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**Statement by H.E. Mr. Dalius Šekuolis, Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the United Nations and President of the Economic and Social Council**

**Launch of the Development Cooperation Forum**

**United Nations Palais des Nations, Geneva**

**5 July 2007**

Mr. Secretary-General,  
Madam President of the General Assembly,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Representatives,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As President of the Economic and Social Council, it gives me great pleasure to welcome all of you to the official launch of the Development Cooperation Forum. It is fitting that the launch of the Forum takes place on the last day of the High-level Segment since the Development Cooperation Forum is truly a cornerstone in our efforts to strengthen the Economic and Social Council.

Looking back, the 2005 World Summit reaffirmed the need for the United Nations to play a fundamental role in the promotion of international cooperation for development. The Summit saw the United Nations as the main player in ensuring the coherence, coordination and implementation of development actions and goals agreed upon by the international community.

Member States also reaffirmed the mandate of the Economic and Social Council to coordinate the implementation of the development agenda. On the same occasion, they created the Development Cooperation Forum as a mechanism to enable the Council to perform this role more effectively.

The aim of the Forum is therefore - in short - to promote coherent and effective development cooperation for the realization of the internationally agreed development goals. This will be achieved by



launch, this and foreseen other events are part of the preparations for the 2008 Development Cooperation Forum.

With these words, please accept my warm welcome to the official launch of the Development Cooperation Forum.