

COORDINATION SEGMENT
Summary of the General Debate
6-8 July 2010

Key messages

- There is a need for a coordinated and coherent response by the UN system to address the range of multi-dimensional challenges confronting the international community and foster sustainable development in achieving the Millennium Development Goals related to public health.
- Attention should be focused on four main health challenges (sexual and reproductive health, child health, communicable diseases and non-communicable diseases) in the context of health systems strengthening.
- A holistic and multisectoral approach in terms of employment, education and gender equality is imperative to sustainable physical and mental health as there are links between economies, social development and health. Health is an essential prerequisite for global development, the international community should assist in maximizing United Nations efforts.
- The UN system should strengthen coordination and further advance global cooperation in public health under the guidance of the policy objectives of the 2009 Annual Ministerial Review's Declaration.
- Countries should strengthen political commitment, improve primary health care, increase financial and human resources input, and build public health systems suitable to national conditions.
- Member States stressed the importance of strengthening the Economic and Social Council's role in promoting international cooperation on the health-related Goals.
- Member States supported the conclusions and recommendations of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), and recognized the current global financial crisis called for policies that stimulated jobs and social protection that could sustain economic recovery.
- The agenda-setting of CEB and its accountability to Member States should be reviewed.
- There is a strong link between the Financing for Development process and the achievement of MDGs

Global Public Health

Group 77 and China as well as **Ethiopia, the Republic of Indonesia** and **The European Union** called for urgent action from the United Nations to make progress in achieving the MDGs 4, 5 and 6 related to **child mortality, maternal health** and **HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria**. **The Republic of the Congo** said it was important to ensure that all United Nations initiatives in the 2009 AMR Declaration were supported. **The EU** noted that progress towards achieving the health-related MDGs has been uneven, particularly for

Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. Special attention should be paid to gender equality, women's needs and rights, and the rights and needs of young people. **Cuba** said to tackle such challenges, the issue of a universal health-care system was of great importance.

Group 77 and China and **Ethiopia** said that now, more than ever, it is time to build a global movement for maternal and child health similar to the movement launched in response to HIV/AIDS which unites countries, the international community, civil society, donors and affected people. Therefore, donor countries are called to action to renew their commitment to help achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for Official Development Assistance by 2015. **Group 77 and China** recognizes the importance of ECOSOC in guiding system-wide coordination of UN activities and economic and social programmes and calls for coordination between and beyond the United Nations system agencies addressing the health-related Millennium Development Goals. **Ukraine** also recognizes the spread of HIV/AIDS epidemic and the recent outbreak of H1N1 virus pandemic illustrates the need for international cooperation.

Peru also called for action in reducing child mortality and maternal deaths and stressed the importance of achieving the goals related to **public health** such as **universal access to medical services** and **the reduction of road accidents**. **Peru** supported the Secretary-General's plan of action for maternal and child health and stressed the need to incorporate specific measures for prevention and control of non-transmissible diseases not included in the MDGs, but which severely affect Peru. In poor rural isolated communities in Peru, the rate of mortality in children under 5, can be significantly reduced with access to clean water, enough medical supplies and proper medical care. Road safety is a public-health concern due to the high mortality rate caused by traffic accident. Safely build infrastructure could significantly lower the mortality rate by 2020.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) underlined the need for more investment in the health sector, including health and hygiene promotion and in emerging challenges such as climate change and rapid urbanization. **Bangladesh** reiterated that public health systems remain precarious in many developing countries due to lack of trained personnel and frequent natural disasters contribute to poor health systems.

India as well as **The Bahamas** noted the increasing challenges presented by communicable and non-communicable diseases. The number of people dying from communicable and non-communicable diseases due to the lack of adequate health care was alarmingly high, particularly in developing countries. The increasing risks and high-prevalence of non-communicable diseases are exacting heavy tolls on finances and health systems of countries like **The Bahamas**.

