



Permanent Mission of
the Federal Republic of Germany
to the United Nations

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**EU statement
on the occasion of
Informal consultations of the plenary
on United Nations system-wide coherence (business practices)**

- 1. We support the Panel's recommendation to further harmonize business practices and recall that this issue has been taken up in the GA res. 59/250 on the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review of UN operational activities (TCPR, para 34 ff.).**
- 2. The EU also agrees with the Secretary General that it will be essential to swiftly modernize and achieve full compatibility between UN organizations on processes for resource planning, human resources, common services and evaluation, as these are important drivers of coherence in the United Nations system.**
- 3. The EU considers the simplification and harmonization of operational rules and procedures as an imperative to enable UN coordination to pay off in terms of significantly lower transaction costs and substantial gains for the UN's partner countries. Harmonization and simplification of financial rules and regulations should contribute to enhanced transparency and clarity of budgetary processes. We also encourage the Secretary General to add procurement reform to the list of issues the Chiefs Executives Board (CEB) considers. Short term efforts may contribute to administrative savings in the longer run.**
- 4. We will therefore advocate for further harmonization of business practices, including rules and procedures, in the various governing boards and invite other member states to do alike.**
- 5. The EU recognizes the work conducted so far and we encourage the Secretary General and all Executive Heads to proceed swiftly within the already existing mandates and to endorse an Action Plan with defined targets and timelines on Harmonization and Reform of United Nations System Business Practices in CEB's fall session.**
- 6. The EU would be interested to be regularly updated by the Secretary General on progress made by the UN Development Group (UNDG) and the CEB with regard to simplification and harmonization, as requested in GA res. 59/250 on the TCPR (Para 37).**