

**Statement by the President of the Economic and Social Council
at the Public Meeting of the Security Council on the Situation in Africa
29 January 2002**

Mr. President,

I would like to thank the President of the Security Council for the invitation and am pleased to participate in this meeting in my capacity as the President of the Economic and Social Council. In light of the encouragement expressed in the Millennium Declaration for regular consultations and coordination among principal organs of the United Nations in pursuit of their functions, I hope that this meeting will help lay the foundation for greater cooperation between the Security Council and ECOSOC, as envisaged in the UN Charter.

The multidimensional nature of conflict prevention and post-conflict peace-building demands a multidisciplinary approach tailored to the unique circumstances of each situation. The Security Council and the Economic and Social Council could work together more effectively, within the purview of the mandates set for each body by the Charter. Mindful of the independence of the two Charter bodies, the aim would be to ensure the effective collaboration takes place between them so that all the United Nations actors in the field work in complementary fashion.

In recent years, ECOSOC on various occasions has devoted its attention to the issue of development in Africa, the most recent being the high-level segment of its substantive session in July 2001. A Ministerial Declaration was adopted which reiterated the support expressed at the Millennium Summit for the consolidation of democracy in Africa and assistance to Africans in their struggle for lasting peace, poverty eradication and sustainable development. The Ministers also called on the UN system and the international community to support the New African Initiative adopted by the OAU at its Lusaka summit, which is now the New Partnership for Africa's Development. Furthermore, in accordance with GA resolution 55/217, this year ECOSOC will consider the creation of an ad hoc advisory group on countries emerging from conflict.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen

I should like to express my appreciation for this opportunity and my intention to continue discussion with the members of ECOSOC on ways to enhance the cooperation between the two Councils.