News from COOSOC

Newsletter on the work of the United Nations Economic and Social Council

ECOSOC -- The 54-member Economic and Social Council serves as the central forum for discussing international economic and social issues, and for formulating policy recommendations addressed to Member States and to the United Nations. It prepares or initiates studies and reports, makes recommendations on international economic, social, cultural, educational, health and related matters, and promotes respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms. Subsidiary bodies, commissions and committees of ECOSOC carry out its year-round work. ECOSOC strengthens cooperation within the UN system, coordinates the work of the specialized agencies and consults with non-governmental organizations. A substantive session of the 2005 High-level Segment

- £ ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti mission
- £ ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea Bissau
- f. International Conference on Gender Mainstreaming and the MDGs
- £ UN ITC Task Force Accra, Ghana, January 28-29, 2005
- E Pre-Conference on Internet Governance to the WSIS Africa Regional Preparatory Conference
- £ United Nations Evaluation Group: Annual Meeting 2005
- World Summit on Information Societythe second meeting of the Preparatory Committee
- £ Harnessing the Potential of ICTs for Education, Dublin, Ireland

President and Bureau members of ECOSOC:

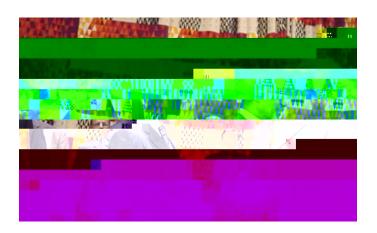
President of ECOSOC: H. E. Ambassador Munir Akram (Pakistan)

Vice-President of ECOSOC: H. E. Ambassador Ali Hachani (Tunisia)

Vice-President of ECOSOC: H. E. Ambassador Agim Nesho (Albania)

Vice-President of ECOSOC: H. E. Ambassador Luis Gallegos Chiriboga (Ecuador)

Vice-President of ECOSOC: H. E Ambassador Johan C. Verbeke (Belgium)



Special high-level meeting of the ECOSOC with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization, and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) hosted a day-long special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions (BWI), the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade an

international macroeconomic environment, where the imbalances, concerns and threats mentioned during the dialogue would be addressed, so as to enable the development agenda to move forward.

For more information on the meetings: http://www.un.org/docs/ecosoc/meetings/bwi200
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ECOSOC Preparatory process of the 2005 High-level Segment

In preparation for its 2005 high-level segment on the theme of "Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Dedaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits progress made, challenges and opportunities", the Economic and Social Council will held a two-day informal meeting on 16-17 March 2005.

The opening session featured statements by H.E Mr. Munir Akram (Pakistan), President of the Economic and Social Council; On behalf of H.E Mr. Jean Ping, President of the General Assembly; and Mr. José Antonio Ocampo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, a keynote speech by Mr. Jeffrey Sachs, Special Advisor to United Nations Secretary General on the Millennium Development Goals, and remarks by Mr. François Bourguignon, Chief Economist and Senior Vice-President, Development Economics, World Bank.

The round tables of this meeting organized by agencies, funds and programmes, were on the following topics eradication of poverty and hunger; education and literacy; health and mortality; global partnerships and financing development; gender equality and the empowerment of women; environmental sustainability; and implementation of the internationally agreed development goals,

including those contained in the Millennium Dedaration, at the country-level.

For more information on the outcomes of the roundtable discussions:

www.un.org/ docs/ ecosod/ meetings/ 1617March2005.html.

ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti mission

From 12-16 April 2005, members of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group traveled to the country to assess the situation on the ground as well as to formulate recommendations on: (i) longer-term approaches to reconstruction; (ii) moving beyond the Interim Cooperation Framework (ICF); and (iii) the transition from peacemaking to peacebuilding. It also coincided with a mission of the Security Council.

MINUSTAH staff and the whole United Nations country team.

The Economic and Social Council decided to reactivate the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti in July 2004. The Council underscored the need for a long-term development strategy to promote socio-economic recovery and stability, and ensure coherence and sustainability of international support for Haiti.

For more information: http://www.un.org/docs/ecosoc/adhoc/haiti.html

ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea Bissau

In line with its advocacy work, the ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory on Guinea Bissau participated in a meeting of Guinea Bissau's Partners to prepare for the Roundtable, Lisbon, 10-11 February. Similar meetings has been postponed several times in the past.

At the meeting, the ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau strongly supported efforts being undertaken to address three critical short-term needs emergency budgetary support, additional support for control of the locust plague and security sector reform. The group encouraged donors to support these short-term needs by financial contributions.

The Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau also underscored the importance of a greater coordination of priorities, programmes and related financial and technical support for Guinea-Bissau coming from the UN system and from bilateral and other multilateral partners for the reconstruction and development of Guinea-Bissau. Furthermore, the importance of a common framework of the

challenges of peacebuilding should guide both internal and external actors.

The Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau was created in 2002 with the objective of examining humanitarian and economic needs, prepare recommendations for a long-term programme of support and provide advice on how to ensure assistance of the international community was adequate coherent and well coordinated.

For more information: http://www.un.org/docs/ecosoc/adhoc/africa/

International Conference on Gender Mainstreaming and the MDGs 28-30 March 2005, Islamabad, Pakistan

The International Conference on Gender Mainstreaming and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) was held in Islamabad, Pakistan from 28-30 March and was grouD0.0004 Tlaborxami850

Dedaration. Proposals were also made to be included into the "Islamabad Plan of Action: For Achieving Gender Equality, the Millennium Dedaration and the Millennium Development Goals, Five-Year Plan (2005-2010)" which was adopted by all participants and will be submitted to the 2005 High-Level Segment of ECOSOC in the form of an NGO statement from APWA.

