

01/27/2009

**Meeting of the ECOSOC Bureau
with the Chairpersons of the Functional Commissions
27 January 2009 -11 am- 1pm**

**Draft Statement delivered by Mr. Philippe Hein on behalf of Ricardo Ffrench-Davis,
Chairperson of the Committee for Development Policy**

On behalf of the Committee of Development Policy, of which I am the Rapporteur, and of its Chair, Mr. Ricardo Ffrench-Davis, I would like to congratulate you on your nomination and renew our commitment in assisting you in your task to promote the implementation of the international development agenda.

Madame President,

Following the ECOSOC decision on the 2009 theme of the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR), the CDP established that its contribution to the 2009 AMR would be centered on the theme of enhancing the effectiveness of global health partnerships (GHPs) in achieving the internationally agreed goals on public health. The Committee further decided that attention would be paid particularly to equity considerations and to the analysis of the role of GHPs in reducing existing inequalities in health outcomes.

A CDP working group on global public health was formed and a meeting convened in November 2008. It is co-chaired by our Vice Chairman Professor Frances Stewart and by Professor Willene Johnson. I am very pleased to inform you that this was a collaborative effort-including participation of experts from the World Health Organization, UNICEF and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, therefore fully exploiting the synergies existing in the United Nations system. I am also glad to inform you that currently CDP and the Commission for Sustainable Development are exploring ways to collaborate with a view to better support your work.

The CDP working group meeting examined the causes of persistent health inequalities and assessed the distributional effects of actions undertaken as part of global health partnerships (GHPs). Discussions at the meeting, together with background material prepared by several CDP members, will form the basis for the CDP deliberations at its plenary session from 9-13 March and our report that will be forwarded to the Council.

CDP expects to offer new insights as to how a comprehensive approach –one that takes into account not only health interventions but also the underlying social and economic environment where such interventions take place—would be more effective in reducing health inequalities in developing countries and, consequently, ensure greater progress towards the health-related MDGs.

In order to facilitate the work of the Council on this theme, including the preparation of the relevant passages of the Ministerial Declaration on its high level segment, CDP is

planning to hold—on the occasion of its plenary session—a briefing for the delegations to bring to their attention the main messages of its deliberations. Additionally, we are also planning to make our report available, albeit in preliminary draft format, earlier than the usual 6 weeks preceding your meeting so as to allow the Council sufficient time to consider and examine the main recommendations in a more systematic way. And, should there be interest by the Council, CDP is ready to organize another briefing to further discuss and exchange ideas on its main findings.

We would also like to suggest that the CDP input to the AMR could be used as a basis for a panel discussion or a round table along the lines of those that took place in the past in parallel to the general debate at the Council's AMR. Members of CDP could participate in the discussion. Specific topics for discussion could be suggested based on the report's main findings.

Madame President,

In addition to the theme of global public health, the Committee will address two other topics which it considers relevant for the work of the Council in advancing the implementation of the international development agenda. One refers to the implications of climate change for achieving sustainable development; the other concerns the urgent need to reform the current international architecture of compensatory financing mechanisms. The Committee considered both issues this past year but feels that more needs to be done. Challenges remain with us and we believe that this requires concerted action by the international community to be effectively addressed.

Finally, this year the Committee will also conduct its triennial review of the list of least developed countries. The objective is to identify those low-income countries that would be eligible to join, and those LDCs already on the list that would be eligible to graduate from the category. We will recall that to be included in the category a country must satisfy the inclusion thresholds for three criteria (gross national income (GNI) per capita, the human asset index (HAI) and the economic vulnerability index (EVI)). In addition, the country's population must not exceed 75 million. To graduate from the category, a country must meet the graduation threshold of any two criteria—except for countries whose GNI per capita is at least twice the graduation threshold level—and be found eligible for graduation at two consecutive triennial reviews. Equatorial Guinea, Kiribati, Tuvalu and Vanuatu were found eligible for graduation at the 2006 triennial review. The results of the triennial review and CDP recommendations on possible change of country status will also be brought to your consideration during your substantive session in July.

Madame President

Let me finish by reiterating that the CDP is at the disposal of the Council and we are ready to discuss with you any ideas you may have on how we in CDP can better serve the Council in carrying out its functions.

Thank you.