

**PREPARATORY MEETING FOR 2005 ECOSOC
HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT
17 March 2005**

“Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities”

**ROUNDTABLE 4: GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING
DEVELOPMENT**

Chair: H.E. Mr. Munir Akram, President of ECOSOC

Lead organizer: UNCTAD¹

Moderator: Mr. Carlos Fortin, Officer-in-Charge of UNCTAD

Issues and questions to be addressed by the Round Table

1. Policy space for economic development and sustained economic growth

(i) Trade as an engine of growth and a source of financing development

How can international trade help bridge the financing gap of implementing MDGs?

What are the prerequisites for the realization of development gains from international trade (in terms of policies, enabling environment, assistance to developing countries on WTO issues, involvement of the private sector as well as supply of “public goods”)?

What other complementary policies are needed to ensure, from a development perspective, fuller exploitation of the potential benefits of multilateral trade liberalization?

How can global governance be enhanced, including with respect to transparency in the financial, monetary and trading systems, and full and effective participation of developing countries in global decision-making?

How to generate resources for commodity dependent countries to focus on institution building, developing key infrastructure and upgrading private sector capacity to increase the efficiency/diversification of commodities production.?

How to enhance the capacity of developing countries to attract credit at affordable costs and how to leverage private financing for the commodity sector?

How to ensure steady export revenue flows? How to systematically link debt servicing and debt relief schemes of commodity-dependent developing countries to movements in prices of commodity exports and imports?

How can the benefits of international trade alleviate poverty and hunger?

¹ Contributors include UNIDO, World Bank, FAO, UNFIP, UNFPA, DESA, UNDP, UNITAR, UNESCO and OSAA

(ii) Investment and technology as key elements to increase developing countries' supply capacity to trade and to compete effectively in global markets

What is the role of FDI in national development goals and how can it be realized (enabling environment, role of medium-scale private sector)? How can developing countries attract more development-friendly FDI?

What mechanism can be used for mitigating investment-related risks, in particular in the LDCs?

What policies can be used to increase synergies and complementarity among ODA, FDI and domestic investment in particular in poverty reduction?

What home country measures can be used to link poverty reduction with FDI promotion strategy?

How can the TNCs play a pro-active role in supporting the implementation of the MDGs and how can the economic and social corporate responsibility contribute to this objective?

How can investment in poverty reduction strategies, and in particular nutrition and health, contribute to the MDGs?

What policies and activities can help promote FDI in developing countries, and particularly in LDCs, that is more prone to transfer/diffuse technological know-how and skills?

Countries that have succeeded in developing competitive science, technology and innovation (STI) capacity used policies that are now forbidden by TRIMs, TRIPs. What can be done to help developing countries find new policies to develop their STI capacity in the light of evolving international legal environment?

It has been proposed that infrastructure development in developing countries could be used as a learning process to develop technological skills. Public-private partnerships (including FDI) are increasingly being used to develop infrastructure services in developing countries. How can these ideas be implemented widely?

What actions are needed to use ICTs for enhancing export competitiveness of SMEs?

(iii) ODA, external debt and development

In many countries, the share of ODA targeted at productive sector development has declined significantly, while ODA targeted at the social sector has increased. Does the changing composition of aid have implications for the ability of countries to promote high and sustained rates of economic growth and make sustainable progress towards development goals?

Does the changing composition of aid decrease a country's chances to promote economic growth and gradually begin to finance development goals out of its own resources?

How do the various initiatives respond to debt sustainability? In this context, the G7 proposal for a 100 percent cancellation of the debts of the poorest countries needs examination and monitoring of the implementation of this proposal needs to be established.

How to address the disputes arising from the defaults on private sector loans? Although there are a number of ideas on how this issue could be tackled, a consensus on the best way to move forward has not yet emerged.

How can the participation of all relevant constituencies in the design and implementation of national development plans, through CCAs, UNDAFs, PRSs, be enhanced?

How can longer term financing for national development projects be promoted?

It is often asserted that private sector development is the backbone of economic development.

How to enhance enterprise and private sector development? lopment