The International Conference addressed the major challenges and opportunities faced by decision makers in the area of gender mainstreaming and the MDGs. During its plenary sessions and five concurrent workshops on gender equality and women's empowerment, human rights and peace, alleviation, health, and education poverty respectively. Through interactive and rich discussions, leading experts presented papers that evaluated key issues while all participants shared their knowledge, expertise and experience on gender mainstreaming strategies and innovative initiatives that would help meet the challenges of the third millennium. The Conference emphasized the importance of strengthening gender mainstreaming policies and urged all key stakeholders to eliminate the gap between policy and practice.

The conference noted that the International Community has reached a critical juncture in the path towards the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and the realization of the MDGs. A gender-based approach to development is essential and full realization of the promises and policies of our Governments through good governance, human rights and partnership development at all levels is necessary. The passionate spirit, fruitful deliberations and comprehensive outcome of the International Conference on Gender Mainstreaming and the MDGs were testaments to the international solidarity of not only the world's women but of the global community as we strive to achieve our dream of gender equality and sustainable development for all.

UN ITC Task Force Accra, Ghana, January 28-29, 2005

The United Nations ICT Task force in partnership with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) organized a conference on Internet Governance in Accra 28-29 January. The conference was attended by representatives from governments, private sectors, civil society organizations and academia as well as IT engineers and ICT experts, who exchanged their views on the technical, ethical, societal and legal dimensions of the global Internet Governance from an African perspective. Of particular focus was WSIS phase II scheduled to take place in Tunis 16-18, November 2005 as well as domain name management and technical issues, opportunities and challenges of the current IPR regime, inputs and recommendations to the Working Group on Internet Governance, the role of stakeholders in national and global ICT policy

concerning the creation and maintenance of an international database on ICT indicators. The outcome of the meeting provided concrete suggestions on how to measure information society developments, as an input to the second phase of WSIS and its follow-up.

For more information: measuring-id.undad.org

United Nations Evaluation Group: Annual Meeting 2005

The 2005 Annual Meeting of the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) took place on 26-29 April, hosted by FAO. It was the longest meeting programme adopted at this meeting seizes this opportunity to enhance UN system's development cooperation through increased collaboration in evaluation initiatives in view of the 2007 TCPR

World Summit on Information Society - the second meeting of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom – 2 of the Tunis phase)

The second Preparatory Committee Meeting (PrepCom-2) of the Tunis Phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) was held in Geneva, Switzerland, 17-25 February 2005. The meeting focused on preparations for the Summit that will take place in Tunis, Tunisia, 16-18 November 2005. It also evaluated progress made on the WSIS Plan of Action, which was agreed to by 175 countries in Geneva in December 2003. PrepCom-2 began considering the final outcome to be adopted by the Heads of State and Government at the Tunis Summit. The President of the WSIS Preparatory Committee submitted a document aimed at reaffirming political commitments made in the Geneva Phase and ensuring that the Tunis Phase is a 'Summit of Solutions' that will bring the benefits of the Information Society to all of humanity. PrepCom-2 is intended to achieve consensus on the structure and content of the final document(s), with the exception of matters relating to Internet governance, which will be dealt with at PrepCom-3.

For more information: www.itu.int/ wsis/ preparatory2/ pc2/ index.html

Harnessing the Potential of ICTs for Education, Dublin, Ireland, April 13-14, 2005

The United Nations ICT Task Force Global Forum on "Harnessing the Potential of ICTs for Education" was held in Dublin from 13-14 April and explored the intersection of ICT, education, development and the MDGs. The Global e-Schools and Communities Initiative (GeSCI), incubated through the combined efforts of two ICT Task Force working groups and now a f

The UN Millennium Summit, the G8 Digital Opportunity Task Force (DOT-Force), the United Nations ICT Task Force, the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), and others, have launched a process of bringing stakeholders from government, business and civil society together for global policy debate on the Millennium Development Goals and ICT policy and

Future events:

12 May: Alcohol Consumption, Awareness, Education, and Treatment: Contribution to World Health

12 May: Innovations in Developing Safe Water through the use of ICTs

12 May: New Digital Perspective in Fish Farming 6 June: Conference on Planning Sustainable Urban Growth and Sustainable Architecture

7 June: Intellectual Property and Development 7 June: the Critical role of nutrition for reach the Millennium Development Goals and success of the Millennium Development Project

22 June 2005: Tripartite conference on Inter-faith Cooperation for Peace

Publications currently for sale:

Publication on the high-level Segment theme of 2004: Resource Mobilization and the Creation of an Enabling Environment for Poverty Eradication in Least Developed Countries.

Publication on harmful products the consolidated list of Products Whose Consumption and/or Sales have been Banned, Withdrawn, Severely restricted or not approved by Government (ninth and tenth issues).

Substantive session:

29 June-1 July: High-level Segment
29 June: High-level policy dialogue
05-07 July: Coordination Segment

08-12 July: Operational Activities Segment 13-18 July: Humanitarian Affairs Segment

18-25 July: General Segment 26-27 July: Condusion of ECOSOC