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## Second Committee

### Summary record of the 10th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 13 October 2010, at 10 a.m.

*Chairperson:* Mr. Pierre (Vice-Chairperson) . . . . . (Haiti)

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*In the absence of Ms. Ochir (Mongolia), Mr. Pierre (Haiti), Vice-Chairperson, took the Chair.*

*The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.*

**Agenda item 25: Operational activities for development: operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/65/39, A/65/79-E/2010/76 and A/65/218)**

1. **Mr. Seth** (Director of the Office for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination) introduced the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Analysis of the funding of operational activities for development of the United Nations system for 2008” (A/65/79-E/2010/76). He said that the report highlighted key funding trends: total contributions to operational activities for development in 2008 amounted to \$22.2 billion, which represented a 10 per cent increase in real terms compared with 2007; and total contributions had almost doubled in real terms in the period between 1993 and 2008. He also noted that, for the first time, the report distinguished between funding for development-related activities and humanitarian assistance, an aspect which would be further refined in the following year’s report.

2. The reliance on a small number of donor countries to provide core resources was a matter of concern. In 2008, for example, five countries had accounted for about half of all core funding for development-related activities, which could make it difficult for the United Nations development system to sustain the critical mass of core resources required for its efficient operation. In that respect, he drew attention to General Assembly resolution 64/289, which invited the governing bodies of the United Nations funds and programmes to initiate further discussion with a view to arriving at a “critical mass” of core funding, and to report back to the Economic and Social Council in early 2011. It was expected that the executive boards of the relevant funds and programmes would take up that issue in 2011.

3. The report provided a breakdown of the core ratio of different categories of contributions to the United Nations development system in 2008. In particular, the average core ratio of development-related contributions from members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee had declined significantly in the past 15 years, from 70 per cent in 1993 to 47 per cent

in 2008. That was particularly relevant since many other sources of funding, including contributions from intergovernmental, non-governmental and private sector entities, were non-core contributions.

4. Indeed, development-related non-core contributions, which were mostly programme- and project-specific, had seen the most dramatic growth in the period from 1993 to 2008, increasing nearly fivefold in real terms. In that respect, he noted that General Assembly resolution 64/289 urged the executive boards of the United Nations funds and programmes and the governing bodies of the specialized agencies to take measures to improve their governance and oversight of such funding. The governing bodies were also requested to include in their annual reports an assessment of how such funding was aligned with the strategic plans of the respective organizations. That reporting was expected to start in 2011.

5. A central repository of information on operational activities for development had been launched, as mandated in General Assembly resolution 63/311 on system-wide coherence. The United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) would be responsible for developing the repository under its Plan of Action for the Harmonization of Business Practices in the United Nations System. A United Nations system-wide financial statistics database and reporting system was expected to be completed by the end of 2011, which would provide a detailed breakdown of contributions and expenditures for such activities and would be useful in drawing up the report of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs on funding for operational activities for development. An expert meeting would be organized in December 2010 by the Department, the CEB secretariat and the Development Operations Coordination Office to discuss system-wide reporting on such activities.

6. Lastly, he noted that there was widespread concern within the United Nations development system that contributions for operational activities for development would be lower in 2010 than in 2009.

7. **Ms. Alberdi** (Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)), introducing the report on UNIFEM activities transmitted by the Secretary-General (A/65/218), said that the establishment of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and the appointment of Michelle Bachelet as its first

Executive Director demonstrated the importance that the United Nations gave to gender equality and the empowerment of women.

8. Guided by its 2008-2013 strategic plan, UNIFEM worked with partners to strengthen women's economic security and rights, end violence against women, reduce the prevalence of HIV/AIDS among women and girls, and advance gender justice. As UN Women would be the main focal point for addressing gender equality matters, strong support from Member States was critical to help it to meet the rapidly increasing demand for technical and policy support in that area.

9. With regard to policy and programming, UNIFEM had developed guidance notes for mediators in five key areas of peace negotiations that contributed to discussions relevant to Security Council resolutions 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009). It had also launched a virtual knowledge centre on ending violence against women. The Fund's evaluation practice had been aligned with United Nations Evaluation Group standards in order to identify key elements needed for the successful replication of UNIFEM-supported initiatives. The UNIFEM Evaluation Resource Centre had become fully functional in 2010 and publicly posted all evaluations and management responses, including online.

