Day One: Friday, 23 January

Item 1: HIV/AIDS: Regional Initiatives 10:30 to 13:15 hrs
Chair: President of the UNICEF Executive Board

Introduction by: Ms. Thoraya Obaid, Executive Director, UNFPA

In response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic in eastern and southern Africa, the UNAIDS Executive Director, United Nations Regional Directors and heads of delegations attending the African Union meeting held in July 2003, in Maputo, signed a declaration entitled, “Accelerating Country and Regional Action on HIV/AIDS in Eastern and Southern Africa”.

The Joint Meeting will hear a general introduction on regional initiatives, followed by a presentation on the case study of eastern and southern Africa, based on the United Nations mission report prepared by Messrs. James Morris and Stephen Lewis, and in the context of the above-mentioned declaration. This presentation will include information on the status of implementation and implications for the different United Nations organizations. While acknowledging that it is too early to see tangible results related to these initiatives, the presentations will aim at informing Board members on United Nations plans to support efforts made by governments in the fight against HIV/AIDS and, more particularly, on the framework of action required to implement this endeavour.
Item 2:  Simplification and Harmonization  15:00 to 18:00 hrs  
Chair: President of the WFP Executive Board  

Introduction by: Ms Sheila Sisulu, Deputy Executive Director, WFP  

The Joint meeting will assess progress made on the issue of  
Simplification and Harmonization (S&H) since June 2002 and review  
lessons learned from using the approved tools, as well as the status of  
the new tools including joint programming. The meeting will also  
define the next steps to be included in the S&H workplan, based on the  
documentation provided by the Secretariat and on the Issues and  
Options paper from the President of the WFP Executive Board.

Day Two: Monday, 26 January  

Item 3:  Resident Coordinator System  10:00 to 13:00 hrs  
Chair: President of the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board  

Introduction by: Mr. Mark Malloch Brown, Administrator, UNDP  

The Resident Coordinator System: The Joint Meeting will review the  
function of the Resident Coordinator and how the role is evolving.  
Among the areas of change to be considered in the meeting are the  
improvement of United Nations in-country coherence, including: the  
design and implementation of the UNDAF and its link to the PRSP  
process and the MDGs; improved relations between the United Nations  
and the World Bank through more effective coordination, as part of  
RC/United Nations participation and coordination with the donor  
community; and reduction in transaction costs for government and  
other development organizations in engaging with the United Nations  
in country.

Resident Coordinator competency assessment: The Joint Meeting will  
also review the Resident Coordinator Assessment Centre and in  
particular its response to changes introduced in the implementation of  
the revised system since September 2001. It will also focus on the issue  
of United Nations organizations that have staff filling Resident  
Coordinator and Resident Humanitarian Coordinator posts.
Item 4: Security 15:00 to 16:30 hrs
Chair: President of the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board

Introduction by: Ms. Carol Bellamy, Executive Director, UNICEF

The Joint Meeting will receive a briefing on issues related to staff security and recent developments in the UN security management system. Topics to be covered will include the current situation, managing and addressing an intensified level of "traditional" risks, responding to the new threats of terrorism, implementation of recent General Assembly resolutions on the issue, and specific actions taken by the four UNDG Executive Committee members.

The briefing will cover the situation at headquarters and field levels, including the issue of Minimum Operating Security Standards (MOSS), the roles and accountabilities of key positions in the security network, the assessment of risks, and the implications of more stringent security measures on programme design and implementation, as well as the role and responsibilities of governments.