

NOTES FOR THE PRESIDENT  
(H.E. Mr. Munir Akram (Pakistan))

Special Event on the theme of "*Avian Flu*"

Opening Statement

Mr. President,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates and guests,

I wish to welcome you to the Special Event of the Economic and Social Council on the theme "Avian and Human Influenza". This special event is part of a series of

challenges faced by the international community. We launched the series with a very

problems, and not only in terms of health but also in financial, trade and even security areas. As was the case with SARS, the fear of the spread of Avian flu might lead many countries and corporations to take measures which could be costly both for the country and the global economy as a whole. However, the costs of prevention will

also be quite significant. Control measures, like culling of poultry in quarantine areas, will have a severe impact on the livelihood of poultry farmers, particularly in developing countries. As usual in such situations, the poor would be particularly hard hit, as poultry is a major source of affordable protein and income and, moreover, poor farmers also live in close proximity to animals, which facilitates a more readily spread of the virus from

animals to humans

As with SARS, HIV/AIDS and other new and re-emerging diseases tell

us again and again, that strong and coherent global collaboration and sustainable

...We hope that quick and coordinated action of these two

its geographical reach, impact and human and economic costs.

13. IVD/AES and SARS is therefore call for collective action - a call for more

support for investment and research in vaccines and for actions that would ensure that the entire world shares in burden and costs - but also the fruits - of prevention and care. To this end, donors and the international financial institutions may consider setting up a fund to help countries put in place preparedness and response plans, and to compensate

farmers and producers for losses incurred in culling their poultry.

The Avian flu problem is also one that calls for strengthening of our collaboration - at all levels, and among all relevant partners. Recent experience showed once again that

... it is often the military and police who are the first

I first have the pleasure to give the floor to His Excellency, Mr. Jan Eliasson, President of the Sixtieth Session of the General Assembly to make a statement.

You have the floor Excellency.

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I thank Mr. Eliasson for his statement.

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I now have the pleasure to give the floor to Ms. Lavinia Fresco, Assistant Director

General for Agriculture at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) make a statement.

You have the floor Madam.

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I thank Ms. Fresco for her statement.

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I now give the floor to Dr. David Nabarro, Senior United Nations System  
Coordinator for Avian and Human Influenza to make a statement. He is responsible for

1. Malaysia
2. Canada
3. China
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

We have thus concluded with our discussion today on such an important topic and I would like to extend my most hearty and warm welcome to all of you and our distinguished guests for having kindly joined us and sharing your views and inputs for this special event.

The meeting is adjourned.