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President: Mr. Ali (Vice-President) (Malaysia)

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In the absence of Ms. Lucas (Luxembourg), President, Mr Ali (Malaysia), Vice President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (A/64/87-E/2009/89 and A/63/538-E/2009/4) *(continued)*

(a) Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development (A/64/76-E/2009/60)

Draft resolution E/2009/L.24: Recovering from the crisis: a Global Jobs Pact

Ms. Farani Azevêdo (Brazil), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Global Jobs Pact recognized that the current economic and financial crisis was first and foremost a crisis in the field of employment with major social consequences. It offered a set of guidelines focused on the real economy and aimed at promoting job creation and social inclusion, together with a portfolio of measures for addressing some of the challenges posed by the economic downturn. It also pointed the way towards a comprehensive, integrated and interconnected United Nations response to the crisis, in accordance with national plans and priorities and bearing in mind the importance of national ownership and capacity-building at all levels. The Council would have a pivotal role in ensuring that the Pact was part of a coherent United Nations strategy.

She hoped that the draft resolution, which had attracted broad cross regional support, would be adopted by consensus.

The President noted that Namibia, Turkey and the United States of America wished to join the list of countries sponsoring the draft resolution.

Mr. Meurs (United States of America) said that his country regarded the Global Jobs Pact as an important part of the international community's response to the global financial and economic crisis and was pleased to sponsor the draft resolution.

The President, noting that draft resolution E/2009/L.24 contained no programme budget implications, said that if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the text.

It was so decided.

(b) Review and coordination of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 (A/64/80-E/2009/79)

Introduction of the Report of the Secretary-General on Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

Mr. Erdenebileg (Chief, Policy Coordination and Reporting Service, United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States), introducing the report of the Secretary-General (E/2009/79), said that owing to their limited participation in global financial markets and their improved microeconomic management, the least developed countries had been relatively protected from the initial effects of the financial and economic crisis. Nevertheless, both the immediate economic picture and the long-term prospects of the least developed countries had worsened considerably in the past year. The collapse in world trade had had a marked impact on the countries concerned owing to their trade vulnerability and their specialization in primary commodities and labour-intensive manufacturing. The decline in crude oil and commodity metal prices and the fall in the demand for exports, together with a decline in migrant remittances, had led to reduced GDP growth and a drop in per capita income in many LDCs.

The least developed countries had made significant progress towards good governance through the adoption and implementation of regional and multilateral initiatives. They were also increasingly exercising ownership of their development policies. With respect to the Millennium Development Goals, while substantial progress had been made towards universal primary education, results had been mixed in reducing infant and under-five mortality, due in part to the impact of HIV/AIDS.

With respect to the support of development partners for the implementation of the Programme of Action, while commending donors' efforts in the area of official development assistance and debt relief, the report noted with concern the lack of progress in meeting the target of 0.15 per cent of gross national income and called on donors to honour their commitments in that respect. Strengthening productive capacity development and diversifying economies was critical for sustained growth and poverty reduction in

the least developed countries. That called for a stronger partnership between the least developed countries and their development partners, which should be one of the priorities at the fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to be held in 2011.

Tangible progress had been made in the preparations for the Conference. A concept note and a road map had been prepared to facilitate intergovernmental, regional and national preparations and to ensure the involvement of all stakeholders in the associated activities. Guidelines had been published to assist the least developed countries in the organization of national reviews, which should exploit synergies with other review mechanisms.

The various crises confronting the world had underscored the acute vulnerability of the least developed countries to developments outside their borders. The Secretary-General's report called for strengthened support to the least developed countries through: increased financial transfers to help them overcome their fiscal and financial constraints; prioritization of agricultural development to lessen vulnerability to food crisis; and strengthening of productive capacities and economic diversification to reduce LDCs' exposure to external shocks and lay the basis for sustained growth and poverty reduction.

