

Statement by the Republic of Korea at the High-level Segment of the Economic and Social Council Substantive Session of 2007

Mr. President,

1. I would like to begin by offering my appreciation for your efforts in helping

US hold the first Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) and launch the

Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) at this substantive session of the

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). I am confident that these new

initiatives will serve as important mechanisms to address the interests of

developing countries by promoting the internationally agreed development goals, including the

MDGs, and to provide comprehensive guidance in achieving those goals in

the most efficient manner.

2. My delegation believes that, at this mid-point in the implementation of the

MDGs, it is appropriate and timely that ECOSOC has chosen MDG Target 1,

the eradication of poverty and hunger, as the first theme of the AMR. We

hope the discussion in this AMR will successfully guide us to accomplish the

Mr. President,

increased in most developing countries since 2001, averaging over 6

percent in 2004-2006. However, economic growth does not necessarily

translate into higher living standards for all. Appropriate pro-

gressive and targeted measures are needed. Based on our own

development experience, my delegation believes that certain key areas

4. First, the urgent priority is rural development. As three-quarters of the

be central to any strategy aimed at drastically reducing poverty levels. In

the course of our national development drive in the 1970s, rural

development was an essential element. We first focused on strengthening

rural infrastructure. New technologies were introduced to increase

agricultural production. Investment in human resource development was

given priority. As the result, we could achieve substantial improvement in

living conditions. Subsequent programmes in agricultural productivity,

education and development of human resources helped to produce work

force for non-agricultural sectors.

5. Second, we should harness science and technology. As the Secretary

General's report indicates, there will be more than 3 billion mobile phones

by 2010. This is a significant milestone in the history of mobile phones.

Access to the Internet has rapidly increased all over the world, including in

developing countries. It would be unimaginable to achieve our

development goals without making full use of information and

communication technologies.

Needs to be made to integrate ICTs into poverty reduction strategies.

6. Third, promoting gender equality is central to the development process.

Gender equality is not only a goal in itself, but also a means to achieve

participation and input are instrumental in the achievement of development

goals. It is essential to reach women and children, who are the most

progress in many areas, the feminization of poverty still persists. Education

and training for women and girls are essential to ensure that poverty is not

inherited. In this respect, my delegation firmly believes that more vigorous

effort should be made to guarantee equal access to education and training at all levels for women and girls.

Mr. President,

7. Development goals cannot be fully accomplished in the absence of sufficient and reliable financial resources. In this respect, the 2002 Monterrey Consensus and subsequent discussions on innovative financial resources for development provide comprehensive directions. My delegation hopes that the review conference on development financing, which is to take place next year, will provide further momentum for reinforcing the efforts of the international community to achieve the financial commitment targets.

8. On our part, the Republic of Korea has made significant efforts in recent years to scale up its development cooperation. The Korean government is of the view that in addition to traditional ODA, innovative financing for relieving the imbalances. In this context, we have successfully enacted this year an emergency credit solidarity law to expand the financial basis for development. The emerging array of public-private partnerships in the form of infrastructure funds warrants special attention as an additional source of financing. In the Asia-Pacific region, Korea is leading the discussion on public-private partnerships on infrastructure development and infrastructure financing. The Korean government will join the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Development in Seoul from October 21 of this year. We trust that this will offer an

needs of developing countries.

In closing, Mr. President

9. I would like to stress that this year marks a milestone for ECOSOC since this session is taking place in the context of the strengthened ECOSOC framework. In this regard, my delegation would like to once again express

is more than just this year's discussion, especially in the area of the LDC, will

lead to a productive and policy-oriented outcome. Such a result will be crucial in setting the future tone of this important machinery and refining the

of ECOSOC in relation to the UN activities in the economic and social field.

Thank you.