



Education for ECOSOC 2011



FROM GLOBAL COMMITMENT TO NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION

Inside This Issue

ECOSOC 2011

Annual Ministerial Review (AMR)

Preparatory Process (Regional Preparatory Meetings & National Voluntary Presentations) 3

Development Cooperation Forum (DCF)

Preparatory Process (Regional Meetings) 4

The role of ECOSOC and the Review of 61/16

ECOSOC 2010 Retreat "Building on Progress: Defining New Actions" 5

PAST ACTIVITIES

Substantive Session of ECOSOC, New York, 28 June - 23 July 2010 6

High-level Segment (28 June - 2 July 2010) 6

Dialogue with the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions (2 July 2010) 7

Coordination Segment (6 - 8 July 2010) 8

Operational Activities Segment (9 - 13 July 2010) 9

Humanitarian Affairs Segment (13 - 15 July 2010) 10

General Segment (16 - 22 July 2010) 11

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION 12

ECOSOC publication on "Achieving Gender Equality, Women's Empowerment and Strengthening Development Cooperation" **Coming out soon!**

Already printed and available online:

1. Development Cooperation for the MDGs: Maximizing Results
2. ECOSOC 2011 Calendar on the theme of "Education"



THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC) serves as the central forum for the discussion of international economic, social, humanitarian and environmental issues, and for formulating policy recommendations addressed to Member States and the United Nations system. Through these discussions, the Council plays a key role in fostering international cooperation for development and in setting priorities for action.

The Council coordinates the economic, social and related work of the United Nations Funds, Programmes and Specialized Agencies, and holds throughout the year several short sessions, ad hoc meetings, round-tables and panel discussions with the participation of non-governmental stakeholders, to prepare for its four-week substantive session in July. The work of the Council is also carried out by the activities of its subsidiary and related bodies.

The Members of the Bureau of ECOSOC

President of ECOSOC

H.E. Ambassador
Hamidon Ali (Malaysia)

Vice-Presidents of ECOSOC

H.E. Ambassador
Octavio Errázuriz (Chile)

H.E. Ambassador
Somduth Soboron (Mauritius)

H.E. Ambassador Alexandru
Cujba (Republic of Moldova)

H.E. Ambassador
Morten Wetland (Norway)



Child at an outdoor class runs by the local community for the children of squatters in Vere, Jamaica.

ECOSOC 2011

Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) Preparatory Process (Regional Preparatory Meetings & National Voluntary Presentations)

The [ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review](#) (AMR) will be held in July 2011, in Geneva, on the theme "implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education." The 2011 AMR will provide an opportunity for ECOSOC to:

Assess the state of implementation of the United Nations Development Agenda with a focus on its education-related goals and objectives;

Analyze key challenges affecting the achievement of the internation-

ally agreed goals and commitments related to education;

Consider recommendations and proposals for action, including new initiatives and partnerships to accelerate the implementation of education-related objectives at all levels;

Promote broad-based engagement by encouraging input from a broad-range of stakeholders.

As part of the preparatory process, the Council is organizing a series of regional preparatory meetings, among them, a regional preparatory meeting on the theme "[Innovative Approaches to Reaching Women, Girls and the Marginalized in the Arab Region](#)" on 9 December 2010 in Doha, Qatar. The meeting will bring together a diverse group of regional stakeholders to discuss how innovative approaches, policies and targeted interventions can help reach women, girls and the marginalized.

A regional meeting on the theme "[Education and the Millennium Development Goals](#)" will also be held on 25 March 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand, in conjunction with the 10th High-Level Meeting on Education for All (EFA). The meeting will gather experts to discuss trends, challenges, policies and programmes on education in Asia and the Pacific and their impact on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

For the 2011 AMR, thirteen countries have volunteered to make their [National Voluntary Presentations \(NVPs\)](#). They are: Bangladesh; Belarus (Republic of); Germany; Malawi; Mauritius; Mexico; Pakistan; Qatar (State of); Samoa; Senegal; Tunisia; Turkey; and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). The preparations have already started

and national consultative meetings are expected to be completed by the end of February. The national reports are expected to be available in the six official languages of the United Nations by early June 2011. This will allow the reviewing countries as well as all the Member States of the Council to study the reports before the national presentations in July in Geneva.