Mr. Talha (Observer for Bangladesh), speaking on behalf of the least developed countries, said that the vulnerable economies of the least developed countries had been devastated by the crises sweeping the world, for which they were not responsible. Rising food prices were having a greater impact in the least developed countries than elsewhere, while their recent efforts to increase food production had been hindered by higher prices for fertilizer, energy and seeds. The decline in world trade, reduced availability of credit, and lower export earnings were leading to higher current account deficits, depletion of international reserves, currency depreciation and reduced economic growth. Worldwide job reductions and more restrictive immigration policies were causing migrant workers to return home, thereby decreasing remittances from abroad and adding to the number of jobless at home.

What were the gains made and the obstacles encountered with respect to the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010? The majority of the least developed countries had taken measures to promote democracy

and improve governance. They were also taking greater responsibility in the formulation and implementation of their development policies, including through the drafting of comprehensive national development strategies. Many of them had adopted measures to eliminate corruption. They had succeeded, but only modestly, in reducing the proportion of people living on less than \$1.25 per day.

In many instances, exports from the least developed countries benefited from preferential trading schemes provided by the developed and other developing countries. However, owing to complex rules of origin and a narrow export base, the least developed countries had yet to benefit substantially from such preferential treatment.

The least developed countries needed to include actions to mitigate the effects of climate change in their national development plans. Three factors made LDCs highly vulnerable to climate change. First, owing to their geographical conditions, many of them were likely to suffer the consequences of global warming. Secondly, they were highly dependent on agriculture, the sector most affected by climate change. Thirdly, they had the least capacity to adapt to climate change. Climate change had already slowed down development in the least developed countries, adversely affecting the agricultural sector, exacerbating poverty and leading to mass migration, all of which increased the risk of political instability. Resources to implement national programmes aimed at adaptation to climate change were scarce.

There was a risk that developed countries might respond to the current economic crisis by reducing their flow of official development assistance. While flows of ODA to the least developed countries had increased from \$13 billion in 2001 to \$32 billion in 2007, the contributions of many donor countries still fell short of the commitments made. Developed countries must honour those commitments, and even developing countries should consider increasing their support.

The least developed countries must enjoy full flexibility in determining their own macroeconomic policies, in accordance with their national development strategies. Efforts needed to be made to bolster those countries' ability to withstand shock to prepare them for fuller participation in the global economy.

In addition to long-term financing, the least developed countries required funding to avoid hardship and suffering in the short term. Development partners must promptly implement commitments made recently, for example at the meeting of the G-20 countries. As a means of encouraging economic diversification in the LDCs, other countries, including developing countries, should eliminate barriers to their exports; in that context he underscored the importance of a development oriented conclusion to the Doha Round of trade negotiations. Diversification would take time and the LDCs would remain heavily commodity dependent in the meantime. International cooperation was therefore also needed to reduce their exposure to volatility in primary commodity markets by strengthening arrangements aimed at alleviating the effects of volatility in the domestic commodity sector, export earnings, Government revenue and the economy as a whole.

The programmes of action for the least developed countries had so far had little impact on lifting the LDCs out of poverty. Strategies and support mechanisms must therefore be reviewed at the upcoming Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in 2011. The LDCs must be fully involved in the preparatory process and the conference itself. Every effort must be made to increase the productive capacity of the LDCs, including in agriculture through innovative approaches to official development assistance (ODA) and technology transfer. Particular attention must also be given to long-term, predictable and empowering assistance to former LDCs whose situation had improved sufficiently to leave the LDC category.

The current recession was the biggest challenge in recent history. Efforts to reverse that situation had failed; furthermore, the crisis had unleashed a social recession that was proving even more difficult to contain. A full analysis of what had gone wrong must be undertaken and policies designed so as to correct the dysfunctional aspects of globalization and give globalization a development dimension and a human face based on equity, fairness and the well-being of the poor. The international community must not fail in its efforts to free millions in the LDCs from the trap of poverty.

