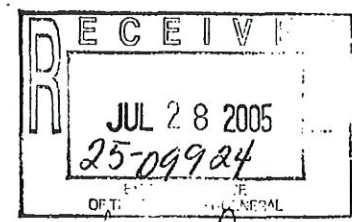


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cc HMB

July 27



Note for the Secretary-General  
2005 ECOSOC Substantive Session  
29 June - 27 July 2005

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This year's substantive session of the Economic and Social Council was seen in the broader perspective of the 2005 World Summit. The level of participation of governments (two Heads of State/Government, over 45 ministers and high level officials, many Executive Heads of UN organizations and very large number of civil society representatives), was also reflective of the special significance of this year's session.

The themes addressed by the Council were closely related to the Summit's outcome in the development area. The Council gave an unambiguously clear message that work towards the realization of the MDGs should be integrated in the broader effort to implement the UN Development Agenda, which emanated from the major UN conferences and summits. Such an approach would help ensure a coherent and coordinated implementation process. While no new ground was broken on key issues, such as ODA target, debt sustainability and the Doha trade round, it did help in identifying some of the critical issues that should be resolved prior to the Summit. The Council decided not to adopt an anodyne Declaration, but the President's Summary reflects the richness of the debates, with many ideas and proposals floated during the session. It also became evident that consensus was building on the parameters of an ambitious, yet realistic, outcome for the Summit in the development area.

The side events like the ministerial roundtables and breakfasts, panel discussions and innovations like the Voices Against Poverty during the high-level segment, played a catalytic role in enriching the deliberations of the Council. These helped in promoting better understanding of the issues and in generating positive impulse for the Summit.

The role of the UN system organizations in supporting the efforts to pursue the UN Development Agenda was extensively discussed. The report prepared by the Chief Executives Board titled "One United Nations: Catalyst for Progress and Change sent a positive message about the systems' efforts to rally around the internationally agreed development goals. A key message from these discussions was that ECOSOC and CEB should work towards closer coordination. On the issue of performance of the development entities of the UN system, it was a generally shared view that the insufficiency of core resources remained the single most important constraint. This can be addressed through overall increase in the flow of resources and by building the donors' and recipients' trust in the UN management of resources. While this issue is going to be addressed as a part of the draft outcome of the Summit, a more high-level appeal at your level to utilize multilateral channels for undertaking development cooperation activities would prove helpful.

On humanitarian issues, President Clinton's address to the Council, in his role as your special envoy, helped bring the issues of coordination, capacity building,

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preparedness, transparency and accountability to the forefront of the debate. The Council endorsed a broad package of reform in humanitarian activities, largely in line with the proposals contained in your report *In Larger Freedom*. The Council also recommended to the General Assembly to improve the Central Emergency Revolving Fund (CERF), including through the possible inclusion of a grant facility. You have been requested to submit a report in order to clarify the criteria and management of an expanded CERF. If approved by the General Assembly, it would give a major boost to the UN's role in this area.

On the issue of conflict prevention and peace-building, the Council's role was once again acknowledged and the mandates of the Ad-hoc Advisory Groups on Burundi, Guinea Bissau and Haiti were extended. This augurs well for further developing the role of ECOSOC in relation to the proposed Peace-building Commission.

There was widespread support for your proposals regarding ECOSOC, which include annual review of the implementation of the development agenda, emergency meetings to address threats to development and convening of a biennial development cooperation forum. To perform these functions effectively, the Council needs to review its current working methods. Some of the delegations (US, Russia), however, were somewhat reluctant to do away with the current practice of a four week long substantive session, which does not give the flexibility to have more focused meetings around the year. Similarly, the idea of establishing an executive committee has yet to gain traction. You may like to impress upon key delegations in bilateral meetings that they need to change the methods of work, if ECOSOC is to perform the new functions effectively. This would help in the follow-up to the Summit, when ECOSOC will need to work on the modalities for carrying out its new mandate.



José Antonio Ocampo  
27 July 2005

copy to: The Deputy Secretary-General  
Mr. M. Malloch Brown