The National Voluntary Presentations (NVPs) provide a critical forum for sharing countries' experiences on key accomplishments and challenges in implementing national development strategies and policies. The 2011 NVP process provides an opportunity to address the implementation gaps and obstacles, which still prevent full implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action and Agenda 21, as well as to highlight challenges such as conflict, disaster or scarce resources that exacerbate vulnerability. The lessons from these reviews can also provide insights on national implementation to enrich the preparations for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development.

Development Cooperation Forum

Preparatory Process (Regional Meetings)

In September 2010, the MDG summit "encouraged the continued efforts in the [Development Cooperation Forum \(DCF\)](#), as the focal point within the United Nations system, to carry out a holistic consideration of issues related to

international development cooperation, with the participation of all stakeholders."

As the DCF embarks on its third phase leading up to the next Forum in 2012, its preparations will be guided by the goal to promote development cooperation and improve its quality and results.

An important challenge will be to build on the expertise gained during phase II of the DCF in developing global assessments and recommendations – as was done notably on the issue of mutual accountability in development cooperation. This will require expanded analysis and background studies. A good example of the kind of research to be produced is the first independent [International Development Cooperation Report \(IDCR\)](#) issued last September. The IDCR builds on the analysis conducted by the Forum over the last two years together with additional research.

As 2015 draws near, the Forum is poised to facilitate open and evidence-based policy dialogue in High-level Symposia and other preparatory meetings. This should help to identify best practices. It should also encourage provider and recipient countries alike, along with UN system agencies, civil society organizations, local governments, parliamentarians, and the private sector, to make greater efforts to improve impact of development cooperation on the Internationally Agreed Development Goals, including the MDGs.

The forum will look closely at global trends in development cooperation – such as the role of decentralized cooperation and of foundations from both the North and the South - which are increas-

ingly vital development cooperation sources. It is expected to promote a thorough discussion on aid quality issues, building on the priorities of the range of development cooperation actors. It will continue to focus on the three current strands of work (mutual accountability, South-South and triangular cooperation and policy coherence). The Forum will also look at development cooperation for LDCs and other countries in special situations ahead of the Istanbul conference on LDCs. Special attention will also be paid to development cooperation for promoting sustainable development. This will help to build consensus on some critical issues leading up to Rio+20.

A first preparatory high-level Symposium is expected to take place by the end of the first quarter of 2011. The meeting's agenda will take shape in light of preparations for the LDC-IV Conference and the Fourth OECD/DAC High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness later that year.

The MDG Summit outcome document also reaffirmed the role of ECOSOC, and in particular the AMR and the DCF, for the follow-up to the MDGs. In this regard, one could consider that the forum progressively move beyond a technical debate on mutual accountability to serve as a platform where developed and developing countries alike hold each other accountable on development cooperation commitments. The upcoming review of resolution 61/16, which mandated ECOSOC to hold the DCF, will look closely at how ECOSOC can discharge this role.

The role of ECOSOC and the Review of 61/16

ECOSOC 2010 Retreat “Building on Progress: Defining New Actions”

At the initiative of the ECOSOC Bureau, the ECOSOC Retreat was organized on 29 – 30 October 2010 by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung. It was co-sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations, with the Permanent Representatives of Malaysia, Mauritius, and the Republic of Korea to the United Nations being co-conveners. Altogether there were 65 participants, of which 39 were government representatives, including 20 participants at the Ambassadorial level. The objective of the Retreat was to bring together a cross-section of Permanent Representatives of Member States to the United Nations, senior level UN officials and experts to review the contributions of ECOSOC to multilateral process and cooperation.

The Retreat discussed the role of ECOSOC in global economic governance and prepared for the review of General Assembly resolution 61/16 during its 65th session. In this regard, the Retreat highlighted ECOSOC's experience with the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) and the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) and reviewed the Council's relation with the Peacebuilding Commission. The Retreat also addressed the role of ECOSOC in UN system-wide coherence (resolution 64/289).

It was clear from the discussions that Member States are generally

pleased with the implementation of ECOSOC's broadened mandate and scope of work since the 2005 World Summit. However, the participants felt the need to further strengthen ECOSOC and deepen its engagement particularly by the involvement of Ministers of Finance and other line Ministries in its deliberations. Its agenda should reflect greater balance between social and economic development issues in order to achieve this. There was a strong sentiment that the MDG framework should provide the overall substantive backdrop to the work of the Council.