10. UN Women could build upon existing coordination mechanisms that UNIFEM already led at the global and regional levels. UNIFEM had supported efforts by the United Nations Development Group and Regional Directors' Teams to build greater system-wide coherence on gender equality, and had also strengthened the gender-equality perspective and learning opportunities in the "Delivering as One" pilot programmes. The Fund also played a pivotal role in inter-agency networks related to peace and security and had recently led the inter-agency effort to draw up draft global indicators for monitoring implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), expected to be endorsed in late October 2010. UNIFEM was also continuing partnerships with multilateral development banks such as the World Bank.

11. She noted that while United Nations work on gender equality was one of the primary sectors in which reform was considered to have had the most positive impact, actions and budgets for gender equality were often not specified and capacity to respond to country demand was regrettably weak.

12. UNIFEM played a leading role in a growing number of partnerships at the global, regional and national levels, which had contributed to lower transaction costs for countries and better use of the unique capacities of the United Nations. Contributions to UNIFEM had increased in recent years, but remained inadequate to meet the growing demand for expertise, programming and services to advance gender equality. Ambitious and predictable support was therefore needed, especially for UN Women, including for the trust funds that it managed.

13. **Mr. Al Hadhrami** (Yemen), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the United Nations development system's capacity to help countries fulfil their development goals called for continued improvement in its efficiency, coherence and impact, and a significant increase in resources. The imbalance between core and non-core funding must be addressed more clearly as it was a major cause of the system's incoherence, including at the country level, and led to distorted and uneven approaches by the United Nations in the implementation of national development programmes.

14. Reaffirming the importance of the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities, the guidance provided under General Assembly resolution 62/208 established key system-wide policy orientation for United Nations development cooperation and country-level methods, setting out that operational activities for development should be carried out for the benefit of programme countries, at those countries' request and in accordance with their own policies and priorities for development. Moreover, there should be no restrictions on the ability of national Governments to determine their own development priorities or to select their development partners.

15. The global partnership for development should be strengthened on the understanding that national leadership and ownership of development strategies should be a guiding principle of United Nations operational activities at the country level. Partners should support the achievement of national development objectives, and the United Nations system, the Bretton Woods institutions and bilateral donors should align their cooperation programmes with national development strategies and harmonize their individual cooperation programmes with them.

16. He welcomed General Assembly resolution 64/289 on system-wide coherence, particularly its emphasis on the need for adequate quality and quantity of funding for operational activities and the clear mandate that it set out for the governing bodies of funds, programmes and relevant specialized agencies to explore the definition of a “critical mass” of core resources.

17. **Mr. Charlier** (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Croatia, Iceland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; and, in addition, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that United Nations operational activities were a key element in the collective effort to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and constituted an important flow of resources to developing countries. Those resources passed through a fragmented United Nations system whose complexity contributed to high transaction costs and heavy administrative burdens on all sides. The European Union believed that such funding could be delivered in a way that promoted coherence across the system; accordingly, it supported the objective of achieving a stable, predictable and adequate funding base for United Nations operational activities. However, the issue of the balance between core and non-core resources needed to be addressed. Non-core resources could usefully complement core funding but there was a risk that they might increase transaction costs for all parties and erode priorities. Furthermore, efforts should be made to broaden the core funding base: at a time when the relative share in the world economy of OECD Development Assistance Committee countries was decreasing, it was questionable whether those countries should continue to provide the major share of such funding.

18. The European Union welcomed the progress made system-wide over the previous year in making United Nations operational delivery more effective at the country level and was ready to take further steps to that end. The “Delivering as One” approach was the best means of improving delivery and was a key paradigm for the future. Another milestone on the road to a more coherent United Nations system was the establishment of UN Women which, besides being a remarkable breakthrough towards gender equality, was also a quantum leap in rationalizing the functioning of the system.

19. The United Nations system had the capacity to maintain and increase its contribution to development, particularly if it followed the principles of aid effectiveness in improving the development impact of aid at the country level. The European Union, in that spirit, encouraged the United Nations to continue to focus on results and timeliness, strengthen results-based management, streamline reporting and work with its partners on joint monitoring, evaluation and reporting initiatives so as to benefit from synergies and avoid duplication.

