

**RUSSIAN DELEGATION**  
**Non-Paper**  
**on 2005 Summit follow-up**  
**(development and ECOSOC reform)**

16 November 2005

A. Process

- the consultations process should be open-ended, transparent, inclusive and ensure due regard to the positions of all member-States. To this end, and to ensure its effectiveness, the lessons of the Summit Outcome preparatory process should be fully taken into account;
- Russia envisages and is ready to participate in a dynamic and efficient process. At the same time, no artificial deadlines should be established;
- the consultations should be aimed at agreeing upon a succinct, to the extent possible, concrete, and action-oriented consensus GA resolution focused on the substantive issues of the discussion;
- the modalities of the consultation process should therefore follow in general the patterns of “conventional” resolutions negotiations;
- in this regard, a Co-Chairs’ options paper elaborated on the basis of the first exchange of opinions by Member-States should serve as the basis. At an appropriate stage, elements of a resolution could be prepared by the Co-Chairs to allow member-States to negotiate the GA resolution as the final outcome of the consultations process. These negotiations should shape the advanced stage of the consultations process;

B. Substantive focus

- there is need to take a pragmatic approach and pursue those results that have practical value-added. From this point of view, the substance of the consultations should not be repetitive of the discussions that were held in the run-up to the Summit;
- re-statement of already stated positions or renegotiation of the Summit Outcome decisions reflected, in particular, in Chapter 2 “Development”, should be avoided;
- also avoided should be the duplication of consultations with the ongoing work of the Second and, where appropriate, Third Committees;
- the substantive focus of the consultations, therefore, should be the follow-up to the political guidelines of the Summit pertaining to ECOSOC in accordance with paragraphs 155 and 156 of the Outcome Document;

C. Implementation of the Summit decisions on ECOSOC

1. General principles

- GA resolutions 45/264, 50/227, 57/270B remain relevant and should continue to serve as the basic framework for the follow-up to the Summit’s decisions on ECOSOC;

- the concept of integrated and co-ordinated follow-up to the major UN conferences and summits as reaffirmed in 57/270B remains relevant for the implementation of the international development agenda with each UN conference having its thematic unity;
- the existing structure, namely, the GA, ECOSOC and its subsidiary machinery, should continue to be used for the co-ordinated and integrated follow-up to and implementation of the commitments agreed at the major UN conferences and summits;
- ECOSOC remains the central mechanism for system-wide co-ordination and ensuring co-ordinated follow-up to the outcomes of the major UN conferences and summits (57/270B); from this point of view, ECOSOC's existing mandate has not been revised by the Summit but only strengthened;
- the follow-up process should not include renegotiation of any outcomes of the conferences and summits, including their specific institutional arrangements for follow-up (57/270);
- there is no need to create a new review and assessment process of countries' progress in implementing the international development agenda that will duplicate the existing mechanisms or instruments, be time- and resource consuming and difficult to implement; the need to make maximum use of existing UN mechanisms for this purpose (57/270B) should be reaffirmed;
- there is no need to develop a new comprehensive matrix of development goals; the existing system of targets and indicators for the MDGs should continue to be in place; the matrix presented in box 1 of the SG's report to the ECOSOC "Towards achieving internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration" of 3 May 2005 (E/2005/56) could also be used as a common reference framework with regard to the international development agenda serving as a tool for "facilitating effective monitoring and evaluation of its implementation" (E/2005/56);
- centrality of ECOSOC's annual substantive session for the Council's political role and visibility should be reaffirmed;
- the present balance between New York and Geneva should be preserved;
- negotiated outcomes should continue to constitute an important factor contributing to political weight of the Council
- the existing segment structure of the annual substantive session, including its High-Level segment should remain unchanged;
- the current High-Level segment should be the platform for the implementation of the Summit Outcome decisions contained in paragraph 155 (a)-(c);

## 2. New architecture of the High-Level segment

- the High-Level segment will include annual ministerial-level substantive reviews to assess progress in implementation of the outcomes of the major UN conferences and summits, biennial Development Cooperation Forum and biennial High-Level Policy Dialogue on development issues;
- modalities, including timeframes of the High-Level segment should be conducive to ministerial attendance;

### Annual ministerial-level substantive reviews

- the Reviews to assess progress in implementation of the outcomes of the major UN conferences and summits should be put at the core of the High-Level segment;
- Russia shares the approach that while being comprehensive, the Review should not address all internationally agreed development goals each year. To this end, it would be more practical for the Reviews to have a thematic focus (subset of the MDGs, follow-up to a particular conference etc.);
- in order to avoid excessive fragmentation and lengthy selection process, the themes for the Review could be grouped into a limited number (4-5) of broader clusters encompassing the international development agenda;
- the proposed clusters could be formulated along the following lines:
  - 1) eradication of poverty (including education and health issues, rural and agricultural development);
  - 2) global partnership for development (including financing for development, domestic resources mobilization, macroeconomic policies for sustained economic growth, science and technology, role of the civil society and the private sector etc.)
  - 3) sustainable development: managing and protecting our common environment;
  - 4) social development (gender equality and empowerment of women, promoting employment, migration and development, social integration and vulnerable groups, population and development etc.)
  - 5) countries with special needs;
- the proposed thematic focus will be conducive to a meaningful and substantial preparatory process with an active involvement of (and division of labour each year among) the appropriate leading UN agencies, ECOSOC's functional and regional commissions; this format is also the most appropriate for ensuring due respect to the follow-up processes of individual conferences;
- a generic comprehensive report of the Secretary-General to ECOSOC should be prepared as the basis for each Review;
- the outcome of the Reviews would normally be in the form of agreed conclusions as was set out for the High-Level segment in resolution 50/227 (or ministerial declaration);
- the agreed outcome of a Review may also include inputs from the outcomes of the Development Cooperation Forum and Policy Dialogue and should be considered as the principal outcome of the High-Level segment;
- to add national or regional focus to the Reviews, voluntary national presentations on countries' progress in implementing internationally agreed development goals could also be envisaged as an additional feature of a Review.

### Development Cooperation Forum

- in alternate years, the DCF would precede the Ministerial Review within the overall framework of the High-Level segment;
- the overall mandate of the DCF is reflected in paragraph 155 (b) of the Summit Outcome;

- the DCF should benefit from broad participation of relevant development stakeholders, including governments, international organizations, including IFIs, regional development banks, civil society and private sector;
- Russia is generally open to discuss the suggested format and preparation process for the DCF as presented in the Working Paper of the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the UN of 19 October 2005;
- the DCF should not supersede the Operational Activities segment of ECOSOC annual substantive session nor become a part of the TCPR-led process of intergovernmental decision making on UN operational activities for development;
- the issue of basis for discussion should be clarified, whether there is a need for a separate special Secretary-General's report or the DCF can be carried out on the basis of the existing reports (BWIs, WTO, UNCTAD, OECD, UNDP and others);
- the outcomes of discussions during the DCF could be reflected in a summary of the President of ECOSOC;
- the comprehensive review of funding for development co-operation should keep its triennial cycle as provided for in GA resolution 59/250 and thus should not be integrated into the DCF;

#### Policy dialogue

- the objectives of this event are set out in paragraph 155 (a) of the Summit Outcome;
- in alternate years, Policy Dialogue would be the “opening act” for the Ministerial Review;
- it should be build upon the already existing practice of one-day policy dialogues and discussions on important developments in the world economy and international economic cooperation provided for in GA resolution 45/264;
- the thematic scope of the existing dialogue should be enlarged to include in addition to the economic/development issues, social and environmental aspects as mandated by paragraph 155 (a) of the Summit Outcome document;
- a particular emphasis during the dialogue could be put on the issues of the main theme of the Ministerial Review;

### 3. Addressing humanitarian emergencies

- Russia supports the important role of ECOSOC in the strengthening of international response to humanitarian emergencies through ensuring more effective and co-ordinated actions of the UN system; the division of labour between the UN GA and ECOSOC in this area needs to be improved;
- Russia supports convening, in a timely manner, ad hoc ECOSOC meetings on humanitarian emergencies;
- the potential of ECOSOC in the field of transition from relief to development in the context of natural disasters as well as in post-conflict peace-building should be strengthened; ECOSOC should continue to consider the issue of transition from relief to development during its annual sessions, ensuring synergy between work of Humanitarian and Operational Activities segments;

- possible innovations in this field should be aligned with the consideration of the future establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission;

#### Co-ordination and Operational activities segments

- Russia supports strengthening of the core function of the ECOSOC as the central mechanism for co-ordination of the activities of the UN development system;
- in this regard, both the Co-ordination and Operational activities segments remain highly relevant for ECOSOC to play a major role in the overall co-ordination of funds, programmes and agencies and to ensure coherence among them, as reaffirmed in paragraph 155 (e) of the Summit Outcome;
- the Co-ordination segment should follow the High-Level Segment and its discussion should be organised around the main theme of the Ministerial Review during the High-Level Segment and focused on the assessment of the status of co-ordination with regard to this theme;
- the agreed conclusions of the Segment should be submitted to the GA and implemented by the UN development system;
- the Operational activities segment should remain the forum for discussions and decision-making with regard to UN operational activities for development as a major component of the TCPR-led intergovernmental process;
- the Operational activities segment should serve as the platform for the intergovernmental oversight of the activities of co-ordination mechanisms within the UN system (such as the UNDG) with regard to country-level co-ordination and coherence without duplicating their roles;

#### Organisation, programme and methods of work

- the implementation of the Summit's decisions on ECOSOC does not require a radical revision of the structure and timing of the Council's sessions; the proposals for the further strengthening of the substantive role of the Council are fully attainable within the existing principal parameters of the current work format of ECOSOC, that have been tested in practice and proved their effectiveness;
- the disintegration of the current segment configuration of the ECOSOC substantive sessions will have most negative consequences for its political role and efficiency of its work;
- possibilities exist for the further improving of the effectiveness of the Council's work including through optimising the agenda of the General Segment of the substantive sessions, more effective preparation of substantive sessions, early availability of documents, annotated agenda etc.;
- Russia does not support the creation within ECOSOC of a variety of "executive committees" or "steering groups" of an uncertain composition and with unclear mandates, not provided for by the existing rules of procedure;

Transitional arrangements for 2006

- because of time constraints, it would be extremely difficult to expect a full and meaningful implementation of all the Summit decisions on ECOSOC already by the substantive session of 2006. In this context, the most practicable approach would be to envisage certain transitional arrangements for the 2006 session with the understanding that the session of 2007 will be the first to be carried out in full compliance with the Summit decisions.