Ms. Lidskog (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey,

the stabilization and association process and potential candidate countries Albania and Montenegro, as well as the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, welcomed the report of the Secretary-General and underscored the need to alleviate the effects of the global recession on the least developed countries. Focusing on the poorest and most vulnerable while at the same time ensuring social development and environmental protection was of utmost importance for the European Union, which urged all development partners to accelerate achievement of the goal of allocating 0.7 per cent of gross national income to official development assistance (ODA) by 2015, with an interim collective target of 0.56 per cent by 2010.

The European Union would meet the target of allocating 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national product (GNP) to the least developed countries while fully meeting its commitments as set out in the Brussels Programme. The middle-income countries, in particular the lower middle income countries, likewise received a high proportion of the European Union's development assistance. The European Union would also allocate no less than 50 per cent of its increase in official development assistance to the African countries. While it was important to increase development assistance, development cooperation must also be made more effective. Work must therefore continue on an ambitious and results oriented response to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action. She highlighted the importance of mutual accountability in that regard.

Development cooperation had a vital role to play in helping LDCs incorporate initiatives to mitigate the effects of climate change in their development strategies; additional financial resources and technology cooperation must be made available for that purpose. She stressed the need for cooperation in implementing short-, medium- and long-term measures to ensure food security; all applicable scientific knowledge and resources must be made available. In order to improve resources for food security the European Union had allocated 1 billion euros for the next three years for developing countries, NGOs and international organizations involved in food and agriculture development.

Markets must be opened to developing countries' exports in order to help them diversify their economies. Both developed and developing countries should reduce trade barriers to exports from the least

developed countries. All countries must likewise work to ensure a successful conclusion of the Doha Round in 2010.

Mr. Meurs (United States of America) said that during the current financial crisis the short term should not be allowed to overshadow the long term. Too many families, many of them in the LDCs, lived in absolute poverty, with little hope of access to health care or family planning or sufficient resources to complete primary education. He deplored in particular the fact that only 50 per cent of girl students completed their primary education.

Sustained support during the crisis was critical for achieving the Millennium Development Goals and boosting the long-term growth of the LDCs, which was the only sure way of achieving poverty eradication. Assistance for adaptation to climate change would also ensure that economic growth, thanks in particular to improved agricultural productivity, would not be jeopardized by changes in the environment.

He regretted that some factors that had an influence on implementation of the Brussels Programme had not been included in the report of the Secretary-General. For example, he wondered whether the LDCs were investing adequately in the medical infrastructure needed to ensure that better health care would have a permanent impact on well being and productivity, and whether the commitment to equal education for girls and boys was reflected in a commitment to take advantage of that education through equal opportunity for women in the workplace. He asked if the LDCs were strengthening regional trade facilitation measures that would support diversification of production and boost economic growth and if they were making progress in lowering the costs related to corruption at borders, excessive bureaucracy and high intra-regional transportation costs.

The above were only some of the additional factors that should be discussed. He stressed that the causes of endemic poverty were complex. The focus of the current report on developed and developing country relations could not provide a full and accurate accounting of the Brussels Programme.

Mr. Shao Changfeng (China) said that the current international financial and economic crisis had caused a development crisis for the LDCs, which were faced with an economic downturn, contracting trade, reduced

investment and a decline in remittances. The positive development trend of previous years had been reversed, and some gains had been seriously eroded. According to the World Bank, the crisis would add between 55 and 90 million people to the ranks of the poor, with the LDCs most affected. It would be difficult for the LDCs to achieve the 7 per cent increase in GDP in 2009 envisioned in the Brussels Programme.

Given the fragile economies, weak social protection networks and limited policy instruments of the LDCs, the international community must pay greater attention to their development needs, help them cope with the crisis and not allow the crisis to affect their development assistance.

In dealing with the effects of the crisis the international community, in particular the major developed countries, should strengthen macroeconomic policy cooperation and develop a coherent, effective and forward looking policy, bearing in mind the need to avoid any negative effects on the LDCs and to create a favourable external development environment for them. The commitments relating to the LDCs made at the G-20 summit and other international conferences must be implemented, and they should be provided with comprehensive and timely support in such areas as financing for development, trade finance, social security and food security.

