



The Director-General

UNC-DG/08/1266

Rome, 19.IX.2008

Dear Secretary-General,

I have the pleasure to refer to your letter, dated 25 August 2008, concerning the review of the functions, structure and budget of the Chief Executives Board (CEB) Secretariat.

FAO welcomes the strengthening of the support functions of the CEB Secretariat, particularly in light of the critical role that it plays in supporting key new developments and initiatives in the United Nations system, including the integration of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) into the CEB framework and the Plan of Action for the Harmonization of United Nations System Business Practices.

The proposed changes emanating from the review and outlined in your proposal "Review of the UN system Chief Executives Board: Functions, Structure and Budget of the Integrated CEB Secretariat" will need to respond to the challenging new functions of the CEB and its support structure. In our view, this proposal should be discussed at the inter-agency level. FAO proposes that the review be added as an agenda item at the next session of the High-Level Committee on Programmes, prior to seeking final endorsement in the subsequent CEB meeting. The budgetary aspects of the proposal could also be discussed in parallel at the next session of the High-Level Committee on Management. Consultations at the inter-agency level will enable further discussion on issues including the appropriate structure and budget of the New York and Geneva offices, and how to support the current merger of UNDG as the third pillar of the CEB.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal and to assure you of FAO's continued full support to the work of the CEB.

Yours sincerely,

Jacques Diouf

Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York