

**ECOSOC HIGH-LEVEL MEETING WITH THE BRETTON WOODS INSTITUTIONS,
THE WTO AND THE UNCTAD
New York, 18 April 2005**

Statement by Ms. Maria Luiza Viotti, Director-General, Department for Humanitarian and social Affairs, Ministry of External Relations of Brazil

We agree with the U.S. Delegation in that our objective should be to help countries to outgrow dependence on aid. We have a roadmap for this, which are the MDGs. And for the MDGs to be achieved, there is a broad based agreement that a significant amount of additional resources for development are required.

The discussions held today on innovative mechanisms were very stimulating. The debate on this issue has gained momentum since September last year, when the "Action against Hunger and Poverty" was launched.

This issue was on the Davos agenda. It has become part of our discussions at the U.N., in the Financing for Development process. It has also been taken up by the World Bank and the IMF. We are encouraged by the developments in the BWIs in their meetings last week, in particular the decision, as spelled out in paragraph 11 of the Development Committee Communiqué, to undertake further analysis of the most promising nationally applied and internationally coordinated taxes for development

We welcome the support that the SG has given to this initiative and the reference he made a while ago on the importance of pursuing innovative sources of finance in conjunction with the achievement of the MDGs. We appreciate the fact that his report "In Larger Freedom" has also welcomed our initiative. We wish to take this opportunity to thank DESA for the support it has given to our discussion.

We are aware that further work is necessary to bring those proposals to an implementation stage. Innovative mechanisms differ not only in scope and format, but also in relation to their maturity timeframes. We know that, while some instruments

would be able to yield results in the short term, others would require a longer period of time for consensus to be developed.

It is important to note that we are not proposing global taxation mechanisms, but taxes to be applied nationally and coordinated internationally. We have also emphasized that innovative mechanisms are meant to address the substantial financial gap that hinder countries from achieving the MDGs and that they only make sense as additional sources of finance supplementary to the traditional ones.

We are determined to pursue our work with the objective of broadening the political support to this initiative and deepen the technical content of the proposals. We also hope to work on pilot projects which can demonstrate the feasibility of the mechanisms we have proposed.

We would like to invite interested countries to contribute to this exercise so that we can design more concrete proposals for the September meeting.