

**Closing Statement by H.E. Marjatta Rasi, Permanent Representative of Finland to
the United Nations and President of Economic and Social Council**

**Economic and Social Council, Special High-Level Meeting with the Bretton Woods
Institutions and the World Trade Organization**

New York, 26 April, 2004

Excellencies,
Distinguished Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Special High-Level Meeting of the Economic and Social Council is now drawing to a close. I promise I will only hold you a few short minutes more.

As you know yourselves from having listened to the reports from the roundtables, we have had some very lively, well-informed and open discussions of key policy issues involving a mixture of participants who have very different perspectives. I will not attempt to summarize the summaries of the roundtables, nor of the statements from this morning, nor the ones that you just heard this afternoon. I hope they are still fresh enough in your minds.

I will produce a full summary of today's discussions which you will have as a document for the summer ECOSOC session with some key points for your reflection. The summaries of the hearings with the business sector and civil society will be issued as addenda to that document.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is now up to us to turn today's discussions into meaningful action. The theme of "Coherence, coordination and cooperation in the context of the Monterrey Consensus" continues to be at the heart of our work.

One of the reasons why we needed a UN conference two years ago to discuss global development, financial and trade matters as well as aid policies was concern about the cost of insufficient policy coherence. Indeed, the Monterrey Consensus asked ECOSOC, as the mandated coordinating body of the United Nations system, to forge greater coherence in these policy areas through this annual high-level meeting.

The core of these meetings is the frank and informal roundtable discussions. The private sector and civil society organizations join international organizations in the roundtables to make the exchange as wide as possible.

I do want and hope that the participants take the content of the dialogues home with them and that they inform the work not only here in the General Assembly, ECOSOC and UNCTAD, but also in IMF, the World Bank and WTO. Also we should be able to report more on what is happening in the country level.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Monterrey Consensus made the ECOSOC responsible to engage the UN effectively with the inter-governmental bodies of the other institutions in order to build — I would say more than confidence — enthusiasm for the Monterrey process.

We have had a lot of success in fostering such interactions over the past year. This process must go on, and as we can see in today's meeting it is moving ahead.

We have also homework to do in capitals. The success of our joint meetings requires collaboration among the concerned authorities. We made major efforts to build up inter-ministerial relations in the run-up to Monterrey. I want to encourage colleagues to continue on the same track.

We are here — I am here — for nothing less than to try to best use the United Nations to spread development to all corners of the world and roll back poverty, indeed to eradicate it. This is our common purpose. Let us work together to be an effective global coalition to advance toward the day when we realize it.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The meeting is adjourned.