

PRESS RELEASE

Heads of State and agencies at UN Economic and Social Council, 29 June-1 – July 2005

**Ministers from capitals and participants from civil society
and the private sector will tackle issues critical to implementation of the
UN's development agenda, including the Millennium Development Goals.**

NEW YORK, 28 June 2005 — The UN's development agenda — on poverty and hunger, education, health, gender equality and human rights; opening markets and developing trade, infrastructure and telecommunications — will be the focus of the three-day High-Level Segment kicking off this year's session of the United Nations Economic and Social Council. Ministers and key government officials from capitals — including two Heads of State and a First Lady — will meet with business leaders and heads of principal UN agencies and trade institutions from 29 June to 1 July at UN Headquarters in New York to talk about how the UN's development agenda can be implemented.

In the run-up to September's 2005 World Summit, the forum will provide an opportunity for all participants — from countries rich and poor alike — to discuss issues that are central to negotiations of the September outcome document.

Secretary-General Kofi Annan will deliver the keynote address at the opening of the High-Level Segment, at 10 a.m., 29 June, in the Economic and Social Council Chamber at UN Headquarters. Statements will also be made by **Ambassador Munir Akram** (Pakistan), President of the Council, and **Professor Joseph Stiglitz**, Nobel Laureate in Economics (2001), **Juan Somavía**, Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO), and **António Guterres**, the new High Commissioner for Refugees, who will speak as "Voices against Poverty". **Supachai Panitchpakdi**, Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO), and **Carlos Fortín**, Officer-in-Charge of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), will lead a high-level policy dialogue on current developments in the world economy and international economic cooperation, in the context of achieving the Millennium Development Goals. **José Antonio Ocampo**, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, will address the Council's role in implementing UN's development agenda.

On Thursday, **President Tarja Halonen** of Finland and **Prime Minister Gérard Latortue** of Haiti will give keynote addresses, at the morning and afternoon sessions respectively.

Other heads of funds, agencies and programmes so far confirmed to participate in the three days of breakfasts, roundtables and panels include:

- **Jacques Diouf**, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- **Lennart Båge**, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- **Yoshio Utsumi**, Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- **Mark Malloch Brown**, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- **Klaus Töpfer**, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

- **Anna Tibaijuka**, Executive Director of UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)
- **Thoraya Obaid**, USG and Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- **James T. Morris**, Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP)
- **Ibrahima Gambari**, USG and Special Advisor for Africa
- **Anwarul Chowdhury**, USG and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
- **Noeleen Heyzer**, Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)

Supachai Panitchpakdi, who is participating in a formal, intergovernmental UN meeting as WTO chief for the first time, will take up duties as head of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in September.

A Ministerial Declaration to be adopted on Friday, the final day, will address key development issues. Some of these are: sources of financing for development; strategies for people-centred development; effective macroeconomic policies; the role of science and technology and the private sector; social integration and empowerment of vulnerable groups; pervasive gender bias; HIV/AIDS; natural disasters and integrating African economies into the mainstream.

ECOSOC Reform

In addition to identifying key development challenges, a Report of the Secretary-General, which the Council will have before it, proposes a more active and relevant role for the Council. Some suggested options:

- The Council could mount real-time coordinated responses to natural disasters and other events or developments with major implications for development by convening "timely" meetings in response.
- As an appropriate forum for reviewing strategies — global, regional and national — for development cooperation and providing policy guidance to achieve the development agenda, the Council could devote a session or segment of an existing meeting, every other year, to a "Development Cooperation Forum".
- Periodic meetings with bureaux of governing bodies of major UN system organizations and international financial institutions could advance continuous policy dialogue and enhance coordination, cooperation and policy coherence.

The Council consists of representatives of 54 Member States. Its annual substantive session usually alternates between Geneva and New York. This year's session begins with the 29 June-1 July High-Level Segment and continues until 27 July.

For details, please visit: www.un.org/docs/ecosoc/meetings/2005/hl2005/.

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