20. **Mr. Petranto** (Indonesia), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which aligned itself with the statement made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that, through its operational activities, strengthened through the triennial comprehensive policy review, the United Nations had an important role to play in advancing partnerships under Goal 8 of the MDGs. The strength of the United Nations operational system lay in its legitimacy, at the country level, as a neutral, objective and trusted partner for both programme countries and donor countries. ASEAN supported ongoing efforts to improve the effectiveness of operational activities through system-wide coherence.

21. While his delegation welcomed the increased funding available for such activities, it was concerned about the imbalance between core and non-core resources. Multi-year planning and financing frameworks would help address the fragmentation of resources and ensure that they were adequate, consistent and predictable and thus able to play their crucial role in achieving the MDGs. Official development assistance (ODA) remained essential for that purpose and should be geared towards national development priorities.

22. ASEAN fully supported the mainstreaming of South-South and triangular cooperation within the United Nations system, in particular through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF); such cooperation, like all forms of international cooperation, should be demand-driven. Efforts needed to be made to bridge the existing gap in financing by mobilizing all possible funding, while the United Nations development system should have a strengthened role in facilitating access by developing countries to new and emerging technologies. ASEAN stood ready to cooperate, in a spirit of partnership, with other regional and international organizations in the implementation of all the internationally agreed development goals,

including the MDGs, while continuing to work within bilateral and triangular frameworks to help other developing countries to that end.

23. **Mr. Acharya** (Nepal), speaking on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries, said that the United Nations was the custodian of the overall development interests of those countries at the global level and that, as such, its effectiveness needed to be enhanced. He stressed the universal, voluntary, neutral and multilateral character of its development activities; they must be in line with the development needs of programme countries and respect the principle of national ownership and leadership. On the question of financing for operational activities, and while it was encouraging to note that the funding base was being expanded to include non-traditional donors and the private sector, the imbalance between core and non-core funding needed to be addressed in order to ensure that those activities were coherent, consistent and consolidated. Other means of advancing that aim included the new pooled funding mechanisms, which could be used to great advantage by the donor community, along with multi-year planning and financing frameworks.

24. Moreover, non-core resources, which currently amounted to some 71 per cent of total contributions, should be fully aligned with the strategic plans and mandate of the relevant United Nations entities and with programme country priorities within UNDAF. Adequate quantity and quality of funding were of particular significance in enabling the United Nations to help developing countries, especially the least developed, to attain the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs.

25. **Mr. van der Vliet** (Netherlands), speaking on behalf of Malawi, Mozambique, the Netherlands, Norway, Rwanda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United Republic of Tanzania, welcomed the United Nations response to the ongoing crises and called on donor countries to honour their aid commitments in order to deliver on the MDGs. However, more and better funding was only part of the solution: the United Nations development system needed to be much more efficient and effective on the ground. The “Delivering as One” initiative was a notable step forward in that direction, but improvements were needed. The reporting burden on United Nations country teams should be further reduced; its funding system should be more coherent

and more responsive to the needs of countries; and the CEB Plan of Action should be implemented swiftly, in the interest of business practice harmonization.

26. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review showed the way forward. It was thus clear that resident coordinators needed to be able to cope with difficult demands, particularly in post-conflict situations, and be suitably empowered to lead their country teams so that the policies introduced by Member States served the right people in the right place at the right time.

27. Lastly, the establishment of UN Women as a key part of the operational system was another step forward. He hoped that it would bring in much-needed reforms and better treatment of gender issues throughout the United Nations system.

28. **Mr. Mjuweni** (Malawi), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that the importance of operational activities for development was recognized at the continental level through the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) and other regional initiatives. The Group attached great importance to the fundamental characteristics of such activities, namely their universal, voluntary and grant nature, and their neutrality and multilateralism. National ownership and leadership were equally important: there was no “one-size-fits-all” approach and development assistance should be able to respond to the varying demands of programme countries and should be in line with national development plans and strategies.

29. The Group welcomed the increase in total contributions for operational activities for development noted in the Secretary-General’s report (A/65/79-E/2010/76). It was also encouraging to note that, from 1993 to 2008, total contributions for those activities had grown at a faster pace than overall ODA flows from OECD Development Assistance Committee countries.

