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Российской Федерации  
при  
Организации  
Объединенных Наций



Permanent Mission  
of the Russian Federation  
to the United Nations

**STATEMENT**  
by Mr. A.A.PANKIN,  
Deputy Director, Department of International Organisations,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation,  
at the meeting with  
the Panel on System-Wide Coherence  
(New York, 6 April 2006)

Unofficial translation

*Check against delivery*

Mr. President,

First of all, the Russian Delegation would like to thank you for organising this meeting with the esteemed Members of the Panel on System-Wide Coherence. In our view, such meetings bring an element of openness and transparency into the work of the United Nations that it needs so much. We hope that in the future the spirit of dialogue and free exchange of opinions among all the interested parties will be maintained throughout the work of the Panel.

Today, we would like to share with you some of our thoughts on the issues to be considered by the Panel.

**1. Mandate of the Panel and the specifics of its tasks**

As we see paragraph 169 of the Summit Outcome Document that is considered to contain the mandate for the establishment of the Panel, its main objective consists in the formulation and submission, through the Secretary-General, to the consideration of the Member-States a set of practical measures to further improve interaction and co-ordination among the organisations of the UN system working in the field of operational activities, humanitarian assistance, and international environmental co-operation.

We believe that all these efforts should be guided by the interests of the recipient developing countries and their national development priorities. Account should also be taken of the specificities of operational, humanitarian, and environmental activities of the United Nations that differ them from the work of the private sector and bilateral donors.

The objective, as we see it, consists in helping the organisations of the UN system to better implement their mandates.

**2. Taking into account the existing problems and the experience gathered**

We see the prerequisite for success in careful identification and analysis of the existing problems of co-ordination among the organisations of the UN system on the basis of practical experience of work of the funds and programmes and specialised agencies.

We believe that it would be fundamentally important for the conclusions and recommendations of the Panel to take into account the fact that this topic has been on the agenda of the United Nations for several years already, and a number of important consensus decisions have been made as a result of intensive negotiations and serious compromise on the part of the governments. These decisions that are embodied, primarily, in the outcome of the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review of UN operational activities for development should become the framework and the context for all the proposals to be developed so that they do not lose touch with reality and win the support of the countries.

### **3. Governance by and accountability to Member-States**

Governance is an important issue. Operational, humanitarian, and environmental activities of the United Nations are regulated and governed by a clear and logical system of decision-making. Any measures to improve the effectiveness of the work of the agencies should take into account the existing system of governance, including that of the UN specialised agencies, and be aimed at enhancing the governability of the UN system's organisations by the Member-States and their accountability to the Member-States.

The organisations of the UN system belong to the Member-States and they have a *raison d'être* only as long as they serve the interests of Member-States.

### **4. Context of the ongoing UN reform**

Another important factor, we believe, is the necessity to take into account, in the work of the Panel, of the entire context of reform processes that are already well underway in the UN in accordance with the decisions of the September Summit. It should be kept in mind that the parameters of the ECOSOC reform, for example, are clearly determined by the outcome of the Summit itself.

In conclusion, we would like to make one more point. We follow with great interest the informal discussions that are going on in different places in connection with the launch of the Panel. We have a disturbing feeling that at this stage, almost all possible options of future recommendations revolve around a very limited number of solutions of the same type, which, in our opinion, impoverishes the discussion and jeopardises future success of the endeavour. We would like to wish the esteemed Members of the Panel not to limit themselves to the already available proposals (that may not enjoy universal support) and creatively address the task entrusted to them.

Thanks you.