There was a strong support for DCF as a unique forum for dialogue among development cooperation ministers/practitioners and with civil society actors from the South and the North. There was a recognition that it also opened up a space for policy debate with countries that provide South-South cooperation. It was pointed out that the Forum has the potential to become a platform for mutual accountability on the implementation of the MDG outcome document, but this role should be developed carefully. Participants considered that annualizing the DCF could enable it to better discharge its broad mandate, respond to emerging issues and engage Geneva based agencies. There are, however, differing views on whether this should be done. There is likewise no agreement on whether the DCF should have a negotiated outcome document.

On AMR, there was a broad support for this function and it was considered that AMR is going from strength to strength. The AMR has advanced the international agenda

on specific issues. It has had an impact on the outcome document of the MDG Summit. The National Voluntary Presentations (NVPs) need to be progressively strengthened and broadened. The voluntary nature should be preserved while incorporating greater stakeholder involvement and technical inputs. These could build on good practices such as the African Peer Review Mechanism and OECD/DAC peer reviews. A stronger analytical framework would be useful. There was a strong call for the follow-up mechanisms. With regard to the themes after 2011, some themes were suggested, including capacity building, decent work and youth employment, infrastructure, or countries in special situation.

On economic governance, the legitimacy and convening power of ECOSOC as a Charter body of the UN was emphasized and it was stressed that this aspect be optimized and the Council to be transformed into a global economic coordination council, which should be constituency-based and expanded to include BWIs and multilateral development banks, as well as the UN development system. It was also emphasized that ECOSOC should not be seen just as a Council, but as a system comprised of subsidiary organs and functional bodies. It was pointed out that the relationship of ECOSOC with the G20 should be improved through the development of an interface between the two and the identification of issues for such an interface.

On system-wide coherence, the Retreat felt that ways and means should be devised within ECOSOC to strengthen the link between the policy and operational levels of

the Organization's work, complemented by enhancing coherence in national governments. There were suggestions for strengthening the working relationship and added-value of ECOSOC with respect to the work of the Peacebuilding Commission.

The President's Summary of the 2010 ECOSOC Retreat and other documents on the Retreat are posted on the ECOSOC website. <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/meetings/ecosocretreat.shtml>

PAST ACTIVITIES

Substantive Session of ECOSOC, New York, 28 June - 23 July 2010

High-level Segment (28 June – 2 July 2010)

Gender equality and the empowerment of women, the mainstreaming of gender perspectives in all [Millennium Development Goals](#) (MDGs), and the challenges of international development cooperation were the focus of the High-level Segment of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), organized at UN Headquarters from 28 June to 2 July.

More than 700 participants representing governments, multilateral organizations, aid agencies, civil society, private sector and academia discussed long-term commitments to improve and bring visibility to gender equality and the empowerment of women. They also addressed the international development cooperation and its coherence, accountability and ef-

fectiveness in support of the realization of the MDGs.

High-profile figures were present at the [High-level Segment](#), among them, [Michelle Bachelet](#), former President of Chile; [Andrew Mitchell](#), Secretary of State for International Development, United Kingdom; [Geena Davis](#), Academy Award Winner; [Andris Piebalgs](#), European Commissioner for Development, and more than 40 ministers.

Under the overall theme of the 2010 Annual Ministerial Review (AMR), "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commit-



ECOSOC President opens 2010 High-level Segment

ments in regard to gender equality and empowerment of women", the Council organized a series of [panels and roundtable discussions](#). Thirteen countries (Australia, Brazil, France, Guatemala, Moldova, Mongolia, Namibia, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Republic of the Congo, Republic of Korea and The United States) presented their experiences in implementing their national development strategies to achieve the internationally agreed goals.

At the closing of the Substantive Session, ECOSOC President Hamidon Ali [said](#) that the "Council has made a strong contribution to making 2010 a watershed year for women through its Annual Ministerial Review. A key message emanating from the High-level segment is that gender equality and the empowerment of women sit squarely at the heart of development and peace worldwide, and that the international community must remain fully committed to these efforts."

The [Second Development Cooperation Forum](#) (DCF) of ECOSOC organized also during the High-level Segment took place on 29 and 30 June 2010 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The [DCF](#) reviewed trends and progress in international development cooperation and promoted greater coherence in the development activities of different partners. It also identified gaps and obstacles in international development cooperation and made recommendations on practical measures and policy options. The DCF also sent a clear political message to the General Assembly's High-level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs on the importance of sustaining and improving development cooperation against the backdrop of the crises.

