

**ECOSOC substantive session, 2010
Operational activities segment
New York**

**Opening remarks
H.E. Ambassador Mr. Alexandru Cujba
Vice-President of ECOSOC
on the occasion of the
Dialogue with the Executive Heads of United Nations Funds and Programmes
(Monday, 12 July 2010)**

[Following the summary of the key points of Day 1]

Distinguished Members of the Council,
Distinguished Members of the panel,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me now welcome you to our dialogue session with the executive heads of United Nations funds and programmes. This dialogue with UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, and WFP is long-standing feature of the operational activities segment. It is an important mechanism through which the Council exercises its role as the principal body to coordinate economic, social, humanitarian, and related work of the United Nations system, including development cooperation and operational activities for development. It is also the unique opportunity for a face-to-face inter-action with the highest management authority of the four organizations that report to the Council. This reporting and this dialogue are an important part of the Council's review of the implementation of the General Assembly's guidance on operational activities for development.

These four funds and programmes together account for sixty percent of the United Nations development system expenditures for operational activities for development. They are also the consistent presence of the United Nations development system in most of the programme countries. The United Nations Development Programme, in particular, in its role as manager of the United Nations resident coordinator system, plays a key role in promoting the wider mandates and mobilizing the relevant capacities of the United Nations development system in support of national development priorities. Collectively, as part of the United Nations country teams, the four funds and programmes have an important role in ensuring a coherent and strategic

response of the United Nations system to national development challenges, including the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals within the national context.

In its recent decision on system-wide coherence, the General Assembly has called for informal discussions among the executive boards on cross-cutting issues as well as for greater informal interaction between these Boards and the Council. The Council is committed to ensuring that these new developments improve the coherence and effectiveness of the United Nations at country level.

This year's topics for the Dialogue are mainly geared towards the September Summit on the review of the *Millennium Development Goals*. The focus is on how operational activities for development can help respond to the challenges ahead, including achieving better and faster results through effective partnerships, and efficient and results-oriented operational modalities. The discussion will no doubt be useful to the Council in sharpening its examination of operational activities this year, and developing new action oriented guidance for the UN development system in the next two years.

I therefore invite the Member States to take advantage of the knowledge and wisdom of our distinguished speakers drawing from the richness of lessons learned by their organizations from programme countries across the world.

Let me extend a warm welcome and express my great appreciation to our panelists for participating in our session today. May I request our moderator, Mr. Sha Zukang, United Nations Under-Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs, to introduce our distinguished speakers. [Mr. Sha..]

Thank you.