



2007-2008 Annual Ministerial Review of the Economic and Social Council

## Annual Ministerial Review

Statement by Ambassador Vilma McNish  
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*Strengthening efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger,  
including through the global partnership for development  
(Item 2b)*

Geneva, 4 July 2007

Mr. President,

Jamaica aligns itself with the statement by Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77.

Mr. President,

implementing the internationally agreed development goals, including the  
Millennium Development Goals.

decade. Notwithstanding the positive growth, the global poverty index remains  
stubbornly high. The report of the Secretary General confirms that over the

has been global progress in the various dimensions of poverty, the rate of

improvement is insufficient to achieve the MDGs. It is estimated that 800 million

people survive on less than \$1 per day. Unless by 2015 the

current trends continue, some 600 million people will still be living in extreme poverty.

The fact is that even as there has been strong growth performance in the world economy, this has been uneven and many developing countries have not been able to reap the benefits of globalization and trade liberalization.

The regional forum for Latin America and the Caribbean which was held in May in Brazil in preparation for the Ministerial Review highlighted the fact that on

average the region is on the right track to meet the MDG1 target with increased

public expenditure on health and education. There are, however, regional and

The overall achievement in poverty reduction is also distorted by

income inequalities.

Policy that

efforts.

Mr. President,

The Government of Jamaica is committed to providing the necessary resources for the implementation of programmes to combat poverty and enable the empowerment of vulnerable groups in pursuit of MDG1. The main target groups of such programmes are children, youth, women, persons with disability and the

on the intergenerational transmission of poverty and how human capacities can be improved to break the cycle of poverty.

In 2005, poverty was reduced by 2.1 per cent, bringing the poverty level to 14.8 per cent. Since 1995, the overall poverty level has declined by 12.7 per cent. This reduction reflects the impact of several factors, including positive trends in

levels. Social assistance programmes, in particular cash transfers and income

Remittances have also been a significant factor in poverty reduction.

An important aspect of our poverty reduction policy is to view the poor not only as

the target market of consumers but as creators of wealth, innovators and

mobility for the poor and a contributor to economic growth. In the context, a key

mechanism to support the poor is in the form of micro-financial services

business loans. Offering credit and allowing the poor to build credit builds trust.

life for all in a sustainable way.

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a result of the challenges and constraints to poverty reduction.

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by the international community to our special concerns. It also impedes access to aid and development financing. It is important to stress, however, that middle

income countries do face significant challenges to their efforts to

sustaining financial capacity that will enable them to foster economic growth and

the 2005 World Summit specifically acknowledged that support should be extended to this category of countries. As has been repeated

Countries in Madrid earlier this year quite rightly pointed out that support to these MICs was important because their development could have a positive

This situation is compounded by the erosion of preferential market access to the European Union under new WTO rules. These preferences hitherto guaranteed markets for countries of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group for

the vulnerability of small island states such as Jamaica is also a target

Added to this is of course our susceptibility to natural disasters, hurricanes, which can wreak havoc on entire economies of Caribbean states. Climate change therefore is a critical issue for small island developing states

integral element in poverty reduction strategies outlined by UNCTAD

Other challenges such as HIV/AIDS, the energy crisis, and the brain drain, all

target of national policy by the Jamaica

Mr. President

there is consensus that all countries have the prim

reduction. Such strategies must be anchored by sound macroeconomic policies, good governance and the rule of law. By the same token, the full implementation of the global partnership for development is crucial, in fact indispensable, to achieve the goals of the development agenda. This partnership involves commitments not only to mobilize domestic resources, but also increased financial and technical cooperation for development, sustainable debt financing and external debt relief. It also involves greater coherence and cooperation among multilateral financial, trade and development institutions as a means of promoting real dialogue.

While this is acknowledged, that there has been some improvement in the commitment of resources for official development assistance and debt relief, the lack of sufficient resources to implement the development goals remains a matter of concern. This is evident in the area of trade, with the stalled Doha Round negotiations, and the participation of developing countries in global economic governance. Developed countries have not lived up. There is an obvious need for concrete initiatives to advance the development agenda. The Annual Review meeting along with the Development Cooperation Forum which will be launched later this week, could perhaps be the vehicle through which there could be movement on elaborating the necessary framework for action in order to create a more equitable, balanced financial, economic and social global order.

Mr. President,

The eradication of poverty and hunger is core and priority at the forefront of the international agenda. Significant progress has been made but much more needs to be done if we are to advance meaningfully and implement the development agenda established by the MDGs in a timely and effective manner. The challenge is for all of us to live up to our respective commitments in the true spirit of global partnership.

Thank you