

Volume 5— Number 1



# ECOSOC News

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

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

## H. E. Mr. Ali Hachani of Tunisia Elected President of ECOSOC for 2006

H. E. Mr. Ali Hachani (Tunisia), was elected President of ECOSOC for 2006 on 17 January 2006, replacing H.E. Mr. Munir Akram (Pakistan). In accepting the office, Mr. Hachani stressed that the United Nations continued to have the arduous task of fully promoting social progress and improving living standards, especially for the world's poorest countries. The 2005 World Summit Outcome -- which assigned new mandates and functions to ECOSOC to advance the development agenda and thus, lift millions of people from deprivation and destitution -- was a substantial breakthrough in development cooperation. The Summit mandated ECOSOC to promote the global policy dialogue, to undertake annually a Ministerial review of the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs, and constitute itself into a development cooperation forum, among others actions. In addition, Ambassador Hachani pointed out that the outcome of last November's World Summit on the Information Society assigned the Council the task of providing oversight to the implementation and follow up to the Summit decisions, particularly through a renewed Commission on Science and Technology for Development.

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In the same event, the President of the General Assembly, H. E. Mr. Jan Eliasson (Sweden), expressed hope that ECOSOC would become an organ of enhanced impact and said the General Assembly would work closely with Mr. Hachani and the Bureau to turn the agreements reached in 2005 into action. The Council's work had brought key decision makers together and helped focus the world's attention on serious matters. Last year had been the year of commitments, and 2006 would be the year of implementation, given that less than 10 years remain until 2015, and yet much of the world still lagged behind in meeting the millennium targets.

The Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Mr. José Antonio Ocampo stressed that ECOSOC's purpose was to help drive implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, and that 2006

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African Union as well as representatives of UN system entities and the Bretton Woods Institutions.

**The ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau** met on 22 March

## Preparatory Meeting for the High-level segment of the Economic and Social Council 4-5 April 2006

The theme for the 2006 High-level segment of the substantive session of ECOSOC is “Creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development”.

The choice of this theme is timely as there is now consensus that productive employment and decent work will have to be at the centre of economic and social policies designed to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, particularly the central Millennium Development Goal of halving extreme poverty by 2015. This view was endorsed by Heads of State and Government at the 2005 World Summit who declared: “*We strongly support a fair globalization and resolve to make the goals of full and productive employment and decent work for all, including for women and young people, a central objective of our national and international macro-economic policies as well as poverty reduction strategies. These measures should also encompass the elimination of child labour. We also resolve to protect the human rights of workers*”.

The resolve to make productive employment and decent work a global goal is not entirely new. At the Social Summit in Copenhagen, world leaders laid down the objective of promoting the goal of full employment as a basic priority of economic and social policies. But progress to promote full and productive employment has been disappointing.

Globalization has so far not led to the creation of sufficient and sustainable decent employment opportunities around the world. According to the ILO, half of the world's workers still do not earn enough to lift themselves and their families above the US\$2 a day poverty line. Moreover, global economic growth is increasingly failing to translate into new and better jobs that would lead to a reduction in poverty. There are over 88 million unemployed youth around the world, comprising nearly half of the world's total unemployment. This situation is economically and socially unsustainable. Urgent action has to be taken to find ways to implement the commitment of Heads of State

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*vi) The challenge of globalization—labour migration:* The note raises four issues: migration and development, protection of migrant workers, international cooperation, and the role of the international community.

It is hoped that these roundtables may assist ECOSOC in enhancing coherence of the organizations of the UN system in their efforts to support countries to give effect to their commitment to promote productive employment and decent work. It will also contribute to an initial com-

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Preparations are under way for the 2006 special high-level meeting of ECOSOC with the BWIs, WTO and UNCTAD, which will take place on Monday, 24 April 2006 in New York, the day following the spring meetings of the International Monetary and Financial Committee and the Development Committee in Washington. This year's meeting aims to contribute to a follow-up of the Monterrey Conference and the 2005 World Summit. A major feature of the meeting is to continue to strengthen the partnership that brings together the communities of finance, trade,

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civil society representatives from around the world will share ideas and make policy recommendations on various aspects of this year's theme.