30. The Group was nevertheless concerned that the growth in contributions to the United Nations system over the past five years might stagnate or possibly decline in 2010 because of the negative impact of the global economic crisis. It was particularly concerned about the impact of the multiple crises on African countries, which was endangering the achievement of their national development objectives, as well as the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs. The Group was also concerned about the increased imbalance between core and non-core funding from 1993 to 2008.

31. National ownership and leadership should be the guiding principle in working to improve the quality of UNDAF and its regular monitoring. That would also serve as a support mechanism and assist programme countries in enhancing the capacities of the United Nations country teams. The United Nations development system should therefore vigorously pursue the goal of enhanced coherence, effectiveness and efficiency of operational activities for development at the country level. Such efforts would help to attract increased core and unearmarked resources from development partners.

32. Contributions from non-traditional donors to the United Nations system had become increasingly significant, especially with the growing importance of South-South cooperation. Multi-donor or pooled resources to finance specific activities of the funds and programmes were an important contribution to the provision of additional and predictable resources for development assistance. Greater efforts were also needed to strengthen the impact of country-level programmes and to ensure that they were based on national priorities.

33. The Group welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution 64/289 on system-wide coherence, which would go a long way towards ensuring that operational activities for development were addressed by key stakeholders, thereby strengthening the funding architecture for such activities.

34. Lastly, the Group reaffirmed its support for and belief in operational activities for development and hoped that more core funding would be forthcoming to enable African countries to meet their development needs.

35. **Mr. Wang Min** (China) said that, in the three years since the General Assembly had adopted resolution 62/208 on the triennial comprehensive policy review, the United Nations funds and programmes had overcome various difficulties, including those caused by the world financial and economic crisis, and had made positive progress.

36. The success of the recent United Nations High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the MDGs had again forged a global political consensus and provided new impetus towards the attainment of the MDGs. On that occasion, the Prime Minister had reviewed China's path of development and had made solemn commitments to provide development assistance on behalf of the Chinese Government and people,

including new initiatives for strengthening development cooperation with other developing countries.

37. The coming five years were crucial for global efforts to attain the MDGs. The comprehensive and timely implementation of General Assembly resolution 62/208 and the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting was therefore essential. To that end, the United Nations funds and programmes should establish a strict order of priority among the various agendas, resist interference and always give precedence to the timely attainment of the MDGs. They should also focus on providing assistance to Africa in its poverty reduction and development efforts, intensifying support to the least developed countries, and helping developing countries to increase their capacity for self-development effectively.

38. Increasing the resources of the United Nations development system was a central concern to developing countries. Without financial support, little could be done to promote development, let alone the efficiency and accountability of the development system. Adequate, stable and predictable core resources were essential for operational activities and for the reinforcement of the global partnership for development.

39. The current downward trend of development financing and imbalance in the resource structure, had seriously affected the coherence and efficiency of the development system and would likely further undermine the fundamental characteristics of development assistance, as well as the principles of national ownership and leadership by recipient countries. The solution lay in the effective and timely fulfilment by the developed countries of their ODA commitments, on which the international responsibility and credibility of donors depended. That would also have a substantive impact on the efforts of the developing countries to overcome the current global challenges, eradicate poverty and achieve the MDGs by 2015.

40. His delegation called on all development partners to implement General Assembly resolution 64/289 on system-wide coherence and the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting; to take immediate and practical action to improve funding for operational activities for development; to fulfil their respective responsibilities and commitments; and to make joint efforts towards the global development goals.

41. South-South cooperation was an important way for developing countries to use their comparative

advantages, provide mutual assistance and combine their strengths in pursuit of common development. Such cooperation was an important supplement to North-South cooperation and must not serve as its replacement. For more than a decade, developing countries had been calling for greater support from the international community for South-South cooperation and a better environment for such cooperation. It was therefore encouraging that in recent years, economic and technological cooperation among developing countries had made tremendous headway. The increasingly diverse mechanisms for exchange and cooperation demonstrated the enormous potential and vitality of South-South cooperation. The determination, solidarity and collaboration displayed by developing countries had also been commended by the international community.

