

Permanent Mission of
The Republic of the
SUDAN
To U.N. Office, Geneva

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم



البعثة الدائمة
لجمهورية السودان
جنيف

Statement by

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Before

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL SUBSTANTIVE SESSION

Annual Ministerial Review (AMR)

*“Strengthening Efforts to Eradicate Poverty and Hunger,
including through the global partnership for development”*

Geneva
July 4, 2007

Please check against delivery

*Mr. President,
Honorable Ministers,
Ladies and Gentlemen*

Allow me at the outset to express my country's honor to participate in this historical session of the Economic and Social Council and in the joint efforts to strengthen the Economic and Social Council by translating the commitments we have made in General Assembly Resolution 61/16 into reality. We are fully committed to working together with you for a more strengthened ECOSOC, one which will be more effective in carrying out its mandate of coordination, policy review and policy dialogue on issues of social and economic development and the implementation of the international development goals of major conferences and summits.

My delegation would like to associate itself with the statement delivered by the honorable delegate of Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. President,

On behalf of my delegation, I thank the Secretary General for his comprehensive reports and for the recommendations they contain. We welcome the "Annual Ministerial Review" as a forum for all stakeholders to assess progress in the overall implementation and examine results, and a mechanism for sharing of experiences and best practices. We are hopeful that our deliberations today will pave the way forward as we reflect on the status of our global development partnership and its role in the eradication of poverty.

Mr. President,

Twelve years have elapsed since the World Summit for Social Development adopted the Copenhagen Declaration and Plan of Action, which placed the human being at the centre of development. The leaders of our countries committed themselves to providing the highly-needed political support for the eradication of poverty, promotion of full and productive employment and fostering of social integration through the implementation of the ten Copenhagen Commitments.

Despite progress achieved globally, the state of poverty and human deprivation still remains of wide concern in many regions especially Sub Saharan Africa, which remains off track in meeting the MDGs. Poverty indicators in many African countries reveal that human deprivation is prevalent with higher mortality and morbidity tempos, especially in rural areas.

Mr. President,

Many African countries have implemented economic reform programs with a reasonable degree of success, but those programs despite positive economic growth, fell short of bringing about the socio-economic structural changes and transformation that are required to substantially reduce poverty levels. This is because positive development has been thwarted by the adverse effects of climatic change, social tension and strife, unfair international terms of trade and unbalanced international investment and liquidity flows, to name a few.

We believe that poverty is a multidimensional global challenge that can only be eradicated by a holistic approach to development, and combined measures aimed at achieving economic growth, revival of agriculture, the provision of social services, combating HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis (TB), the empowerment of women, encouraging the private sector and the provision of decent and productive employment.

Mr. President,

Based on the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) and East Sudan Peace Agreement (ESPA), Sudan Government has, henceforth, sharpened its national vision and developed future policies aimed at wide devolution of constitutional and national wealth sharing powers for a three-tier governance levels including the Government of Southern Sudan. Fiscal transfer have increased to sub-government level to a tune of 50% of total national financial appropriation in 2007, poverty reduction-related expenditure amounted to 5.6% of GDP and is projected to mount to 40% of total national expenditure by the end of the five year program (2007-2011). This has been achieved with scant contribution from donor community in the context of Joint Assessment Mission.

The umbrella of poverty reduction includes apart from national budget social support funds, Social Development Bank, Zakat Funds micro-finance enterprise, community development funds, financial subsidies for food security activities related to agriculture, health insurance, free of charge admission at government owned hospitals and full health care for maternity and infant under five year. However, such measures, though important, they fall short of meeting the MDGs targets.

Mr. President,

The Comprehensive Peace Agreement CPA has laid down solid rules and guidance for good governance and political, social and economic reforms. These reforms are carefully designed to attain sustained high economic growth rate, and equitable income distribution, with gradual poverty reduction. Economic transformation is visioned in the Quarter Century Strategy (2007-2031) and its medium term programs of (2007-2011) period .

This orientation is guided by sound economic management, and prudent macroeconomic policies, leading to higher economic growth of two digits in 2006 and substantial flow of FDI. However, fiscal efforts, augmented by Oil Revenue Stabilization Account is still far from meeting the huge expenditure arising out of the obligation of CPA implementation which result in rising resources gaps, both domestic and foreign.

This however has been, aggravated by foreign debt overhang which is unsustainable based on specific debt burden threshold and forecast trajectories, despite prudent macroeconomic policies and assumed high oil revenues over projection period of 25-30 years.

The strategy to foster national integration through dialogue, confidence building, co-existence and partnership would require substantial infrastructure and development projects that are beyond the country's fiscal capacity. To sustain economic growth of seven percent on average require more than thirty percent of GDP in the form of investment, which is beyond our national savings and would require the international community to honor its obligation of ODA.

Mr. President,

Although we recognize that social development is a national responsibility, it can not be successfully achieved without a collective commitment and concerted efforts of international community and through strengthening of global partnership. We hence believe that national efforts can be complemented by several other measures, and in this regard we recommend

Achieving the internationally agreed target of 0.7% of GNP of developed countries for ODA, resolving the issue of external debt and debt servicing obligation, addressing the adverse impact of climate change , capacity building and technology transfer, assist developing countries improve their competitiveness in the international market, strengthening of voice and participation of developing countries in International Financial Institutions

The (Right to Development) should be emphasizes as an indivisible component of the internationally recognized human rights.

In conclusion, allow me to express our commitment to working closely with other member states to guide the work of ECSOC forward in a concerted manner to achieve UN development agenda for the welfare of the humanity, especially the poor.

I Thank you,