

ECOSOC News

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The Members of the Bureau of ECOSOC (2006)

President of ECOSOC:

H. E. Ambassador Ali Hachani (Tunisia)

Vice-Presidents of ECOSOC:

H. E. Ambassador Léo Mérorès (Haïti)

H. E. Ambassador Hjálmar W. Hannesson (Iceland)

ECOSOC 2006 Substantive Session

ECOSOC High-level Segment (3 - 5 July 2006) and Dialogue with the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions (6 July 2006) Geneva

The ECOSOC 2006 High-level Segment on the theme, “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” will be held from 3 July to 5 July 2006 at the United Nations Office at Geneva. This three-day meeting, drawing on the lessons learned, will help define policy directions towards optimizing the impact of full and productive employment on sustainable development. A Ministerial Declaration will be adopted by ECOSOC members at the closing of the event on 5 July 2006.

The High-level Segment is designed to take the form of a series of roundtable dialogues clustered around the themes of employment and decent work and is being organized in close collaboration among organizations of the UN system. The opening plenary session on “Working out of Poverty

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The roundtables will be devoted to the following subjects:

- 1. Creating decent work opportunities with productivity growth;**
- 2. Meeting the challenge of employment creation in Africa and the Least Developed Countries (LDCs);**
- 3. Globalization and labour migration;**
- 4. Innovation at work: national strategies to**

achieve gender equality in employment.

In addition, in the morning of 6 July 2006, the Economic and Social Council is organizing a Dialogue with the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions on the theme, “The regional dimension of creating an environment conducive to generating full and productive employment, and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development”.

ECOSOC Coordination Segment 6 - 10 July 2006 Geneva

The 2006 coordination segment will be held from **6 July to 10 July 2006** at the United Nations Palais des Nations in Geneva. The Council will begin its deliberations in the afternoon of 6 July with an opening statement by the Vice-President (Iceland), followed by the introduction of the Secretary-General’s report on the theme of the segment (“Sustained economic growth for social development, including poverty eradication and hunger”) by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs. The inter-governmental debate on this theme will then begin.

On 7 July, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. a panel discussion is scheduled on “Policy approaches to achieve economic growth, poverty reduction and development: lessons learned, challenges and opportunities”. The panel is intended to contribute to the inter-governmental debate on the theme of the segment. It will highlight successes and limitations of existing approaches to sustained economic growth and social development on the basis of experience and economic analysis and suggest alternative ways and solutions to ensure a more positive outcome for poverty eradication and development.

On 7 July, from 3 to 6 p.m. there will be a dialogue of the Chairpersons of the Functional Commissions and other subsidiary bodies of ECOSOC. The discussion will review the contribution of these inter-governmental bodies to the

implementation of the United Nations development agenda and on how they can better contribute to the work of ECOSOC in the context of the reform decided by the World Summit of 2006.

On 10 July, from 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m., there will be a follow-up meeting to the 2005 ECOSOC Bureau initiative to hold a Special Event on Avian Flu. The Special Event and this year follow-up meeting are both intended as part of the Council’s renewed effort to be more proactive in forging more coherent responses to emergencies and crises that require a comprehensive, coherent and timely response at the international level, particularly in the case of emergencies of economic and social nature. The follow-up meeting, in particular, is intended to provide a clearer picture of the current situation in terms of the spread of the disease and its economic and social impact; a better understanding of the gaps in the international response; the promotion of coherence and coordination among the UN system organizations in activities in support of Member States; and a clear vision of the nature of cooperation between the UN system and other stakeholders in the international community.

On 10 July, from 12:30 to 1 p.m. the Council will adopt the outcome of the segment.

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The 2006 operational activities segment will be held from **11 July to 13 July 2006**. This substantive session of ECOSOC coincides with the mid-cycle review of implementation of the General Assembly resolution 59/250 on the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review (TCPR) of operational activities of the United Nations system. The Council will begin its deliberations in the morning of **11 July** with an opening statement by the Vice-President (Haiti), followed by the interactive panel on the review of trends and perspectives in funding for development cooperation.

