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Statement by Ambassador Sichan Siv, U.S. Representative to ECOSOC, at the 2005 ECOSOC High-Level Segment, July 1, 2005

The United States fully supports the goals of the Millennium Declaration and the development consensus of Monterrey and Johannesburg. As President Bush stated just yesterday, we believe we have “*an unprecedented opportunity to achieve historic victories over extreme poverty with policies and approaches that are tested and proven.*” This will not come easy. It will require new thinking by all and a fundamental commitment to core values. The Secretary General has often noted that good governance, human rights, a vibrant civil society, and an entrepreneurial private sector are essential for sustained development. In Monterrey, we agreed that developing countries have primary responsibility for their own development and that developed countries have a responsibility to support.

The United States is doing its part. Before Monterrey, President Bush pledged to increase U.S. official development assistance (ODA) by 50 percent by 2006. We achieved that level three years early. In 2004, U.S. assistance totaled more than \$19 billion – an increase of 90 percent from 2000. Our development assistance now accounts for a quarter of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) total, the highest share in 20 years. Our assistance to Sub-Saharan Africa has also dramatically increased – tripling since 2000.

The United States has also led the way in ensuring that these funds go to individuals in need and to countries that have proven their capacity to use them well. The Millennium Challenge Corporation, established in 2004, will disburse billions of dollars in coming years to countries that govern justly, invest in health and education, and give their people the economic freedom to build themselves a better life.

States in crisis have also received attention. The United States will provide an additional \$674 million for humanitarian emergencies in Africa this year on top of the \$1.4 billion already committed. More importantly, we look forward to working with other nations to address the underlying causes of famine – breaking its deadly cycle once and for all.

The United States leads the world with its \$15 billion commitment to combat HIV/AIDS. We are also the largest donor to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. We have contributed more to this fund than all other countries combined. In addition, we provide \$500 million annually for voluntary family planning and maternal health care in 60 countries.

We are also a leader in the environmental sphere, working domestically and internationally to address the long-term challenges of global climate change. For 2005, the United States has committed nearly \$5.8 billion to address climate change. This includes almost \$2 billion for scientific research, nearly \$3 billion for technology research, development and deployment, over \$200 million for foreign aid programs, and almost \$700 million for renewable energy and energy efficiency through tax incentives. On a broad range of environmental issues, the United States is partnering with governments, international organizations, businesses, NGOs, and others to turn international commitments into action. As we have consistently stressed at the Commission on Sustainable Development and other fora, what counts – and what we should be focused on – is implementation.

We have also devoted substantial resources to eliminate violence against women and to increase their participation in political and economic life. Empowering women – through education, voting and property rights or access to credit – unleashes an enormous productive potential. This in turn will promote development and strengthen democracy.

With our G-8 partners, we have taken steps to end the destabilizing lend-and-forgive approach to development assistance for the poorest countries. The historic debt forgiveness program our Finance Ministers announced in June will allow 100 percent cancellation of debt obligations owed to the World Bank, African Development Bank, and the International Monetary Fund by countries eligible for the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative. It will result in nearly \$40 billion in immediate debt relief and could ultimately reach more than \$56 billion.

The United States remains committed to a successful conclusion of the Doha Round of trade negotiations. This is critical. Free trade is a keystone of successful development. In fact, estimates suggest that a successful conclusion for that round alone could lift 140 million people out of poverty and add \$350 billion annually to developing countries' income.

Development requires a broad agenda – aid, trade, investment, and debt-relief. It needs the full commitment of developing countries to create a favorable environment – the policies and institutions necessary -- for market-led growth. As President Bush said yesterday, “*overcoming extreme poverty requires partnership, not paternalism.*” Over the decades, we have learned that without economic and social freedom, the rule of law, and honest government, international aid has little value.

In 2003, the UN’s Commission on the Private Sector and Development estimated that developing nations have \$9.4 trillion in potentially usable assets. These, unfortunately,

cannot be fully mobilized in support of development because of failures in regard to property and contract law. If our efforts are to succeed, we all must do our part. The developing world should create an enabling environment for the private sector, with a sound macro-economic framework, clear definitions of property rights, enforceable contracts, competitive markets, and well-designed regulatory policies.

Over the past 60 years, more men and women have lifted themselves and their families from poverty than in all the history that preceded this era. Aid played a role in this. However, more was the result of individuals working proudly on their own initiative in largely free markets.

The UN's greatest contribution can come from helping countries make and implement the right choices about how to govern themselves. Stable and successful societies are ones that protect the rights and freedoms of all individuals, and that build the institutions of market democracies. These concepts are at the periphery of the UN's development activities. They should be at the center.

Mr. President,

In his first address to the joint session of Congress, President Bush said in Spanish, "*Juntos podemos.*" (Together we can.)

It is time for us to stop looking at the world as a division between developed and developing nations, as a separation between North and South. We should see it as one of partnership, because together we can make it happen.

Thank You, Mr. President.