

**Presentation to ECOSOC of the 2007 Report of the
Committee for Development Policy (CDP)**

by

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Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates:

1. The Report before you (E/2007/33) is structured so as to contribute to the debate of ECOSOC on the theme of the Annual Ministerial Review “Strengthening efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, including through the global partnership for development”. The Committee also examined the theme “Climate change and sustainable development”. Furthermore, in its efforts to improve the information exchanges between the Committee and the countries considered for inclusion in, and graduation from, the list of least developed countries, the Committee has suggested improvements in the procedures regarding the process of inclusion and graduation.
2. The first substantive section of the Report focuses on climate change and sustainable development. Climate change, manifested in the rise of the earth’s temperature, is already taking its toll in the form of widespread melting of glaciers, rise in sea level, extreme weather patterns and other adverse phenomena. The earth is only a few decades away from crossing the threshold levels of temperature rise beyond which even more dramatic impacts are to be expected. The UN Secretary General, in a recent press conference during the G8 Summit in Germany, referred to this phenomenon as the ‘defining issue of our era’.
3. In substantiating its rationale for discussing climate change, the Committee pointed out that climate change is adversely affecting socio-economic development in all countries of the world, but especially and most tragically in the most vulnerable developing countries. The Committee emphasizes that climate change will exacerbate poverty and seriously hamper development efforts, and stresses the necessity that the international community devise a strategy to incorporate climate change issues into the UN development agenda. Secondly, the Committee is deeply concerned that the targets set by the Kyoto Protocol for reducing green house gas emissions have not been met. So far, most attention has been given to the mitigation efforts envisaged by the Protocol. Efforts at adaptation to assist the most affected areas such as agriculture, biodiversity, fisheries, forestry, infrastructure, water resources, tourism, health, and others, to adapt to the impacts of climate change remain insufficient in comparison with the challenges faced. The Committee, therefore, highlights the importance of the need to start addressing issues related to adaptation more forcefully.

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4. In the view of the Committee, the adverse effects of climate change are proving particularly severe for developing countries because of their geographical location, reliance on climate-related economic activities such as agriculture and tourism, and their weak coping capability. The Committee emphasizes that within developing countries, the most affected will be the poor, who have to rely more on climate-related activities for their livelihood, are more exposed to the elements of nature and who have the least resources to cope.
5. The Ministerial declaration of the high-level segment earlier this month reiterated that “climate change should be coordinated with social and economic development in an integrated manner with a view to avoiding adverse impacts on the latter, taking into full account the legitimate priority needs of developing countries for the achievement of sustained economic growth and the eradication of poverty”. In this context, the Committee has noted that confronting climate change and sustaining development requires a new partnership between developed and developing countries. The developed countries will not be able to avoid disruptions caused by climate change if developing countries increase their per capita carbon emissions to the levels reached by industrialized countries. Most developing countries, on the other hand, cannot engage in a decarbonized or less carbonized growth process without adequate technological and financial support from the developed countries.
6. Post-Kyoto arrangements will have to adopt a simultaneous two-track approach, the first of which will aim at deep cuts in emissions by developed countries and the second of which will provide a more central role to developing countries by enabling them both to grow faster and to make the growth as less carbonized and de-carbonized as possible through successful adoption and implementation of appropriate climate-friendly development strategies with the necessary technological and financial cooperation from developed countries.
7. It is the view of the Committee that ECOSOC can play a central and pro-active role in taking on the climate change agenda for the UN. More specifically, we suggest that the Council undertake a number of important initiatives aimed at accelerating the emergence of an effective, widely supported, adequate and fairly shared international response to the challenges posed by climate change, including:
 - a. Initiate a process for revision of the Millennium Development Goals so that these may more appropriately reflect the threat posed by climate change on all development goals, and,
 - b. Contribute to the post-Kyoto process by providing within the Council’s new architecture a platform for an overarching policy dialogue integrating climate within the development agenda.

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8. The second substantive section of the Report focuses on strengthening the international partnership for effective poverty reduction. The findings and recommendations on this issue were reported at the time of the high-level segment earlier this month (the statement by the Chairperson of the CDP during the Annual Ministerial Review is reproduced as an attachment to this presentation).
9. The third substantive section of the Report summarizes the outcome of the Committee's review of the procedures for inclusion in, and graduation from, the list of least developed countries. The aim of the Committee is to clarify and improve the procedures regarding the process of inclusion and graduation, especially the information exchanges between the Committee and the countries concerned. In this regard, the Committee proposes additional guidelines on the process by which inclusion and graduation is undertaken, in order to clarify and enhance the transparency of the existing procedures. The CDP would like to request ECOSOC to endorse these guidelines and appreciates receiving the Council's views on this matter.
10. Mr President, distinguished delegates, today the Council has also before it the recommendations of the 2006 report of the Committee. In the report, the Committee recommended that Samoa be graduated from the list of LDCs and in its letter to the President of ECOSOC, of 5 April 2007, it reiterated this recommendation after having taken further due consideration of the concerns expressed by the Ambassador on behalf of the Government of Samoa.
11. After more than 35 years of joining the list, Samoa should be commended for its successful escape from the low level of economic development and structural impediments to economic growth that plague least developed countries. As in the case of Cape Verde, Samoa is an example of a vulnerable economy which has been able to overcome its structural impediments as witnessed from its sustained income growth and progress in human development over the past decades. From experience with the preparations for the graduation of Cape Verde, there are already very positive indications that the international community will continue to support the development efforts of graduating countries as provided for in General Assembly resolution 59/209.
12. Notwithstanding the sustained improvements in its economic development, Samoa has made a plea for changing the criteria to make economic vulnerability a condition for graduation and also requested that its eligibility for graduation be reconsidered under such modified criteria. The Committee does consider that the criteria need to be reviewed from time to time and may require refinement considering new insights and information regarding the structural impediments to development. At the same time, however, the Committee has always reiterated the importance of maintaining stability of the criteria and in the application of the procedures to guarantee the impartiality and integrity of the process and the

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- credibility of the list itself. In this light, the CDP considers it crucial that the review of the criteria, that is, the improvement of the process of identifying countries eligible for inclusion and graduation, remains de-linked from the actual review of the list of LDCs.
13. The review of Samoa's eligibility for graduation took place in the context of the established framework and criteria, reflected in ECOSOC and subsequent GA resolutions (E/2004/66 and A/RES/59/209), which state that, in order to qualify for graduation, a country must no longer meet two of the three criteria in two consecutive triennial reviews. The Committee considered that it should not deviate from the established framework and keep the actual review of the list of countries independent from the review of the criteria in order not to jeopardize the credibility of the list.
 14. LDCs, the countries really in need of special benefits derived from their status are surely best served by a credible list. Credibility is not maintained when graduation of a country is delayed in anticipation of possible future adjustments in the criteria. It is in the best interest of the LDC category that the review of the criteria remains de-linked from the review of the list and with it, de-linked from the Committee's task of identifying countries for graduation.
 15. Our hope is that the recommendations contained in the 2006 and 2007 Reports of the Committee will enhance the Council's discussion on development issues and lead the way to practical solutions and policies. The world has seen some visible and widespread gains in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. But, the gains are uneven: serious development problems such as the implications of climate change for preserving the earth's sustainable and human development remain ahead of us. The CDP hopes to serve the Council in looking at these issues and their implications for the current and future development agenda.

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates,
Thank you all.