

**- SUMMARY -**

**High Level Dialogue of the Executive Secretaries with the Economic and Social Council**

**6 July 2006**

The High Level Dialogue of the Executive Secretaries with the Economic and Social Council, held on 6 July 2007, addressed, from a regional perspective, the theme for the thematic discussion, “Strengthening efforts at all levels to promote pro-poor sustained economic growth, including through equitable macroeconomic policies” and the theme for the annual ministerial review, “Strengthening efforts at all levels to promote pro-poor sustained economic growth, including through equitable macroeconomic policies.”

The Executive Secretaries of the Commissions presented a regionally-nuanced analysis on the relationship between growth and equity within their respective regions. They made concrete suggestions on strategies and policies required to ensure that absolute poverty and economic inequality are reduced while also promoting overall growth, and the achievement of the MDGs at the national level. They put particular emphasis on long-term sustainability of development. At the same time, the presentations addressed donor governments to ensure that the manner by which official development assistance (ODA) is provided supports for reducing poverty and in promoting pro-poor growth.

Several key messages emerged from the presentations to help guide governments instituting policies to promote pro-poor growth. Specific macroeconomic fiscal, monetary and exchange rate policy recommendations were made by ESCWA, and ECE stressed that pro-poor growth is intricately linked to pro-employment policies. ESCAP noted that the promotion of public expenditure on public goods such as health and education, rural infrastructure, and water sanitation is a precondition for pro-poor growth. At the same time, the presentations also stressed the need to specifically target policies to assist vulnerable groups, such as ethnic minorities or the rural poor, and ensure that the empowerment of women is prioritized.

ECA identified poverty, unemployment, income inequality and commodity-dependence among the key challenges confronting Africa’s increasingly determined efforts for sustainable development. It also stressed that the challenges should be addressed at three levels: national, regional and global. ECLAC called for its Member States to continue their efforts to improve good governance, income distribution, and to increase the efficiency and financing of social policies to achieve the MDGs targets. It also outlined the ways in which middle-income countries should be assisted in their efforts to be integrated into the global economy.

Within the context of an interactive Dialogue, the participating delegations from all regions reiterated their strong support for the Regional Commissions and for the critical role that they play in supporting nations through analytical work and technical cooperation, as well as in promoting regional integration. The delegate of the United States made a concrete recommendation for the Regional Commissions to play an active role in the evaluation of the “One UN” pilot initiatives on coherence.