

United Nations General Assembly

Informal meeting of the plenary on UN system-wide coherence in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment

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Statement

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Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

We welcome convening this very important meeting. Our delegation places its trust in the High-level panel not least because it includes prominent active statesmen with distinguished record of expertise in the area of the forthcoming study.

We would encourage the **panelists to have an informal meeting also with the members of the Executive Boards of UNICEF and UNDP/UNFPA** since these bodies provide a strategic guidance to the activities of the largest UN agencies at the country level.

With regard to the priority areas of the study on UN system-wide coherence it would be advisable for the panel to concentrate on the following three areas.

We find it important to thoroughly examine possible positive and negative outcomes of **joint programming by the United Nations agencies**. Whether common country programmes should serve as the only possible instrument of UN programming at the country level or we should keep other existing options. The recent coordinated proposals of the major UN agencies in this regard deserve a comprehensive consideration not only by the Member States but also by the panelists.

Since Heads of Governments and leaders of the national development assistance agencies are among members of the panel we would appreciate the conclusions and recommendations of the panel on **how the UN Representatives in recipient countries could better interact with resident and non-resident donors** in order to encourage their support of the national development strategies and priorities, and **how the predictability of the flow of assistance resources in operational activities of the UN system could be increased**.

As the country most affected by the Chernobyl disaster Belarus is interested in the **integration of the environmental perspective in the country programmes** of the United Nations agencies.

We should also think **how the global coordination in addressing the environmental challenges can be improved.**

Practical suggestions from the panel on these important issues would be a valuable outcome of the study.