Mr. Ali said the "Forum, has successfully established itself as one of the primary arenas for global dialogue and policy review of the effectiveness and coherence of international development cooperation. The evidence shows that despite the dramatically changed global economic landscape, official development assistance (ODA) and other development financing

are essential in ensuring progress towards attaining the Goals, now more than ever."

A [Ministerial Declaration](#) was adopted by ECOSOC at the closing of the High-level Segment on 2 July. The Declaration stressed the need to invest more in women and girls. Member States also emphasized, among other things, the importance to strengthen the full integration of women into the formal economy, boost national and international efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, and improve access to health systems for women and girls.

Mr. Ali stressed that the "Ministerial Declaration serves as a pivotal action point on progress, challenges and implementation gaps. It identifies strategies to effectively implement international commitments on gender equality and opens new windows of collaborative actions, partnerships and engagement of new and diverse stakeholders. The declaration served as a useful source for agreement on the MDG Outcome document on issues of gender equality and empowerment."

Dialogue with the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions (2 July 2010)

The High-level Dialogue of the Executive Secretaries of the UN Regional Commissions with the Economic and Social Council was held on 2 July 2010, and addressed the theme "Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women in the Implementation of the MDGs: The Regional Perspective".

The Executive Secretaries offered overviews of the progress

made towards achieving gender equality and empowerment of women in their respective regions, and highlighted the main challenges faced by countries in this regard. The presentations revealed that progress on achieving gender equality was varied across regions and within regions, and different kinds of challenges were faced by countries in different regions which required focused and targeted actions. All the regional presentations conveyed a common message of the critical importance of gender equality and empowerment of women towards the achievement of all the MDGs, and towards inclusive and sustainable development.

Mr. Abdoulie Janneh, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) stressed that the achievement of gender equality is a sine qua non to the achievement of all the Millennium Development Goals. He emphasized that while successes had been identified in the fields of primary education, women's human rights and political advancements, the African Region has had limited success so far in its efforts to improve maternal health, promote women's participation in conflict prevention and resolution, reduce high rates of violence against women and girls, ensuring access to productive resources and combating negative stereotypical tendencies towards women. In the light of the demonstrated positive linkages between gender empowerment measures and economic growth, issues of gender equality and the empowerment of women had to be given the needed prominence to make this possible.

Mr. Jan Kubis, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Com-

mission for Europe (ECE) stressed the need to act more decisively to convert political commitments into policies and practice. He called for effective implementation and enforcement of legislation. He identified this as a key challenge, and for further strengthening of National Mechanisms for gender equality, and mobilization of broad societal support for gender equality objectives. The prevailing gender gaps also had to be made visible by making them measurable, and this required good gender statistics.

Ms. Noeleen Heyzer, the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) conveyed three key messages in her presentation:

First, the Asia-Pacific region's role in wider global progress towards the MDGs and economic recovery, as well as in meeting the needs of its peoples, was severely constrained by the costs of gender inequality across the region;

Second, steps to reverse this situation by putting gender equality and women's empowerment at the top of existing collective agendas could provide the circuit breaker to reclaim lost momentum and galvanize progress towards achievement of the both MDGs and economic recovery;

Third, to ensure real change and to protect and build on previous gains - women's empowerment must be at the centre of political and economic decision-making. She identified two immediate priority areas for collective action in Asia and the Pacific: first, the need for gender responsive crisis response policies and measures, and second, the need to engender

social protection policies and programmes.

Mr. Bader AIDafa, Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) identified the following main challenges in the Western Asian region: Overall women's labour force participation in the Arab region was 22 per cent compared with the world average of 56 per cent. Discriminative legislation, gender wage gaps, lack of access to resources and cultural barriers contributed to the low level of women's economic participation. Even though the Arab region has made significant progress towards reducing gender disparity and attaining gender equality in all three levels of education, disparities had increased between the sexes at higher levels of education. The representation of women in national parliaments in the Arab region at 10 per cent was one of the lowest in the world. He called for stronger political commitment and practical implementation of policies.

Mr. Antonio Prado, Deputy Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) emphasized that the key to ending primary inequality between men and women was to change the social, political, cultural and economic bases that underpin the sexual division of labour. Change could only be brought about through reforming the links between the basic institutions of society, the State, the family and the market, through public policies. The State had to take all the necessary steps, whether legislative, institutional, educational, health-related, fiscal or related to women's participation in decision-

making in order to do away with gender biases in the labour market and overcome the wage gap, segmentation and discrimination.

During the interactive discussion that followed, delegations from all regions called for the strengthening of the role of the Regional Commissions and requested them to work further to support Member States in their efforts towards achieving gender equality and empowerment of women.

Coordination Segment (6 – 8 July 2010)

The 2010 [Coordination Segment](#) took place for the first time over the course of three full days due to the incorporation into the segment of the agenda item

the Ministerial Declaration on global public health adopted by the Council in 2009. The discussions benefited from a high level participation, including of three UN Executive Heads and a Deputy Executive Head, as well as a number of high-level personalities, such as the Heads of global alliances in the health sector and major private sector representatives as well as the participation of the Personal Representative of the Prime Minister of the host country for the recently held G-8 and G-20 Summits. The discussions have constituted an important link towards the High-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the MDGs, and allowed for a review of major trends in the global health sector, including on international aid commitments.



Doctor administers vaccinations at camp for displaced Haitians

“Financing for Development”. This responded to Council resolution [2009/30](#) which decided to give more prominence to the consideration of this item within the substantive session.

The first part of the segment was devoted to the role of the UN system in the follow-up to

Two panels were organized during the segment. The first one entitled “Towards a United Nations comprehensive policy response to global health challenges” took stock of efforts undertaken by the UN system since the adoption of last year's Ministerial Declaration, considering progress achieved and critical gaps that had to be ad-

dressed. The second panel entitled “Coordinating efforts for achieving the health-related Millennium Development Goals” looked at how efforts undertaken by major stakeholders in the field of global public health, including the UN system and health alliances, could be better coordinated. The Council adopted a rich and action-oriented resolution to guide the UN system in the health sector (resolution 2010/24).

The Council held a discussion with Assistant Secretary-General Thomas Stlezer on the annual overview report of the UN system Chief Executive Board for Coordination (CEB). The coordination segment is now the designated part of the substantive session where the CEB report is presented and discussed. This report focuses on major issues of system-wide concern that are considered by CEB, particularly the response by the UN system to the world economic and financial crisis and the whole issue of climate change.

Following this discussion, the Council reviewed progress towards the implementation of the Global Jobs Pact and the Social Protection Floor Initiative established by the CEB last year and led by ILO and WHO. A panel was held on the matter, with practical country level analysis from Argentina and El Salvador. The Council then adopted a resolution ([2010/25](#)) that promotes the Global Jobs Pact and asserts the role of the Council in following up on its implementation.

The discussions on Financing for Development were structured around two Interactive Plenary meetings entitled “South-South Cooperation and Financing for Development: Investment, Trade and

Technology Transfer” and “Global Economic Governance”. The first meeting, on South-South Cooperation, looked at the increasing importance of South-South cooperation and its relevance to alleviating poverty, promoting trade and investment and enhancing aid effectiveness. The second meeting, on Global Economic Governance, discussed developments in the existing system of global economic governance and reforms that could make it more equitable and effective. Among other things, consideration was given to ways to strengthen the role of the United Nations in global economic governance. The Council adopted resolution [2010/26](#) which reaffirms the importance of staying fully engaged, nationally, regionally and internationally, in ensuring proper and effective follow-up to the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, as reaffirmed in the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development.

Another innovation of this coordination segment has been the Council's interaction with the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and similar Institutions (AICESIS), through an address by Mr. Antonio Marzano, President of AICESIS. For the first time, AICESIS holds its annual General Conference at the United Nations and at the time of the ECOSOC session.

Regarding the role of the Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major UN conferences and summits, the Council decided to postpone the consideration of the matter until the General Assembly reviews the implementation of resolution

61/16 on the role of the Council, at its sixty-fifth session.

Operational Activities Segment (9 – 13 July 2010)

Taking place on the heels of the GA system-wide coherence process, the [2010 Operational Activities Segment of ECOSOC](#) (9 - 13 July) rallied member states in a spirit of reform and reenergized the implementation of the GA's policy guidance on UN operational activities for development.

This year, innovations were introduced in the Segment to better connect the Council's normative work to national realities: the day before the segment, a round table brought together national focal points for UN operational activities for development (Ministers, Director-Generals and others) from nine programme countries. It provided a genuine assessment of UN's work in various development situations. The stronger representation of experts from capitals greatly enriched the Council's work during the segment itself. The segment once again attested to the continued strong commitment of Member States to the 2007 General Assembly Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review of UN operational activities (TCPR).

The segment's panel discussions and general debate revealed important achievements made by the UN development system in pursuing coherence, efficiency and effectiveness in its operational activities. They showcased innovative approaches, including the “Delivering as One” pilot initiative at country level. The debates reaffirmed the core principles of national owner-

ship and leadership, and alignment with national development plans and priorities. Great importance continues to be attached to capacity development which should be at the core of the United Nations development system's work. In spite of the progress, there remain challenges in ensuring that the UN works in a coherent way. This is true among others in the area of the simplification and harmonization of business practices, especially at headquarters level. The quality and quantity of funding for operational activities for development, and the fragmented architecture of funding, also remain important issues. Supporting capacity development of UNCTs on policy advice was regarded as a priority for the entire UN system.

Moving forward, the Council is expected to provide more targeted guidance on the preparation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR) during its next substantive session. It was also felt that the QCPR should serve as a mechanism to follow-up on the implementation of GA's decisions on system-wide coherence.

The Segment concluded with the adoption of a resolution, which calls for further measures to ensure the quality of the work of the UN development system at country-level; the use of national expertise and capacities; and continued pursuit of efficiency.

Humanitarian Affairs Segment (13 – 15 July 2010)

The ECOSOC [Humanitarian Affairs Segment](#) (HAS) concluded on 15 July 2010 by adopting a consensus resolution on 'strengthening

of the coordination of the emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations.'

A total of 34 Member States, three regional groups and seven observers to ECOSOC including UN agencies participated in the ECOSOC General Debate. Many States expressed concern with the impact of global challenges on humanitarian needs and vulnerabilities; and with the security of humanitarian operations and personnel. Most statements reaffirmed the humanitarian principles, and a considerable amount of statements stressed the importance of capacity building for disaster risk reduction and prevention.

As in previous years, OCHA/PDSB organized two formal panel discussions at the request of the Member States and coordinated seven informal side events. Both panels were well attended and featured presentations by high-level government officials, UN agencies, the International Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, academia and non-governmental organizations. The panel on 'Humanitarian assistance operations in highly hazardous, or insecure and unsafe environments' looked at lessons learned and discussed various threats posed to humanitarian operations and highlighted measures humanitarians can adopt to mitigate some of the challenges. It was moderated by Mr. John Holmes, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator and included the following speakers: Mr. Gregory Starr, Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Department for Safety and Security (DSS); Mr. Ramiro Lopes da Silva, Deputy Executive Director of Ex-

ternal Relations, World Food Programme (WFP); Mr. Fyras Mawazini, Executive Coordinator, NGO Coordination Committee for Iraq (NCCI); Mr. Martin Mogwanja, United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator, Pakistan; Mr. Dominik Stillhart, Deputy Director of Operations, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); and Mr. Alexander Aleinikoff, Deputy High Commissioner, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The second session, also moderated by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator was entitled 'Strengthening preparedness for humanitarian emergencies and the coordinated provision of humanitarian assistance, in particular, addressing the humanitarian needs of the affected populations and the factors that increase susceptibility to humanitarian emergencies' and focused on disaster risk reduction, vulnerability and humanitarian needs arising from global challenges. Its speakers were: Hon. Dr. Naomi Shaban, Minister of State for Special Programmes, Republic of Kenya; Mr. Saroj Kumar Jha, Manager and Head, Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), The World Bank; Dr. Jemilah Mahmood, Chief of Humanitarian Response Branch, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); Dr. Peter Walker, Irwin H. Rosenberg Professor of Nutrition and Human Security and Director, Feinstein International Center, Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, Tufts University; Mr. Laurent Thomas, Director, Emergency Operations and Rehabilitation Division, Food and Agricultural



United Nations peacekeepers distribute water and meals to the residents of Cité Soleil, Haiti.

Organization (FAO); and Dr. Eric Laroche, Assistant Director-General, Health Action in Crises, World Health Organization (WHO).