On 11 July 2006 (10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.), there will be an Interactive panel on the “Comprehensive review of trends and perspectives in funding for development cooperation.” This panel will take place in the morning (10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.), followed by an informal debate and general discussion in the afternoon (3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.). A number of senior government officials and senior officials of United Nations funds, programmes, agencies and other key development actors will debate these issues in an open discussion forum.

On 12 July (10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.), there will be the “Dialogue with the Executive Heads of the United Nations Funds and Programmes (UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP).” This dialogue will be an opportunity to address issues that affect coherence and coordination of the United Nations system at the country level including: (a) progress on strengthening the Resident Coordinator (RC) system (with emphasis on the role of the Regional Directors’ Team and RC/UN Country Team (UNCT) performance appraisal review); (b) streamlined country presence (with emphasis on the Joint Office initiative); (c) coordination during transition from emergencies to recovery and development; and (d) simplified country programming to support achievement of the MDGs.

In the afternoon of **12 July (3:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.)**, there will be a UN Country Team panel on “the role of United Nations

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On **13 July**, the Council will adopt the outcome of the operational activities segment.

The ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment 2006 will be held from **14 July to 19 July 2006** in Geneva. H.E. Mr. Prasad Kariyawasam, Permanent Representative of the Government of Sri Lanka to the United Nations has

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international and national organizations working to provide assistance to GBV survivors.

- **3 p.m. to 6 p.m.:** Member States will have the opportunity to make general statements during this session.

Tuesday, 18 July 2006

- **10 a.m. to 1 p.m.: Panel on Chronically Under-Funded Crises.** This panel discussion will highlight the issue of equity in humanitarian aid flows. Panelists will broadly

**ECOSOC General Segment
19 - 27 July 2006
Geneva**

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The Secretary-General

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and in-depth policy dialogue on core issues by organizing events closely related to MDG agenda. The Alliance will focus on issues that relate to the role of ICT in economic development, eradication of poverty, employment and enterprise in pro-growth scenarios, with a particular focus on health, education, gender, youth, disabled and disadvantaged segments of society.

GAID is intended to complement and support the existing institutions and secretariats of the Alliance. A Steering Committee will provide overall strategic guidance and priority setting for GAID will be provided by a Strategy Council, a high-level body with balanced representation of all stakeholder groups and all regions that will bring together prominent personalities. A Steering Committee will provide executive support to the Secretariat of the Alliance.

younger champions of ICT for Development, gender groups and the media will be expected to actively engage in policy dialogue. Groups of participants will coalesce around specific topics of mutual interest put forward for discussion.

Overall strategic guidance and priority setting for GAID will be provided by a Strategy Council, a high-level body with balanced representation of all stakeholder groups and all regions that will bring together prominent personalities. A Steering Committee will provide executive support to the Secretariat of the Alliance.

A small secretariat will provide the Alliance with organizational and logistical support in its events and activities. The use of the latest web-based collaborative technologies will minimize the need for physical meetings.

For additional information on the Global Alliance for ICT and Development you can visit the ICT Task Force website at <http://www.unicttaskforce.org>

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1. **Globalization and its impact on decent work, both in developing and developed countries (with a special focus on labour migration);**
2. **Creating an enabling environment at the national level conducive for growth and employment creation (with a special focus on the informal sector);**
3. **Employment for the women, the youth and the elderly;**
4. **Human rights and employment for vulnerable groups: indigenous peoples, people with disabilities and people living in post-crisis situations;**
5. **Employment in the rural and urban areas; and**
6. **New forms of employment (including e-employment).**

Every cluster will be organized around several workshops and will bring concrete

recommendations. These recommendations, which will be endorsed by the clusters and the plenary, will give NGOs and Civil Society representatives the opportunity to participate and interact with Member States at the High-level Segment of ECOSOC. For further information, please contact Ms. Hanifa Mezoui, Chief, NGO Section of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs at (212) 963-8652, or by e-mail at mezoui@un.org

