

**Breakfast meeting of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Bureau at the Head of State and Government Level**

**The role of ECOSOC in the implementation of the United Nations Development Agenda, including the implementation of the decisions made by the 2005 World Summit in the areas of social and economic development**

**15 September, Conference Room 7, United Nations Headquarters**

**President's Summary**

**Summary**

**b.** The HLPM reinforced that ECOSOC is the central institution to promote the agreed development goals. The summit emphasized ECOSOC's role as an effective forum for promoting policy dialogues, development

9. **H.E. President Alfred Moisiu (Albania)** stressed that in an inter-connected world, the Council needed to consider the fact that development, collective security and human rights are interlinked and inter dependent. They constitute also the very core pillars of the United Nations system. Unless these inter-linkages were addressed adequately, and the approach to finding solutions to developmental challenges, were unsustainable, Albania believed that the progress towards the implementation of the internationally agreed goals will be impeded. To that end, he highlighted the essential role of good governance, sound policies, rule of law, strengthening of democratic institutions and processes, ambitious national poverty reduction strategies in achieving sustained development. In this respect he strongly recognized the very substantial role of ECOSOC in the process of implementing the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs, in eradicating poverty, promoting sustained economic growth, sustainable development and global prosperity for all.

10. Albania recognized the Council's role as a High Level Development Cooperation Forum, where global, regional and national strategies and policies for social and economic development cooperation can be reviewed. In that context the President believed that the Council needs to enhance its effectiveness, flexibility and coherence. It should strengthen its supervision and management role over its subsidiary bodies. The Council should also engage more with the Security Council. To that end, he felt that the Peace Building Commission was a step in the right direction. Moreover, the Council should also enhance participation of other stakeholders in development, such as NGOs, the civil society as well as the private sector and the academic community. Such interactions will only help improve the working methods of the Council.

11. **H.E. Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt (Belgium)** stressed that given its broad mandate ECOSOC should be a main body of the UN charter. This "governance" mandate, while very solid on paper, was unfortunately pretty irrelevant and impractical in the real world. The voice of ECOSOC was not being heard in international economic and social debates. He added that in this world of globalized issues, there was a need for a universal and global vision on some of the pressing challenges of our time. That global debate must take into account the opinions of our world citizens, our society.

12. What was essential was a legitimate and democratic United Nations that can arbitrate the debate on the most pressing economic and social challenges of the current era. Belgium strongly believed that the debate on global governance must remain within the United Nations to retain its legitimacy. This debate could not be left to the diplomats and technocrats, rather, has to be brought back to the political level. Mr. Verhofstadt pointed out that Belgium in cooperation with Germany had initiated a reform process of the ECOSOC. Following are the main thrust of the joint

in their area of competence in their particular domain. He called on the Council to take targeted decisions which will yield visible and tangible results to the benefit of LDCs.

14. **H.E. President Olusegun Obasanjo (Nigeria) on behalf of the African Union** stressed that the ongoing reform within the United Nations should seek to enhance the role of ECOSOC to provide and promote system-wide coordination, coherence and cooperation between the various entities of the United Nations system. Some promising results have already been achieved. The ECOSOC annual spring meeting with the Bretton Woods Institutions, the WTO and UNCTAD has served as a follow-up forum in the implementation of the outcome of the Monterrey Consensus. Its annual High-Level segment brings together key political players from diverse backgrounds and has generated a holistic response to the implementation of the Millennium Declaration as well as the outcomes of other major United Nations conferences and summits. ECOSOC has also contributed to conflict prevention efforts in a comprehensive and integrated manner. In this regard, its mechanism of Ad Hoc Advisory Group on African countries emerging from conflict has served to bring to the fore the linkage between post-conflict peace building and development. It was important therefore, to take this into account in deciding the mandate of the proposed Peace Building Commission. He added that more should be done to enhance ECOSOC's contribution to post conflict peace building and reconstruction as well as its management of United Nations funds and programs.

15. He stressed that it was also imperative for ECOSOC to play an effective role in addressing the economic and social challenges of today. For ECOSOC to fulfill its charter mandate, the Council should be revamped and empowered to assume greater responsibility in providing policy guidelines on global economic and financial matters. The capacity of ECOSOC should thus, be further strengthened.

effective and efficient. ECOSOC subsidiary bodies including its functional commissions and regional commissions must be able to act more effectively. To that end, he urged for greater encouragement to civil society to work for development, which had already proven effective in many countries. Finally he stressed that the Council must its support for Africa, particularly those emerging from conflict and those with specific needs.

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23. **H.E. Mr. Tang Xiajuan** stressed that as major UN body dedicat

c. Peace and security and development are interlinked. ECOSOC should therefore be actively engaged in the work of the Peace Building Commission.

26. **EU Commissioner, Mr. Louis Michel,**

member-states, international organizations, in particular the Bretton Woods Institutions (BWIs), the World Trade Organization and UNCTAD, as well as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and