42. His Government had always attached importance to economic and technological cooperation with other developing countries. It had promoted cooperation mechanisms, such as the China-Africa Cooperation Forum, the China-Arab Cooperation Forum and the International Poverty Reduction Centre in Beijing. His Government looked forward to continuing in-depth discussions on new ideas and methods for the enhancement of South-South and triangular cooperation, with a view to helping developing countries attain the MDGs at an accelerated pace.

43. **Mr. Farias** (Brazil) said that 2010 had been marked by intensive efforts on the part of the United Nations development system. Discussions had taken place in many different forums on how to improve operational activities so that Member States could cope with the negative effects of the financial and economic crisis and promote sustainable development. It had also been decided to further strengthen the United Nations system by establishing UN Women, an entity which would be guided by the principle of universality and the premise that all countries needed support to achieve gender equality and to empower women.

44. His delegation therefore welcomed the appointment of a Latin American woman as the first head of UN Women and was convinced that, under her wise leadership, the new entity would be able to carry out its mandate, accelerate the advancement of women and raise the profile of the United Nations in promoting the rights of women and girls everywhere.

45. General Assembly resolution 64/289 on system-wide coherence had introduced a number of actions that the Assembly must take, especially in the fields of governance and financing of operational activities. In that connection, the compilation of all relevant legislation on United Nations funds and programmes should be made available as soon as possible during the current session of the General Assembly. That information would be useful in the negotiations to adopt the new comprehensive policy review. His delegation also looked forward to receiving information on the comprehensive review of the existing institutional framework for the system-wide evaluation of operational activities for development, in order for the General Assembly to take a final decision at its next session.

46. With respect to financing, his delegation was eager to work on the further development of the concept of “critical mass” and to explore ways of applying it to all funds and programmes with a view to increasing the quantity, quality, sustainability and predictability of resources. His delegation also wished to receive the information on all existing multi-donor trust funds and thematic trust funds, requested in paragraph 37 of General Assembly resolution 64/289. That information was crucial if Member States were to improve their participation in the governance of the funds, and hence their legitimacy and efficiency.

47. The outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs offered an important framework for the funds and programmes to enhance their support to developing countries. Much was expected from the development system so that Member States could achieve the MDGs by 2015.

48. The time had come to focus all energies on implementing the decisions taken at the highest level and reinforcing, expanding and enhancing United Nations operational activities to enable them to fulfil their mandate. The United Nations must continue to play a central role in the promotion of international cooperation for development and in supporting the acceleration of the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, especially the MDGs.

49. **Mr. Rossi** (Switzerland) highlighted the global and national progress made on gender issues and the empowerment of women through the establishment of UN Women and, with respect to funding for

operational activities, said that his Government looked forward to exploring the concept of a “critical mass” with the help of United Nations agencies.

50. Country-led evaluations of the “One United Nations” initiative had confirmed that the “Delivering as One” approach was contributing to renewed governmental leadership of United Nations programmes and better alignment with national priorities. In that context, it was important to strengthen follow-up and evaluation of United Nations programmes as well as capacity-building for national evaluation, since quality evaluations were crucial to collective decision-making. Switzerland called for the swift implementation by the United Nations of the relevant resolution.

51. He noted that the Economic and Social Council continued to provide added value in its operational guidance on the implementation of triennial and quadrennial comprehensive policy reviews. The commitment of resident coordinators was also instrumental in bringing the United Nations system together to better support nationally led processes. In that regard, better ways to support and empower them must be found, including through viable career paths, relevant performance appraisals and improved staff mobility. His Government looked forward to the forthcoming evaluations of the experiences of countries taking part in the reform process, as well as in the quadrennial review to take place in 2012.

52. **Mr. Yoseph** (Ethiopia) said that, as one of the largest beneficiaries of the United Nations development system, Ethiopia attached great importance to the role that development agencies played in addressing the country’s multifaceted development challenges. Swift action was needed to address developing countries’ lack of resources. He welcomed the change in focus of United Nations operational activities for development over the past few years, with more than half of country-level expenditures in 2008 going to least developed countries, compared with 39 per cent in 2003. Nevertheless, the imbalance between core and non-core funding continued to be of serious concern, causing incoherence in the development system and leading to distorted approaches by the United Nations in the implementation of development programmes. Urgent measures must therefore be taken to ensure that the efforts of United Nations agencies and programme countries to tackle various socio-economic development challenges produced tangible results, without compromising the hard-won development gains of

countries such as his own from being seriously compromised.