In the second part of the NGO forum, to be held on 20-21 April 2006, the NGO Section of the Department for Economic and Social Affairs is co-sponsoring an Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) video-conference entitled "VI Info-Poverty World Conference" on 20-21 April 2006 at United Nations Headquarters (conference room 5), to discuss the outcome of the World Summit on Information Society. Several best practices in the area of ICTs for poverty alleviation

will be presented. The themes to be discussed include public-private partnership for global connectivity and e-services, software technology transfer at no or low cost, corporate social responsibility in the area of ICTs, indigenous people and ICTs, and the contribution of ICTs to reach the Millennium Development Goals. †

## **Development Forum on Productive Employment and Decent Work, organized by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs New York, 8-9 May 2006**

The 2005 World Summit helped crystallize the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), into a broad and compelling United Nations development agenda. Heads of State and Government have agreed that productive employment and decent work have to be at the centre of economic and social policies designed to achieve the central Millennium Development Goal of halving poverty by 2015. In this context, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) will dedicate its High-level segment of 2006 to the topic of "Creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development."

It is against this background that the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) is organizing a Seminar on Employment on 8-9 May 2006. This meeting, drawing

on the lessons learned, will help define policy directions towards optimizing the impact of full and productive employment on sustainable development.

The Seminar on Employment will feature presentations by a number of eminent specialists on a range of issues related to employment, including, among others, the nexus between growth, employment and poverty; macro-economic policies for productive employment; labour market flexibility and decent work; social protection options and rural employment. High-level policymakers, Ambassadors, representatives of agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, the World Bank, the IMF, intergovernmental organizations, civil society, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academia, media and others are expected to attend the meeting. †

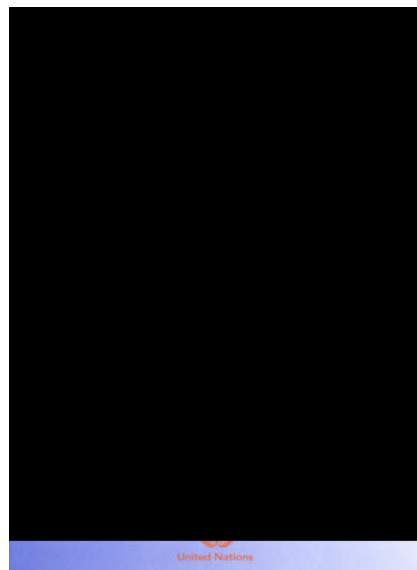
## **NEW DESA PUBLICATION**

### **“Funding for United Nations Development Cooperation: Challenges and Options”**

**Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination,  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs**

This book analyses the mobilization of resources to finance the operational activities of the United Nations system for development in the context of the current challenges that the international community and the developing countries face to achieve the objectives of the development agenda in the new millennium. The book explores the various options to enhance funding for the development cooperation activities of the organizations of the United Nations system. The analysis highlights the need for a strong commitment to mobilize and stabilize the flow of a “critical mass” of resources to enable the system effectively to play its supportive role at the country level, helping developing countries in translating internationally agreed global objectives into their own national development strategies.

This publication makes reference to the evolving architecture of international development cooperation, alternative forms of development cooperation and new patterns of Official Development Assistance (ODA) allocation. These important elements oriented the debate at the 2005 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on the funding for United Nations development cooperation and its role in the new international context, a debate that Member States should be encouraged to continue with renewed determination and commitment, in the follow-up to the September Summit on the implementation of the Millennium Declaration. †



**If you wish to purchase this book, please visit  
the internet page of the United Nations Sales  
Publication at <https://unp.un.org/>**

For more information on the Economic and Social Council, please visit:

<http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ecosoc/>

For further information on the work of the UN Secretariat in economic and social affairs, please visit DESA News online at:

<http://www.un.org/esa/desanews.htm>

**2006 ECOSOC Substantive Session in Geneva, Switzerland:**

- High-level segment: 3-5 July 2006
- Dialogue with the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions: 6 July 2006
- Coordination segment: 6-10 July 2006
- Operational activities segment: 11-13 July 2006
- Humanitarian affairs segment: 14-19 July 2006
- General segment: 19-27 July 2006
- Conclusion of the work of the Council: 27-28 July 2006

**For more information on the “Basic programme of work of the Council”, please download the document, E/2006/L1 on Official Document System of the United Nations (ODS) at <http://documents.un.org/>**