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Secretary-General

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SECRETARY-GENERAL, IN MESSAGE TO REGIONAL CONSULTATION ON SYSTEM-WIDE COHERENCE, STRESSES NEED TO SHOW EFFECTIVE USE OF RESOURCES

Following is the text of United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's message to the Regional High-Level Consultation on United Nations System-Wide Coherence, as delivered by Jose Antonio Ocampo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, in Jakarta, today, 29 March:

I greatly appreciate the initiative taken by the Governments of Indonesia and Norway in organizing this Regional High-Level Consultation in support of greater coherence for the United Nations family.

It is a priority for me for the United Nations to bring its many disparate strengths together to address the world's pressing development needs. This summer will mark the midpoint between the year 2000, when the Millennium Development Goals were first articulated and adopted, and the year by which they are meant to be achieved, 2015. At a time when donor countries are discussing increases in official development assistance, it is also essential that the United Nations demonstrates its ability to use those resources effectively.

That challenge was at the heart of the recommendations put forward late last year in the report of the High-Level Panel on United Nations System-Wide Coherence. The Panel's report, "Delivering as One", presents an ambitious yet achievable vision of a harmonized and accountable United Nations system. I intend to set out for Member States my views on the substance of the report, and how to approach its follow up, in close consultation with them.

But already I can say our intention is to keep implementing those proposals that build on existing intergovernmental processes and reform initiatives. Examples of these include the ongoing consultative process in the General Assembly on UN environmental activities; the reform of UN business practices in the areas of human resources, common services and evaluation procedures; and the voluntary "One UN" pilot programmes recently launched by UNDP to unify UN operations in eight countries.

I agree with the Panel's proposals to strengthen the United Nations gender architecture, and I encourage Member States to study the possibility of replacing several current structures with a dynamic, consolidated United Nations entity. Member States also need to consider how to continue strengthening the United Nations Economic and Social Council, so that it can provide the governance, funding and management arrangements at Headquarters needed to improve our country-level presence.

On these and other issues, leaders across the United Nations system are willing to embrace change and drive the reforms forward. But to succeed fully, we need strong political support from the Member States. I am highly encouraged by the attention you are giving this issue and wish you a very successful meeting.

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