53. His Government supported the proposals outlined in the report to strengthen the funding architecture of operational activities for development, had been actively participating in sessions of the executive boards of the Organization’s development agencies, and had been promoting Ethiopia’s position as a self-starter country in the “Delivering as One” programme. In that context, he called on the Committee to support his Government’s declaration as a self-starter, and called on development partners, pilot countries and United Nations agencies to support Ethiopia’s implementation of that endeavour. He also called for the strengthening of newly developed pooled funding mechanisms such as the multi-donor trust funds, which were particularly important for pilot and self-starter countries.

54. **Ms. Navarro Barro** (Cuba) said that recovery from the global economic and financial crisis was far from being a reality, as its impact continued to affect the standards of living and development of the poorest countries and groups. The crisis must not be a pretext for developed countries to fail in their financing for development commitments, particularly in the delivery of core resources to the United Nations system. Those resources were the cornerstone of the system’s operational activities and the only guarantee that recipient countries’ needs and priorities could be met. It was thus urgent to correct the growing imbalance between core and non-core resources, which was the main cause of the incoherence of operational activities. Those activities should aim to meet the needs of developing countries and should be in line with their national development strategies. The current financial logic largely catered to the interests of donors.

55. While the adoption of General Assembly resolution 64/289 was a step in the right direction, it was regrettable that it did not reflect a clear commitment by donors to provide the core resources needed for the effective implementation of operational activities. The United Nations system must play a key role in countering the effects of the economic and financial crisis. Its funds, programmes and agencies, as well as inter-agency bodies for coordination such as CEB, must therefore be transparent and accountable to Member States.



56. **Mr. Douangchak** (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that growth in contributions to the United Nations system over recent years could stagnate or reverse in 2010, owing to the global economic crisis. The persistent imbalance between core and non-core resources was another matter of concern to developing countries because it affected the predictability of financial resources and undermined the supervisory role of the governing bodies of United Nations funds and programmes. Enhanced cooperation was therefore needed within the United Nations system, as well as with donors, the private sector and civil society. Furthermore, donors must honour their commitment to increase funding for operational activities for development and finance aid to developing countries, with a particular focus on helping the least developed countries to fulfil the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs.

57. The adoption of General Assembly resolution 64/289 on system-wide coherence would help to further strengthen the governance of operational activities for development by improving funding mechanisms for operational programmes and institutional arrangements for gender equality and women's empowerment. His Government welcomed the establishment of UN Women.

58. South-South cooperation remained an integral part of development which, together with tripartite collaboration and support, should be strengthened. However, South-South cooperation should complement, and not substitute for, North-South cooperation.

59. UNDAF had been an important platform to help his Government achieve the goals set out in its national socio-economic development plans and poverty eradication strategy. It also represented the commitment of the United Nations country team towards the programme of United Nations reform. His Government would continue to support the reform of the United Nations, particularly the "One United Nations" initiative, and would also be holding its tenth national round table meeting in October 2010, with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to strengthen its partnership with development partners and promote aid effectiveness for development in his country.

60. **Mr. Sergeev** (Belarus) said that, if the decisions of the MDG summit were to be implemented, the efficiency of the Organization must be further

enhanced and additional funding provided on a more predictable basis. Where reform of the United Nations system was concerned, any decisions in that regard should be taken at an intergovernmental level and due consideration given to the specific circumstances of Member States and their different development paths.

61. Belarus looked forward to the outcome of the independent appraisal of the "Delivering as One" initiative, to be reviewed by the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session. It also supported the conduct of periodic reviews, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, to determine the effectiveness of support provided by the United Nations. In that context, he called for increased efforts to secure funding for development, including by broadening the donor base and public-private partnerships, as called for in General Assembly resolution 64/289. His delegation was of the view, however, that the principles underlying the donor system, which had become inherently selective, should be revisited and rendered more transparent to the recipient countries.

62. He also called on UNDP, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to render more focused assistance to medium-income countries and to employ greater flexibility in their interaction with those countries. Lastly, drawing attention to the need to develop green economies and to counter the effects of climate change, he called, inter alia, for efforts to transfer state-of-the-art energy technologies to developing countries, including the middle-income countries among them.