Development assistance was an indispensable source of funding for the LDCs, and one of the most direct and effective means of helping them cope with the crisis. Unfortunately most of the developed countries had not met their commitment of allocating 0.15-0.2 per cent of gross national income to development assistance for the LDCs. The developed countries must therefore increase assistance resources and ensure their stability and predictability.

Foreign trade represented 50 per cent of the LDCs gross domestic product (GDP) but the increase in protectionism since 2008 had greatly disrupted development in the LDCs. All countries, in particular the major developed countries, should oppose protectionism, support trade with the LDCs through capacity-building and trade finance and continue to expand duty and quota free treatment for LDC products.

His delegation attached great importance to the upcoming Fourth United Nations Conference on the

Least Developed Countries and would participate actively in the preparatory process as well as the Conference itself. During the crisis his delegation had vigorously advocated further strengthening of international support for the LDCs in many international forums. His Government had implemented in a timely manner measures to foster world economic recovery, provided funds to programmes for the LDCs in multilateral institutions and strengthened implementation of measures aimed at assisting the LDCs.

Mr. Mattei (France) said that the least developed countries were the most vulnerable to the effects of the current crisis. That vulnerability would be increased by their high debt load, the drop in demand for their exports, and climate change they had not caused. His delegation would highlight the legitimate concerns of the LDCs, in particular with regard to climate change and development, during the ongoing negotiations on a new international agreement on climate change.

His Government had made the LDCs a priority, allocating 30 per cent of its development assistance to them in 2007. In order to meet their needs, that aid was allocated mainly to sectors relating to the Millennium Development Goals, in particular health, education, agriculture and food security. Targeted partnerships had been established based on countries' needs, with greater support for the poorest countries. In that regard he noted that 14 African countries, 13 of them least developed countries, would receive assistance on a priority basis.

External financing would not however suffice in helping the least developed countries deal with the economic crisis and relaunch their economies. The least developed countries themselves must also promote regulatory reform and policies to stimulate growth. It was essential to avoid adding to the already overwhelming debt burden of the least developed countries, which would threaten the effects of recent debt forgiveness efforts. Lastly, he reiterated the need for the international community to take fully into account the uniqueness of the situation of the least developed countries.

Mr. Kommasith (Observer for the Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that the developing and least developed countries were bearing the brunt of the impact of the current economic, food and energy crises and climate change. Their most significant sources of income for development had been affected: world trade

had declined; commodity prices had dropped; foreign direct investment had been reduced; and migrant worker remittances had slowed down. That had affected progress toward achievement of the Brussels Programme.

No country could weather the crisis alone. The international community must strengthen cooperation and ensure a concerted, coordinated and comprehensive response. He therefore welcomed the outcome of the recent United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development and other international efforts to address the crisis and stressed the need to meet existing official development assistance and financing for development commitments and sustain aid for trade levels. He said that the recovery programmes of both developed and developing countries should be complementary and also reinforce recovery at the global level.

As a result of the crises, economic growth in the Lao People's Democratic Republic had dropped from 7.9 per cent in 2008 to 6.9 per cent in 2009, due in large part to the decline in prices for its commodity exports, increasing the budget deficit and affecting its balance of payments. Furthermore, foreign direct investment and tourism related income had also fallen.

In order to mitigate the effects of the crisis and stabilize the economy, his Government had adopted immediate and long-term measures to prevent economic slowdown and maintain social stability. Those measures included: strengthened public private dialogue and coordination in order to promote an enabling environment for business and investment; removal of obstacles in the import export sector; increased credit for business in order to boost domestic demand and investment; and increased lending by banks to farmers with a view to ensuring adequate supplies of basic foods for the local market.

At the regional level, his Government had supported better coordination on financial and trade policies to make regional economies more resilient to external shocks. In that context he welcomed the decision by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Plus Three process finance ministers to increase the size of the Chiang Mai Initiative and develop a more effective monitoring mechanism in that regard. His delegation supported the role of the United Nations in developing a global consensus regarding

action to address the problems created by the current crises.

The latter should not be used as an excuse for failing to meet the commitments contained in the Brussels Programme. The least developed countries should step up their joint efforts to mitigate the effects of the crises, while development partners should honour their commitments to increase official development assistance, including those arising out of the 2005 Gleneagles Group of Eight (G-8) Summit. Preparations for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries would provide an opportunity to take stock of the situation and anticipate the future needs of the least developed countries.

The United Nations played a pivotal role in assisting the least developed countries to achieve their objectives. While most United Nations bodies had mainstreamed the Brussels Programme into their work, more concrete programmes and projects for the implementation of the Programme were needed. He underscored that the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States should play a more active role, in particular in the areas of inter-agency coordination and resource mobilization.

The current session of the Council provided an opportunity not only for the annual review of the Brussels Programme but also for discussion of preparations for the upcoming Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. Those discussions should lead to a more concrete plan for the years to come.

Ms. Beck (Observer for the Solomon Islands) said that the challenges faced by her country related to infrastructure development, food production, the deteriorating terms of trade, maternal mortality, inadequate access to water and sanitation, and the inability to provide affordable medicines to reduce the death rates from malaria and other non-communicable diseases such as tuberculosis and diabetes. Those challenges were exacerbated by the global crises in food and energy supplies and by the financial and economic recession. There was a danger that the development gains achieved in her country would be reversed. Despite the measures being taken at national level to mitigate the impact of the crisis, Solomon Islands would need continuing support from its

development partners in line with their commitments under the Brussels Programme of Action.

More assistance was needed through technology transfer and infrastructure development in rural areas to address food production, and better terms of trade were needed in order to cope with the high prices of food imports. Solomon Islands was heavily dependent on trade in primary commodities in order to pay its fuel costs, amounting to a third of its national budget. She called on those able to assist in supplying appropriate technology and resources for renewable energy to assist her country in that respect. Solomon Islands also needed access to resources and technology to enable it to adapt to the impact of climate change, which was causing a continuing loss of arable land for food production owing to rising sea levels and coastal erosion together with the salination of water sources and the loss of fishing grounds and marine biodiversity.

She welcomed the decision to convene the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, and called upon the development partners to act upon their commitments under the Brussels Programme of Action.

Mr. Patriota (Brazil) said that although the least developed countries were not as fully integrated into the global financial system as the developed and some developing countries, they were feeling the effects of the crisis in terms of a sharp fall in commodity prices, reduced income from tourism, and reductions in foreign direct investment and remittances. They had less scope than other countries for mitigating the impact of the crisis through monetary and fiscal measures, and public services were likely to be affected as a result. The numbers living in poverty and extreme poverty were expected to increase, as well as those suffering from hunger and malnutrition. Priority should be given to supporting the least developed countries in developing national capacity for the formulation and implementation of national development plans appropriate to the needs of the population. South-South cooperation played a vital role in efforts to improve national institutions and promote greater national ownership of development programmes. International cooperation should be strengthened, and donor countries should endeavour to meet their funding commitments. An important initial step was the G-20 commitment to allocate US\$ 50 billion to low income countries. The United Nations Development System played a major role in helping

the least developed countries to tackle the challenges posed by the crisis and to develop their national capacity.

A successful conclusion to the Doha Development Round would increase market access, support the diversification of developing countries' exports and free up trade in agriculture, while reducing trade distorting subsidies. The Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries would be a major opportunity to evaluate the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action, and to address areas of weakness.

Mr. Chibout Naim (Algeria) said that the report of the Secretary-General illustrated the negative impact of the economic and financial crisis on the progress made by the least developed countries since the start of the new millennium. International solidarity with those countries was needed more than ever so that the goals of poverty reduction could be met. Donor countries must respect their commitments for development assistance. The pledges made by the G-8 at Gleneagles in 2005 to double aid to Africa had not yet been met.

The international financial institutions must be adapted to the new global situation, to enable them to play their proper role in supporting the least developed countries in their development efforts. As well as adapting the financial mechanisms to present needs, it was essential to investigate and bring into use new and innovative sources of development funding. Full use should be made of the range of cooperation mechanisms available, including South-South and regional cooperation. Under the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the African countries had launched several promising cooperation projects, such as the Nigaz pipeline.

Mr. Yuksel (Observer for Turkey) said that, as a developing country, Turkey was well aware of the needs of the least developed countries, and made every effort to offer them development and humanitarian assistance. The promotion of economic growth and sustainable development, the building of human and institutional capacities, and good governance were essential factors for poverty eradication and for improving the lives of over 600 million people in 49 least developed countries. Turkey had recently hosted the United Nations Ministerial Conference on "Making Globalization Work for the LDCs". As an emerging donor country, in 2008 it had provided US\$ 700 million

in humanitarian assistance, a 25 per cent increase since 2007. Regardless of race, religion, language or gender, Turkey was resolved to channel humanitarian assistance rapidly towards countries in need, and it supported international efforts for that purpose. It was also ready to host the Fourth United Conference on the Least Developed Countries in 2011.

Mr. Hamza (Sudan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said the report of the Secretary-General demonstrated the dire effects of the global financial and economic crisis on the development prospects of the least developed countries. The financial and food crises had highlighted their vulnerability to external shocks. His delegation was especially concerned about the potential long-term impact of the crises if investment in education, health and infrastructure was cut back, thereby dramatically increasing poverty and reducing productive capacity in the least developed countries. The macroeconomic reforms which they had introduced to fulfil their commitments under the Brussels Programme of Action had resulted in improved economic performance and progress in some areas, notably the achievement of universal primary education. The development partners must now deliver on their own commitments to the least developed countries, to help them consolidate the gains already made and accelerate progress in areas where they were lagging behind.

In preparing for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, it was crucial to involve all stakeholders, including parliaments, the private sector and civil society. The Conference should fashion international policies and rules governing trade, investment, finance and the environment appropriate to national policies and strategies in the least developed countries, and should put forward a new generation of international support measures, including South-South cooperation. He called upon member States to provide the necessary political and material support for a successful outcome to the Conference.

The President announced that discussion on item 6 had been concluded.

Coordination, programme and other questions

(A/64/82-E/2009/82 and A/64/82/Add.1-E/2009/82/Add.1)

- (a) **Reports of coordination bodies** (A/64/16, Supp. No. 16 and E/2009/67)
- (b) **Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011** (relevant fascicles of A/64/6)
- (c) **Calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields** (E/2009/108 and E/2009/L.10)

Mr. Posta (Joint Inspection Unit) introduced the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the Junior Professional Officer/Associate Expert/Associate Professional Officer Programmes in United Nations system organizations (A/64/82-E/2009/82), based on a detailed survey in 10 organizations and in donor countries. The report assessed the current status of the Junior Professional Officer (JPO) programmes, and contained recommendations to improve the political, organizational and operational conditions for the programmes. There were now about one thousand JPOs employed in the United Nations system at any time, involving more than US\$ 100 million a year. The report acknowledged the high satisfaction rate of all stakeholders, the high quality of JPOs, the competitive nature of the selection process, the importance of the JPO programmes in adding to the human resources of United Nations organizations and the strong field orientation of the programmes, especially the emphasis on Africa. The weak points which needed addressing included the outdated legislative basis of the programmes, their low visibility and poor ownership among member States, the low number of JPOs from developing countries, poor evaluation of the programmes and insufficient monitoring of the progress of JPOs, especially at the beginning and end of their assignments. The recommendations in the report, with which the Secretary-General concurred in his Note (E/2009/82/Add.1), were intended to address those weaknesses. He drew attention to recommendation 1, requesting the Council to revisit its resolution 849 (XXXII) of 4 August 1961, which served as a policy basis for the programmes. The programmes had changed considerably since their inception, with the increasing employment of JPOs at headquarters and the extension of their activities beyond technical cooperation. There was often an undesirable competition for JPOs among the

organizations. It was now important to update the legislative basis for the programmes by redefining their objectives and the principles governing assignment of JPOs and the financing of the programmes. The visibility and transparency of the programmes among member States should be increased so as to generate more political and financial support, and to increase the funding possibilities for candidates from developing countries.

