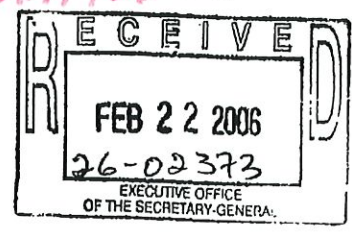


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Note to the Secretary-General

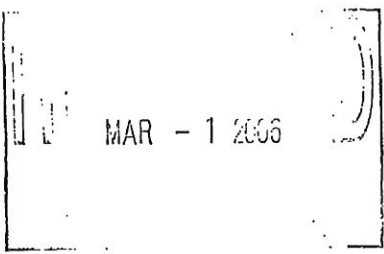
Subject: 44th Session of the Commission for Social Development (8-17 Feb. 2006)

The Commission agreed on its work methods for the next two years. Its theme will be **Promoting full employment and decent work for all**. Following the Commission for Sustainable Development model, the Commission will have a review segment in 2007, the outcome of which shall be a chairperson's summary, followed by a policy segment in 2008, with a negotiated outcome containing action-oriented strategies. Other actions taking by the Commission include the following:

The Commission reached agreement in other key areas as well. Regarding **modalities for the first review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002**, it decided that the first global cycle of review and appraisal will begin in 2007 (45th session) and conclude in 2008 (46th session). On the **World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons 2002**, the Commission will continue to contribute to negotiations of a draft international convention, and the UN system will continue to participate in the Ad Hoc Committee and contribute to its work. The Commission will strengthen its political support for the work of the **youth employment network** in partnership with Governments, the ILO, the World Bank and youth organizations. In connection with **The Social Dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development**, the Commission will continue considering NEPAD under the agenda item on regional initiatives during its 45th session and also include the outcomes of regional workshops. On **International migration and migrants from a social perspective**, the Commission will transmit, through ECOSOC, to the High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, the Chair's summary of the panel discussion on migration held during the Commission's 42nd session.

The Commission was unable to complete its work, however, as it could not come to an agreement on the draft resolution concerning its priority theme: **First United Nations decade for the eradication of poverty (1997-2006)**. Differences revolved mainly around making reference to global governance issues in the spheres of finance, trade and debt, as well as to the issue of ODA, all of which the US opposed and the G77 supported. An EU proposal of language from the World Summit on these points was not accepted by the G77. The Commission intends to resume its session in three to four weeks, during which time differences can hopefully be resolved. It should be noted that the negotiations on the priority theme were largely a replay of what had occurred in the GA in the fall and may be a preview of the review of the Decade at the GA's 61st session.

A weakness of the Commission seems to stem from uneven participation: developed countries usually send experts from the capital, while most developing countries are represented by staff based in New York missions. It is hoped that with the newly adopted methods of work this dynamic will change.



Jose Antonio Ocampo
22 February 2006

HJB