63. **Mr. Momen** (Bangladesh) said that United Nations operational activities should remain voluntary and grant-based, respect the principles of universality and national ownership and reflect country-led priorities, in keeping with the Accra Agenda for Action adopted at the Third High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness.

64. The capacity of the United Nations to implement development programmes was sometimes inadequate. Although total contributions to operational activities for development had increased 10 per cent in 2008 compared with 2007, core resources had accounted for less than 30 per cent of the total. It was essential to increase both the core and non-core resources of the Organization.

65. Operational activities for development should reflect strategies tailored by Member States in keeping with their national policies and prerogatives. National leadership and ownership of development strategies must be paramount. The entire United Nations system, the Bretton Woods institutions and bilateral donors should formulate development activities in strict compliance with the Accra Agenda for Action and should not impose excessive conditionalities.

66. In addition, the United Nations system should support new innovative programmes undertaken by Member States, in particular the least developed countries, to address serious challenges, including their vulnerability to climate change and the food and fuel crises.

67. Bangladesh had taken significant steps to advance its development priorities through both public-private partnerships and traditional bilateral and multilateral channels. However, public-private arrangements had often stalled owing to the failure of partners to respect the principles of national ownership and leadership. The United Nations should take an active role in building confidence and trust among partners, a step that could encourage increases in core resources and enable the Organization to exercise its authority more effectively. The next triennial comprehensive policy review should address that issue.

68. Lastly, he stressed that General Assembly resolution 64/289 on system-wide coherence should be implemented without delay in order to streamline United Nations activities and increase available resources at a time when they were particularly scarce.

69. **Ms. Zvereva** (Russian Federation) said that the measures on reforming the gender architecture of the United Nations, set out in General Assembly resolution 64/289, were of key significance and that her delegation accordingly welcomed the launch of the Organization's new flagship agency in that domain, UN Women. Commending its predecessor, UNIFEM, on its contribution over the years to meeting the development needs of women around the world, she called on UN Women to continue to consolidate that work.

70. She welcomed the balanced provisions in the aforementioned resolution relating to the management, financing and assessment of operational activities for development and pointed out that, while the joint meeting of executive boards should continue to serve as a platform for agency-wide discussion, its status

should remain strictly informal. She also expressed the hope that the assessment of the "Delivering as One" pilots would be carried out in an objective manner and stressed that, until the outcome of that assessment had been finalized, it would be premature to apply the "Delivering as One" approach as a universal model for the operation of the United Nations at the country level.

71. Observing that, with the adoption of resolution 64/289, the consultation process on system-wide coherence, launched in 2006, had been concluded, she conveyed her delegation's view that further discussion in that area should take place within the framework of the four-year comprehensive policy reviews of operational activities. Turning to the issue of the predictability, stability and adequacy of funding for operational activities, she expressed concern at the low level — below 30 per cent — of core funds in the Organization's budgets. Conceding, however, that balance between core and non-core resources was not an end in itself and, in any event, not attainable at the current time, she called instead for a pragmatic approach, tailored to the realities of development and the need to maintain flexibility in the interaction between aid recipients, donors and the United Nations system.

72. Lastly, she welcomed the outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, held in Nairobi from 1 to 3 December 2009, and reaffirmed the support of the Russian Federation for the approaches taken by the developing countries to such cooperation. Noting that South-South cooperation was an indispensable precondition for attainment of the MDGs, she called on the countries of the South to show greater transparency in their cooperation programmes and for a more extensive and constructive North-South dialogue on that issue. The Russian Federation was of the view that the United Nations should remain the primary forum for consensus decision-making in that area and that the involvement in that process of donor platforms, such as OECD, was undesirable.

73. **Mr. Yamashita** (Japan) said that country ownership was the key to the sustainability and effectiveness of operational activities for development and that it required the United Nations to give full support to Governments so as to enhance national capacity. The human security approach was especially relevant, since the ultimate aim was to help those in

need, particularly the most vulnerable. The links between the normative and policymaking functions and the operational activities of the United Nations system should accordingly be tightened in order to enhance the coherence and effectiveness of its work. Moreover, the system's delivery to the most vulnerable people of MDG-related pledges, including the Japanese Government's recent commitment of \$8.5 billion, called for a comprehensive, people-centred, bottom-up, multi-stakeholder approach. At the same time, South-South and triangular cooperation continued to serve as a valuable way of helping developing countries and Japan would continue to support it, while encouraging other bilateral donors to do likewise.

74. **Ms. Lemieux** (Canada) said that her delegation attached considerable importance to United Nations operational activities for development and to helping the Organization more effectively support the development strategies and plans of programme countries. It was important to implement the key decisions adopted regarding the system-wide coherence process and under Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/1 entitled "Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 62/208 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system".

75. The country-led evaluations of the "Delivering as One" initiative had confirmed the strengthening of national ownership and leadership and the increased responsiveness of United Nations country teams to national priorities, and had demonstrated that United Nations programmes were more integrated into national processes. Challenges remained, and Canada was committed to identifying and addressing them in order to solidify gains and keep pace with the demands that the Organization faced at the country level.

76. Country-level coordination to deliver better development results was crucial and required paying greater attention to common programmes, joint delivery and genuine coordination on the basis of common development frameworks to achieve effective results more efficiently. Further improvements could be made with respect to harmonizing business practices and streamlining the reporting of results, and through a sharper focus on development results. Although much had been accomplished in recent years to improve process coordination, it was also important to recognize and encourage the efforts of agencies and their staff to work more collaboratively in support of national

efforts, for example, through staff appraisal systems and career development mechanisms.

77. Resident coordinators should receive greater support in carrying out their functions, should be empowered to lead United Nations country teams, and required a level of authority to match their responsibilities and accountabilities. Agencies, programme countries and intergovernmental bodies should strongly support the resident coordinator system in order to enhance its strengths and should recognize performing country teams.

78. In the future, progress with respect to coordination should be more fully identified and institutionalized and the impact of coordination on development results should be assessed. The upcoming independent evaluation of the "Delivering as One" pilot countries would provide further lessons, evidence and recommendations. It was also necessary to analyse and act upon lessons already learned in order to meet programme country requirements. Such action would benefit pilot countries and United Nations country teams alike. The process would require broad collective support from programme countries, more developed countries and the United Nations. Canada remained committed to enabling the United Nations to position itself more successfully at the country level as a consistent, reliable and effective partner with the capacity to achieve sustainable development results.

79. **Ms. Blum** (Colombia) said that giving greater priority to discussions on operational activities could help the Committee achieve more tangible results, which could be translated to the field. In the coming years, the General Assembly should focus on promoting measures to enhance the effectiveness of cooperation within the system, with a view to achieving the MDGs by 2015. It was particularly important to support measures such as the implementation of the MDG acceleration framework adopted by some developing countries in collaboration with UNDP. The success of such strategies would depend on how consistent they were with each country's development policies, plans and priorities, as well as on strengthening the system's capacity to coordinate cooperation with national authorities. Future reports of the Joint Inspection Unit should include more detailed information on coordination functions.

80. It was important to continue exploring alternative ways to enhance cooperation between the United

Nations and middle-income countries, taking into account the particular challenges they faced and their potential as multipliers of development.

81. She noted that the Secretary-General's report on analysis of the funding of operational activities for development listed Colombia and four other Latin American middle-income countries as the main contributors of local resources to the system. General Assembly decisions should foster South-South and triangular cooperation which encouraged best practices, capacity-building and the exchange of experiences among developing countries. Her Government welcome the creation of UN Women, and expected it to help mainstream a gender perspective throughout the United Nations, in addition to promoting action to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment worldwide.

*Draft resolution on renaming of the title of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund to include the United Nations Office for Project Services (A/C.2/65/L.2)*

82. **Mr. Rajabu** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that the following changes were to be made to draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.2. The first preambular paragraph should be amended to read: "*Recalling also* decisions 2008/35, 2009/25, 2010/7 and 2010/21 of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme". The last four lines of the fourth preambular paragraph should read: "... objectives, to act as a service provider to the United Nations and to the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, international and regional financial institutions, intergovernmental organizations, donor and recipient Governments, the private sector, foundations and non-governmental organizations". In the sixth preambular paragraph, the words "humanitarian and peacebuilding" should be inserted, following a comma, in the third line, between "development" and "partners".

*The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.*