C. Past Events

Ø On 4-5 April 2006, the Economic and Social Council organized an **Informal Preparatory Meeting for the High-level Segment**. This event brought together Member States, UN agencies, NGOs, Civil Society representatives, the private sector and the academia. Throughout the preparatory meeting, the importance of productivity and economic growth as a primary condition for the creation of full and productive employment was underscored. The topics of Capital investment, including human capital; Productivity growth, involving upgrading the knowledge and technological base; The need for a conducive national environment supportive of entrepreneurship and foreign investment, as well as other issues were discussed. If you wish to read the President's Summary of the Preparatory Meeting, statements of speakers and download the programme of the event, please visit the internet page of the Preparatory Meeting at

<http://www.un.org/docs/ecosoc/meetings/2006/hls2006/Preparatory/preparatory.html>

Ø **The ECOSOC NGO Forum** this year was held in two parts; while NGO Forum Part I was held on 6 April 2006, NGO Forum Part II incorporating infopoverty as a theme titled, "VI Infopoverty World Conference" was held on 20-21 April 2006. Active participation to the NGO Forum was facilitated by the two pilot countries of the United Nations Public Private Alliance for Rural Development, the Republic of Madagascar and the Dominican Republic. The NGO Forum brought forth participation, recommendations and contributions through videoconferencing and teleconference links from parallel sessions being held in 8 cities: ITA in Moscow; Sambaina in Madagascar; Milan-Politecnio and European Parliament from Milan, Italy; Arusha-Tanzania; Window Rock-Navajo Nation, Sao Paulo, Brazil; Peru; and United Nations, New York. The NGO Forum in New York was attended by 173 representatives of over 135 organizations. The multi-stakeholder participation brought contributions of civil society and major stakeholders to the 2006 High-level Segment of

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ECOSOC. The outcome of this meeting will be presented at the High-level Segment of ECOSOC (3-5 July 2006) at Geneva in the form of a coalition statement. The NGO Forum was well attended by a series of distinguished people, among them were the United States Congresswoman, Ms. Loretta Sanchez of California, and the United States Senator, Mr. John Kerry from Massachusetts. For more information, please download the summary of the ECOSOC NGO Forum at <http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/un-other/unpan023068.pdf>

Ø On 24 April 2006, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) held its ninth annual special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. This meeting addressed the overall theme of “Coherence, coordination and cooperation in the context of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the 2005 World Summit Outcome”. The speakers focused on the following four sub-themes: (i) Implementation of and support for National Development Strategies, towards the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals; (ii) Fulfilling the development dimension of the Doha Work Programme: Next steps, including in the area of “Aid for Trade; (iii) External debt: Implementing and building on current initiatives to enhance debt sustainability; and (iv) Supporting the development efforts of middle-income developing countries. For more information, please visit the internet page of the meeting at <http://www.un.org/docs/ecosoc/meetings/2006/bwi2006/index.html>, or download the detailed President’s summary of the event at <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/ECOSOC-2006-Summary.doc>

Ø On 8-9 May 2006, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs organized in collaboration with the Economic and Social Council and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) Foundation, a Development Forum on Productive Employment and Decent Work. This event was the second in a series launched by DESA on the annual theme of the High-level Segment of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The Development Forum featured renowned specialists and practitioners on issues of employment and decent work from academia, civil society, the private sector and

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D. Noteworthy

ECOSOC and the Organizational Committee of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission. (8 and 12 May 2006)

On 8 May 2006, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) made a decision on the distribution of the seven seats allocated to it on the Organizational Committee of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission. By the terms of a draft resolution adopted without a vote (document E/2006/L.2/Rev.2), the Economic and Social Council decided that the five of its seven seats on the Organizational Committee would be given to each of the five regional groups: African States, Asian States, Eastern European States, Latin American and Caribbean States, and Western European and Other States. For the purpose of the first election, the two remaining seats shall be allocated to the regional groups of African States and Asian States.

Members of ECOSOC are elected to the Organizational Committee for a two-year term, with the possibility, as applicable, of sharing the term within the concerned regional group for the seats allocated to it, subject to the concurrence of the Council. It was also decided that elections from among the Council's members to the Organizational Committee would be held every other year and that the rules of procedure and established practice for the election of members of its subsidiary bodies would apply to those elections.

On 12 May 2006, the Council officially elected Angola, Guinea-Bissau, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Poland, Brazil and Belgium to the Peacebuilding Commission's Organizational Committee.

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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>