee reiterated the need for the General Assembly to request**

the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, to ensure that activities and initiatives are in line with intergovernmental mandates.

12. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly bring to the attention of the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, the need to take actions aimed at fostering dialogue between CEB and Member States and to further improve the Board's transparency and accountability to Member States.

13. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, to improve the transparency of the report of CEB by including a summary of the status of implementation of the recommendations approved by the Assembly.

14. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly bring to the attention of the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, that the Board should take into account the priorities of the Organization as determined by Member States when deciding on mainstreaming issues.

15. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly bring to the attention of the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, the need to ensure that measures or initiatives relating to system-wide coherence and the concept of "One United Nations" are in line with intergovernmental mandates.

16. The Committee also reiterated its previous recommendations contained in its report on its forty-seventh, forty-eighth, forty-ninth, fiftieth and fifty-first sessions, in which it stated that any criteria and methodology for the comprehensive evaluation of the eight "Delivering as one" pilot projects should first be considered and approved by the General Assembly and that the United Nations support to "Delivering as one" pilot projects should not prejudice the outcome of the intergovernmental deliberations on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review at the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly.
