



IRELAND

Statement

to the

UNDP Executive Board Annual Session

New York, 26th May 2009

**PERMANENT MISSION OF IRELAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS
885 SECOND AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY 10017 TELEPHONE 212 421-6934 FAX 212 752-4726
ireland@un.int**

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

I would like to join with others in congratulating Ms. Helen Clark upon her appointment as Administrator of UNDP and wish her every success in her new and challenging role. We welcome the vision which she has outlined for the organisation which remains central to the UN development architecture.

It cannot be denied that recent years have seen more improvements in coherence and coordination than ever before in the UN's development architecture. The 'Delivering as One' pilots exhibit the most far reaching examples of these improvements. At country level, these pilots are pioneering ground-breaking reforms which are pointing towards a significant improvement in the way the UN operates and the strategic positioning of the UN, after just two years of implementation. While it is important to recognise that these improvements are by no means guaranteed without further progress, particularly at HQ level, they nevertheless point towards a more strategic, focussed and coherent UN system which provides upstream policy advice, strong support to national governments in discussions on development at country level, and is by this means centrally involved in discussions on international development issues.

For Ireland, the concept of 'Delivering as One' lies at the heart of efforts to develop greater System-Wide Coherence, and it should remain so when considering all further reforms of the UN development system at global level. All too often, UN reform at global level has attempted to find a solution to coherence and coordination through establishing another body, committee or mechanism without looking at the root causes of fragmentation. It is, in the view of Ireland, extremely important that the current reform process at UN Headquarters continues to be informed by the 'bottom up' pragmatic and flexible approach to reform which has been the hallmark of 'Delivering as One'. It is, of course, also important to bear in mind that there is an inherent tension between the flexible approach adopted in the 'Delivering as One' pilots and the mandate-based and legal approach required when implementing changes across an entire intergovernmental system such as the UN. The real implications of national ownership and leadership do not fit easily a large intergovernmental system such as the UN and therefore the path to reform

coherence delivered from the field. There are solutions to these issues, some of which could involve greater decentralisation, others involving much greater harmonisation at central level. Innovative solutions are being explored at country level leading to greater efficiency in procurement and ICT. At central level, the rapid implementation of the harmonisation of business practices is needed with priority on finance issues, human resources, ICT and procurement.

While some will argue that the forthcoming evaluation of the 'Delivering as One' process in the pilot countries will be an opportunity to consider these matters in greater depth, this should not be an excuse for failing to deal with unified plans which emerge from country level as the integral whole which they are, rather than as an amalgamation of separate agendas.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to reiterate a welcome to the new Administrator, Ms. Helen Clark and to assure her that Ireland will continue to work closely with her organisation on these and other crucial reform issues as well as the vital work which UNDP carries out in seeking to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, in addressing the capacity needs of the least developed countries and in advancing UN coherence at country and central level.

Thank You.