On Tuesday, 13 July, the informal ECOSOC event to discuss transition from relief to development took place. The event highlighted the successes and challenges of the national and international response to the 12 January earthquake devastating Haiti and agreed on the importance of a coordinated long-term approach to recovery.

In the margins of the formal Segment, seven informal events were held: the annual "Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) 2010 Mid-Year Review Launch" and events entitled: "The Power of Resource Flows – Tackling Issues of Financing for Transition"; "Resilient Cities: Disaster Risk Reduction in an Urbanizing World"; "Challenges for Gender Equality Programming in Humanitarian Action: Operating in High Risk Environments, Lessons from Haiti and Introduction to New Gender Tools"; "Environmental Emergencies: At Humanitarian and Environmental Crossroads"; "Human Rights in Humanitarian Emergency Response: A Contribution from the Special Procedures

Mechanisms"; and the IASC "Launch of Report: Haiti – Six Months On".

General Segment (16 – 22 July 2010)

During the [General Segment](#), the Council adopted a large number of resolutions and decisions submitted by its subsidiary bodies

for its consideration. As in previous years, it also considered a number of cross cutting issues. Among the key decisions adopted by the Council were:

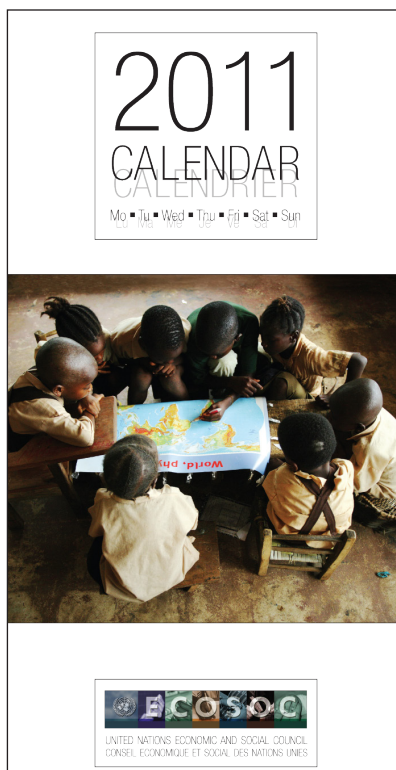
- » A resolution on Tobacco use and maternal and child health, which calls upon Member States to include tobacco control in their efforts to improve public health, including maternal and child health, and reduce child mortality, through protecting children and pregnant women from tobacco use and exposure to tobacco smoke.
- » The extension of the mandate of the Council's Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti until July 2012, with the purpose of closely following and providing advice on Haiti's long-term development strategy to promote post-disaster socio-economic recovery, stability and reconstruction, with particular attention to the need to ensure coherence and sustainability in international support for Haiti.
- » The resolve to take appropriate policy measures and ac-

tions in support of the policies and measures of the least developed countries to enable them to overcome the negative impacts created by the multiple global crises, such as the economic and financial crises, concerns regarding food security, the energy crisis and the adverse impacts of climate change.

- » Convening a discussion within the Council on international cooperation in tax matters by spring 2011.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Already printed and available online



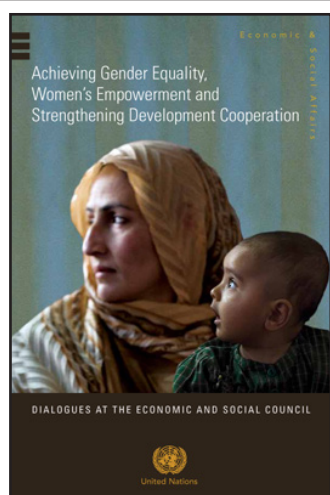
MORE INFORMATION

This newsletter is published by the Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination - OESC/DESA

Mr. Nikhil Seth
Director

Mr. Newton Kanhema
Development Section
Department of
Public Information
Tel: +1 (212) 963 5602
E-mail: kanhema@un.org

Mr. Paul Simon
Office for ECOSOC
Support and Coordination
Department of
Economic and Social Affairs
Tel: +1 (917) 367-5027



Coming out soon!

Dialogues at the Economic and Social Council: Achieving Gender Equality, Women's Empowerment and Strengthening Development Cooperation

This publication presents the key debates that took place during the 2010 High-level Segment of the Economic and Social Council, at which ECOSOC organized its second biennial Development Cooperation Forum. The discussions also focused on the theme of the 2010 Annual Ministerial Review, "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women".