The European Union, Republic of Indonesia and **People's Republic of China** urged for more coordinated efforts from the international community and UN system. They

insisted on the prioritization of support on partner countries' efforts to strengthen comprehensive health systems, which are central to all global health challenges, through strengthening their capacities to develop, regulate, implement and monitor effective **national health policies** and strategies. **Ukraine** pioneers this effort with the President and new government prioritizing health issues in the state social policy. The health sector now receives the highest political commitment of **India's** government.

The EU emphasized the link between economies, social development and health. They, along with the **IFRC** explained a **holistic** and **multisectoral approach** in terms of employment, education and gender equality is imperative to sustainable physical and mental health. **Israel** said health was an essential prerequisite for global development, urging the international community to assist in maximizing United Nations efforts. **The Republic of Indonesia** and the **Bahamas** explained that poverty and health are inextricably linked, thus it is important to utilize resources as to prevent exacerbating conditions for those living in poverty during this current turbulent economic period. **The Republic of Indonesia** further recognized coordination efforts should rally around the need to increase quantity and quality of health services globally, and the need to increase access to adequate health services. **Indonesia** also noted the vitality of coordination looking beyond the 2015 MDG timeframe, as advancing health for women and children is a long-term endeavour. **The EU** and **Switzerland** acknowledged the **International Health Partnership (IHP+)** principles (one national health strategy, one budget process, one monitoring framework) as the preferred framework for development partners to mobilise more effectively behind robust, more cost-effective and inclusive national health plans, and more flexible and predictable resources. Welcoming ongoing work between the Global Fund, GAVI, the World Bank and WHO to develop a common platform for health systems funding, which will hopefully streamline funding for national health strategies and plans.

Joint partnerships play a pivotal role in the effort to achieve global public health. **The Bahamas, the People's Republic of China, Israel** and **the EU** all recognize the importance of countries joining forces with the UN system, with civil society, the private sector, donor groups and development agencies. **Bangladesh** also encouraged greater international cooperation in this regard, including South-South Cooperation, North-South cooperation and Triangular Cooperation. **Argentina** stressed the importance of strengthening the Economic and Social Council's role in promoting international cooperation on the health-related Goals.

Presentation of the Chief Executive Boards Report

Member States addressed the issue of the inter-linkages between the work of the Chiefs Executive Board (CEB) and ECOSOC, particularly within the context of the impact of the economic and financial crisis and efforts by the United Nations system to address it. **The Russian Federation** asked for dedicated time to devote to the CEB during the

Coordination Segment for a “political assessment of CEB and its decisions”, including advice regarding the setting of its agenda. **Brazil** echoed those sentiments and urged aligning substantive action with those of Member States mandates. Implementing the Social Protection Floor Initiative would work best through dialogue with national governments in response to the global crisis. Furthermore, establishing a formal framework under which to operate would improve the Board’s accountability to Member States. **Cuba** added it was necessary to find mechanisms to make known to Council members the Board’s decisions on coordination issues; however, the CEB’s decisions should not supersede national mandates. It felt that ECOSOC did not take sufficiently into account CPC’s recommendations to CEB. Moreover, it reiterated its perception that CEB was endorsing concepts which did not enjoy consensus among Member States, such as the Green Economy initiative, one of the 9 Joint Crisis Initiatives (JCIIs). The view was also expressed that the CEB’s Annual Overview Report dealt only superficially with these initiatives.

Financing for Development

The general debate on the Financing for Development agenda item, held on 8 July, focused on the topics of both panel discussions, as well as the successful outcomes of the Special High-level meeting of ECOSOC with BWIs, WTO and UNCTAD (New York, 18-19 March 2010) and the fourth High-Level Dialogue of the General Assembly on Financing for Development (New York, 23-24 March 2010).

There was a general recognition of the strong link between the Financing for Development process and the achievement of MDGs in the run up to the September Summit. Many delegations highlighted the negative impact of the financial and economic crisis on development in general and on the gains achieved towards the MDGs in particular. In this regard, the need to ensure the availability of increased resources for financing development was repeatedly emphasized. Some speakers raised the issue of the impact of the financial crisis on jobs and unemployment, welcoming the ILO’s Global Jobs Pact. Many delegations commented on the evolving role of the G20 and stressed the need for intensifying a dialogue between the United Nations and the G20 in the interest of development.