Mr. Mayong Onon (Malaysia) said that the annual overview report of the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (E/2009/67) clearly highlighted the role played by the CEB in strengthening efforts to achieve national development goals. That role was increasingly important in light of the recent global food and fuel crises and evolving humanitarian disasters, all of which demanded coherent system wide responses. Further efforts were needed to strengthen synergy between the CEB and the wider membership of the United Nations and Council. The CEB should also engage more directly with major groups such as the Group of 77 and China, and with the Second and Fifth Committees of the General Assembly.

Malaysia welcomed the progress achieved by the CEB on the nine key areas of the joint initiative. The report would, however, have benefited from more analysis of obstacles to coordination and coherence, in addition to their financial costs. The focus on the security and safety of staff was also welcome, as was the clear way forward identified by the steering group for staff safety and security. Malaysia looked forward to receiving information on the implementation of the steering group's recommendations, including any difficulties balancing mandate requirements with resources. Several countries had reiterated the importance of the stocktaking exercise for the delivering as one pilot project in terms of lessons learned. The lack of urgency the report seemed to accord to that exercise was thus a matter of concern.

Mr. Aimov (Russian Federation) said that the CEB did well to attach importance to the need to strengthen follow-up to major conferences and summits by devising common approaches to policy issues and programme activities at every level. System wide coordination was also vital to ensure that the Organization responded effectively to the multiple crises; in that connection, the Russian Federation noted the nine key areas agreed by the CEB.

The establishment of a cluster group to prepare a draft action plan in response to General Assembly resolution 63/230 on the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) was timely. The Secretary-General would no doubt ensure that the delivering as one pilot projects were implemented by the United Nations Development Group and other Council mechanisms in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions on the comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system.

The Board's plans to further dialogue between the Council and other parts of the United Nations system; to enhance the participation of the specialized agencies in Council session; and to enhance transparency and accountability were welcome. His delegation hoped that the joint review to be undertaken by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and the CEB secretariat would be objective; that it would identify gaps in inter-agency coordination; and that the Secretary-General would communicate the results to the Council in a report.

The Russian Federation wished to reiterate its position that agenda item 7 (a) should be moved to the coordination segment to allow Member States to discuss the annual overview report of the CEB immediately after its introduction.

Mr. Ayub (Pakistan), stressing the importance to system wide effectiveness of coherence and coordination, welcomed the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its forty ninth session (A/64/16). The Committee provided useful guidance to the United Nations system and should be urged to redouble its coordination efforts. Current global development challenges had placed new demands on the Organization, making a coordinated response all the more critical.

Intergovernmental oversight and more regular engagement with the Council would also improve the important coordination work of the CEB. The Council should also oversee the Board's efforts to harmonize business practices in the United Nations system.

Draft resolution E/2009/L.10: Provisional calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields for 2010 and 2011

The President drew the attention of the Council to a letter from the Chair of the Committee on Conferences (E/2009/108) and to a note by the Secretariat on the provisional calendar of conferences and meetings for 2010 and 2011 in the economic, social and related fields (E/2000/L.10). He would take it that the Council wished to approve the provisional calendar.

It was so decided.

The President recalled that the annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2008/09 (E/2009/67) had already been introduced during the Council's coordination segment.

With regard to the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/64/16), the President explained that the Chairman of that Committee had been unable to attend the Council's session. He had therefore requested that his statement, outlining the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report, be circulated to the members of the Council, which was now being done.

He invited the Council to take note of the annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2008/09 (E/2009/67) and the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its forty seventh session (A/64/16).

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.