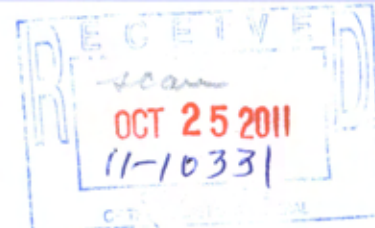


no 25/10/11

DSG/UN (f.i.)



Fw: CEB Fall 2011 - Documentation (#3)
Linda Taylor to: SGCentral

25/10/2011 11:32 AM

For logging please.

----- Forwarded by Linda Taylor/NY/UNO on 25/10/2011 11:31 AM -----

From: Frederique Morice-Walker/NY/UNO
To:
Date: 25/10/2011 11:31 AM
Subject: CEB Fall 2011 - Documentation (#3)

MESSAGE FROM MR. THOMAS STELZER, SECRETARY OF CEB

25 October 2011

Dear CEB Members,

Kindly find attached, for your attention, the Independent Study on the Regional Dimension of Development and the UN System (Formal session- Other matters).

The draft CEB common statement (Preamble) on Rio +20 (Retreat session) will be forwarded to you very shortly.

Best regards.

Thomas Stelzer

cc.: Sherpas

Sent by: Frederique Morice-Walker
Meeting Services Assistant
CEB Secretariat (New York)
United Nations
Tel.: +1-212-963-1047 - Fax.: +1-212-963-4190



11-10331/002

11-10331

E-mail: morice-walker@un.org



[Report-Regional Dimension Study-Report.pdf](#)



[Report-Regional Dimension Study-Cover Letter.pdf](#)

الأمم المتحدة
اللجنة الاقتصادية والاجتماعية لغربي آسيا

UNITED NATIONS
Economic and Social Commission
for Western Asia



NATIONS UNIES
Commission économique et sociale
pour l'Asie occidentale

FAX: (961-1) 981510 - TEL: (961-1) 981301, 981311, 981401
P. O. BOX 11-8575 - BEIRUT, LEBANON

24 October 2011

Dear Colleague,

I am pleased to present you the study on "The Regional Dimension of Development and the UN System" sponsored by the UN regional Commissions. The study will be considered as part of the agenda of the upcoming CEB Fall Session (NY, 28-29 October 2011).

You may recall during the last CEB meeting in Nairobi (1-2 April 2011), the Board was informed about the intention by the Regional Commissions to introduce to the CEB fall session the outcome of this independent-led study. The discussion that preceded in the HLCP spring session (NY, 3-4 March 2011) emphasized the importance for the UN system to reflect on its repositioning and its interaction with the new regional dynamics, bearing in mind the growing regionalism and role of regional institutions, including the Regional Commissions, as critical building blocks in enhanced global governance arrangements and global-regional nexus, as well as in making critical links to the country level (Report of the 21st Session of HLCP, CEB/2011/4). In its latest fall session (NY, 15-16 September), the HLCP was briefed on key findings of the study through a progress report submitted to the twenty-second session (CEB/2011/HLCP-XXII/INF-2). The Committee agreed to enlist the study on the agenda of the upcoming CEB fall session.

In her letter to you dated 6 May 2011, my colleague Ms Alicia Barcena, in her capacity as Coordinator of the Regional Commissions, had conveyed to you the terms of reference and a questionnaire for the study. On behalf of the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions, I would like to express our deep thanks and appreciation for the inputs provided to the study by members of CEB. The challenge has been to grasp all the rich material and synthesize it into a brief report as set out in the Terms of Reference for the study. It has in particular been a challenge to capture key issues without being too region specific, and to represent the wealth of material sent by more than twenty organizations in response to the questionnaire. This material of over 200 pages is in itself a rich source of information to use in the follow up to the study in the further work of the Regional Commissions and the full UN/CEB system. Therefore, we will proceed to share all inputs received with CEB members through a dedicated webpage, unless we hear any views to the contrary.

/...

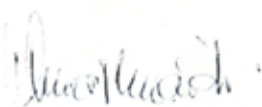
To: Executive Heads of the UN system organizations

The study underlines how regionalism can be further harnessed in addressing issues ranging from trade, macroeconomic cooperation, employment and food security to climate change, the spread of disease and the growing connectivity made possible by dramatic advances in information and communications technology. This elaborate and in-depth substantive work will have to be developed at the regional level where the UN system organizations working together in each region need to coordinate their interventions within an overarching collective strategy of engagement with the partner organizations and stakeholders, bearing in mind regional priorities and specificity. This is more urgent in view of the significant degree of engagement of UN organizations at the regional level indicated by the study, including through more than 150 different MOUs, agreements and other structures of collaboration with more than 30 different organizations in all regions. In capturing such rich fabric of collaboration, the study could only be illustrative and not complete. The recommendations, therefore, are focused on highlighting key elements of processes and organizational frameworks that need to be put in place to facilitate such substantive engagement in the regions.

Clearly the study has only been able to scratch the surface and reveal the vast potential for further work to develop the regional dimension of development. It is however abundantly clear that a new regional development architecture is evolving rapidly that needs to be understood, supported and partnered with to promote sustainable economic, social, ecological and political development. This is of particular importance in this present era of globalization characterized by instability, unpredictability and volatility. Since more and more issues can not be dealt with effectively at the national level alone, the sub regional and regional levels are more and more seen as providing the technical and political arenas for the collaboration, analysis, advice and best practices to be developed. The trend is in all regions.

My colleagues the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions and I are grateful to the United Nations Secretary-General for his foreword to the study. In his foreword, the Secretary-General welcomes the report and its concrete recommendations on how the United Nations system in general and its Regional Commissions in particular can engage more deeply and effectively with regional and sub-regional organizations. I hope you will find these recommendations useful and that you would be able to endorse them during the upcoming CEB session. Clearly, the introduction of this study to the CEB and the desired endorsement of its recommendations is only a beginning of a process at the global and regional levels that would hopefully allow the CEB in future sessions and each Regional Coordination Mechanism to dedicate a more in-depth discussion on the growing regionalism and the respective repositioning of the UN system. My colleagues and I are committed to leveraging the assets and capacity of the Regional Commissions in collaboration with UN system organizations to support this growing regionalism and infuse it with universal norms and values. I trust we can count on your support in this endeavour.

Sincerely,



Rima Khalaf
Executive Secretary