

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

The Convenor, Mr. Sha Zukang, Under Secretary-General of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) welcomed Principals and introduced the agenda items for the meeting:

- 1. Follow-up to the General Assembly Resolution on ‘The United Nations in global governance’ (A.65/94);**
- 2. Follow-up to the 2010 MDG Summit;**
- 3. Update on preparations for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development 2012 (Rio 2012).**
- 4. Other matters**

AGENDA ITEM 1: Follow-up to the General Assembly Resolution on ‘The United Nations in global governance’

Mr. Sha

Following remarks by Mr. Sha, ECESA principals discussed the draft outline of the analytical report on GEG and Development. Overall, the outline received favourable comments with most speakers emphasizing that they liked its structure and comprehensiveness. At the same time, the following suggestions were made:

ESCAP and ECLAC stressed that reference should be made, especially in section II of the outline, of the rising importance of regionalism. For instance, it was pointed out that growing regional interdependencies and the rise of regional trade blocs impacts upon, and brings into question, the efficacy of the existing architecture of GEG.

ESCAP also stated the importance of governance in the environmental sphere.

ECLAC added that it had planned to organize seminars relevant to GEG, later in the

1. Provide an analytical assessment of the progress on the implementation of the MDGs;
2. Include policy recommendations on sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth for accelerating poverty eradication and achievement of the MDGs;
3. Outline further steps to continue to advance the United Nations development agenda and make concrete recommendations for actions beyond 2015 and;
4. Serve as a building block towards a major review in 2015.

This new report would be supplemented by the two major United Nations reports on MDG achievement – **the Millennium Development Goals Report** and **the MDG Gap Task Force Report**, which would continue to be prepared over the next five years.

Mr. Sha asked Principals for their views on the following:

1. How should we approach this new report over the next four years? What should be our key policy messages?
2. How should we initiate system-wide work on a framework for implementing the UN development agenda beyond 2015?

UNODC emphasized that the UN should advocate for a zero tolerance policy towards corruption if the MDGs are to be met. Such a policy would help combat corruption and impede illicit financial flows among others. In this regard, UNODC supported the use of existing UN mechanisms such as the UN Convention against Corruption.

ECLAC stated that five Regional Commissions (RCs) had come together to produce an analytical paper on the implementation of the UN development agenda post 2015. ECLAC added that RCs had been successfully collaborating with UNDG on inter-agency reporting for MDGs.

UNDP recommended the inclusion of evidence based analysis in the report. UNDP also informed Principals of the MDG Acceleration Framework, which was developed as an approach designed to help countries identify challenges and find solutions to eradicating extreme poverty and achieving sustainable development. UNDP also stressed that the Rio 2012 process must inform the process of implementation of the UN development agenda post 2015. While green growth was important, the international community must be mindful of inclusive green growth driven by sustainable policies.

ESCAP emphasized the need to address the issue of international food price crisis in the report, especially its impact on the poorest and most vulnerable. ESCAP mentioned that its future MDG Report in 2011/2012 will focus on the disparities in the achievement on health goals within the region. ESCAP is also assisting 16 countries with their national development strategies.

UNCTAD suggested that the new MDG report focus on the following key messages:

1. The need to strengthen domestic resource mobilisation.
2. Developed countries need to abide by their commitment to provide 0.7% of their GDP as ODA.
3. Inclusive growth and addressing the challenges to alleviating inequality needs to be at the heart of the UN development agenda.
4. The need to redefine the role of the State in light of new challenges faced by countries.

5. The need to avoid fragmentation of development aid and enhance coherence and cohesion in development cooperation.

OHCHR underscored that human rights are indispensable to the achievement of the MDGs and this message should be reflected in the report.

After discussions, **Mr. Sha** informed Principals that following the model of the “Keeping the Promise” report, Assistant Secretary-Generals (ASGs) of DESA and UNDP will take the lead in the preparation of the report. He also informed that Mr. Robert Vos, Director, Development Policy Analysis Division, DESA to coordinate preparations for this report.

Furthermore, **Mr. Sha** alerted Principals of the Integrated Implementation Framework (IIF) announced by the Secretary-General

UNEP underscored the importance of defining the Institutional Framework for

preparatory phase and in the conference itself. Without their full engagement it will be difficult to obtain a consensus on issues as IFSD and green economy.

In reference to ECLAC's query on holding GSP related regional consultations, **Mr. Sha** noted that the Secretary-General's initiative is an important one, for which expectations are high. The Panel's output is envisioned to complement the intergovernmental preparations for Rio 2012.

In reference to the schedule of the outcome document, **Mr. Sha** reported that the UNCSD Bureau took a decision at its last meeting on 28 Feb., which will be shared by the Co-chairs during Prep Com II. The decision was the result of a compromise among its members' differing views. On the matter of discussions related to the social pillar of sustainable development, Mr. Sha acknowledged that regrettably, there was a lack of discussion on the subject and encouraged entities to highlight the issue in their own interventions in the upcoming PrepCom.

OTHER MATTERS

Update on the work of the Secretary-General's Policy Committee

Since the last meeting of Principals of ECESA, the Secretary-General's Policy Committee completed reviews of various peacebuilding-related items, including: