

Background note on roundtable 3:

Dialogue on global partnerships and financing of the MDGs

Organizers: UNCTAD

ECOSOC 2005 High Level Segment

29 June, 2005

Issues and questions to be addressed by the Dialogue

1. Mobilization of resources for development¹

(i) ODA, external debt and development

- In many countries, the share of ODA targeted for productive sector development has declined significantly, while ODA targeted for the social sector has increased. Does the changing composition of aid have any implications for the ability of countries to promote high and sustained rates of economic growth and make sustainable progress towards development goals?
- Does the changing composition of aid decrease a country's chances to promote economic growth and gradually begin to finance development goals out of its own resources?
- How do the current various initiatives respond to debt sustainability? In this context, the G7 proposal for a 100 percent cancellation of the debts of the poorest countries needs examination and monitoring of the implementation of this proposal needs to be established.
- How can the capacity of developing countries to manage their debt be enhanced, including in particular the use of practices and instruments that will help countries maintain their debt at sustainable levels?

(ii) Making investment work for development: Enhancing productive capacity and international competition

- What is the role of FDI in national development goals and how can this role be realized (enabling environment, role of medium-scale private sector); how can developing countries attract more development-friendly FDI?
- What mechanism can be used for mitigating investment-related risks, in particular in the LDCs?
- What policies can be used to increase synergies and complementarity among ODA, FDI and domestic investment, in particular for poverty reduction?
- What home country measures can be used to link poverty reduction with FDI promotion?
- How can the transnational corporations play a pro-active role in supporting the implementation of the MDGs and how can the economic and social corporate responsibility contribute to this objective?

2. Partnerships for development

¹ Issues relating to trade, including the Doha Round, commodities and science and technology were addressed at the first part of this Dialogue, which took place on 17 March 2005.

- Experience with selected partnerships for development: What are the salient features of such partnerships? How can the economic, financial, social, human rights and gender dimensions be taken into account?
- Lessons learned: what are the basic "ingredients" of a successful partnership? How can the contributions of multi-stakeholder partnerships involving the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society in general to the realization of the goals be maximized, in particular in the pursuit of development and poverty eradication?

3. Conclusions (to be reached at the end of the session)