

Informal Summary
General Debate for the Coordination Segment
2009 Economic and Social Council

Key messages:

- There is a need for a coordinated and coherent response by the UN system to address the range of multi-dimensional challenges confronting the international community and foster sustainable development in all its dimensions.
- Many delegations called for the Council to give top priority to the developing countries especially the poorest and the most vulnerable, to assist them by mobilizing adequate and sustainable resources and by accelerating transfer of technologies and capacity building.
- There was a call for the international community to reaffirm their pledge to implement internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development.
- Efforts by the UN system to improve its coordination, particularly in adaptation and mitigation policies regarding climate change, were welcomed but the need to further strengthen the coordination mechanisms was repeatedly emphasized.
- Various efforts by the UN system to respond to the crises were welcomed.
- The Economic and Social Council has an important role in leading the system-wide coordination of UN actions. It should give clear and strong guidance to its subsidiary bodies to implement measures for promoting coordination within their respective mandates and areas of competence.
- The Economic and Social Council should play a central role in the follow-up and implementation of the outcomes of the major UN conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, in particular towards the achievement of the MDGs.
- A coordinated response to development needs should be set in the context of the new and emerging challenges to sustainable development, such as the global financial and economic crisis, food crisis and energy crisis, which will negatively impact progress on internationally agreed development goal. The UN must make more progress in coordinating early and collective responses.
- Many delegations emphasized that, while each country is responsible for its own development, these efforts must be supplemented by the global partnership for development.

Many delegations expressed appreciation for the Secretary-General's report. They underscored the need for a coordinated and more coherent response by the UN system to address the range of challenges confronting the international community, especially sustainable development, climate change and food crisis. **The Group of 77 and China (G77)** reiterated its call for the UN system to play a greater role in supporting countries to pursue sustainable development, ensuring that implementation of the Ministerial Declaration be carried out for the benefit of programme countries and in accordance with their own national policies and priorities for development. **The EU, Kenya and the ICRC** called for special emphasis on Africa to help the continent and its agriculture. **G77 and India** urged the international community to provide adequate resources to the UN entities. In particular, **G77** underlined that increased financial resources should be directed to core budgets and setting up particular funds should be decided with the utmost

discretion. Many delegations expressed support for continuing efforts to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the system through the UN's "Delivering as One" initiative.

G77, India and Brazil highlighted that there must be more clear Member States involvement in and oversight of inter-agency mechanisms of the UN system. In this regard, **G77** welcomed the dialogue with the Chief Executive Board for Coordination (CEB) during the coordination segment. **Switzerland** expressed its concern regarding the current numerous inter-agency mechanisms, such as UN-Energy, UN-Water and UN-Oceans, noting that such peer-to-peer nature of the relationship translates into a lack of common direction and a lack of focus. It called for the question of leadership be addressed boldly by the UN, notably by the CEB.

Malaysia suggested that the report of the Secretary-General should have covered more lessons learned from the 82 countries that have submitted their reports and expressed concerns on the too many competing comprehensive development frameworks which may result in the diffusion of focus.

The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent underscored the importance of inter-agency coordination and partnering at the national level with community-based organizations in order to bring about sustained economic and social development.

Sustainable development

On the Commission on Sustainable Development, many delegations pointed out that the promotion of partnerships for sustainable development will be a key element for strengthening institutions in this area. **India** urged the UN entities to more actively incorporate the guidance of the Commission of Sustainable Development.

G77 underscored the important outcome of the seventeenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-17) and called for a coherent and integrated approach in 2008 ECOSOC Ministerial Declaration with the outcome of CSD-17, so as to avoid fragmented implementation.

Indonesia stressed that it is also important to enhanced coordination among multilateral agreements on economic, social and environment spheres. It proposed that the discussion to convene a Rio + 20 Summit in 2012 should partly be devoted to international institutions and governance of sustainable development in the UN system.

Energy crisis

Delegations underscored that UN-Energy should devote more attention to the promotion of renewable energy in developing countries and foster cooperation for energy security. There should be a systematic way to ensure energy security worldwide and the UN system should take the lead in mobilizing political will and commitment to develop a road map to undertake better access to energy, especially in developing countries. Delegations agreed on the promotion of energy efficiency and new and renewable sources of energy, as well as transfer of green technology to developing countries. **Brazil** called for promotion of affordable, cost-effective and

efficient energy and the use of biodiesel. **Kenya** supported the Brazil's call for enhancement of cooperation in the promotion of the use of sustainable sources of energy, particularly through the South-South cooperation.

Food crisis

In part following the outcome of the CSD-17, many delegations underscored the importance of sustainable agriculture and food security. In this context, **the EU** and **Kenya** considered that Africa and its agriculture required priority attention of the international community. **Indonesia** considered that a follow-up system coordinated by the UN system should be established to evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of the various plans and policy options suggested by the FAO Committee on World Food Security (CFS). It further suggested that a UN-based early-warning system for global food insecurity be established, whereby the UN plays a key role in monitoring and reporting the status of global food supply, demand, and prices. **Brazil** proposed that the UN system promotes South-South cooperation to enhance food security.

Climate change

Delegations shared the view that climate change is seriously undermining efforts to achieve sustainable development and poverty eradication. They agreed that climate change can only be tackled through a cross-sectorial approach. Domestic and external sources of finance and technologies will be required for mitigation and adaptation policies, particularly in the poorest and most vulnerable developing countries. Many delegations pledged support for the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). **The EU** considered that an ambitious, fair, global and comprehensive post-2012 climate agreement will be negotiated in the upcoming Copenhagen Conference, while **India** expressed its interest in the equitable outcome of the Conference.

Recognizing the significant financial resources required for mitigation and adaptation policies and action, particularly in the poorest and most vulnerable developing countries, **the EU** pledged to take on its fair share of financing to support such policies, including capacity building and technology support.

The ICRC highlighted the need to take account of and manage the humanitarian impacts of climate change through systematic reduction of disaster risks and strengthening emergency preparedness, response and recovery mechanism at all levels.

Global economic and financial crisis

Many delegations expressed concerns on the negative impacts of the global economic and financial crisis on sustainable development, especially in developing countries. The economic and social progress achieved is being threatened and may be jeopardized. **G77** underscored that the financial and economic crisis coupled with other mounting challenges, such as food and energy crises, climate change and a high prevalence of pandemic diseases, all pose serious consequences for the developing countries' achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs. **The EU** suggested international community to address

the issue in an integrated manner that incorporates the objectives of economic growth, social development and environmental protection. **Pakistan** commented that there is a need to eliminate the deadlock in the WTO negotiations.

The EU proposed that the Secretary-General should appoint a task-force to develop a vulnerability alert system and create funds and programs to mitigate the effects of the crisis on the most vulnerable countries. **China** urged that the UN system should play a bigger role in the establishment of an institutional framework which is favorable to the development of the world economy and that there is a need to reform the governance structure of the international financial institutions.

The role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits

G77 reiterated the importance of the ECOSOC in guiding system-wide coordination of UN activities and programmes in the economic and social fields. The Group also reiterated the importance of existing, inter-governmentally agreed mandates on coordination of the UN systems in development activities. **The EU** underlined that the ECOSOC should play a central role in the follow-up and implementation of the outcomes of the major UN conferences and summits in the economic, social environmental and related fields and of the achievement of the MDGs. **Switzerland** welcomed the suggestion of making the corresponding report complementary to the reporting for the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR).