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**Opening Statement by H.E. Mr. Léo Mérorès, Permanent Representative of Haiti to the United Nations
and President of the Economic and Social Council**

**ECOSOC Special Event: “How can corporate philanthropy contribute to promoting the Millennium
Development Goals, particularly for sustainable development?”**

25 February 2008

Excellencies,
Madame Deputy Secretary-General,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed an honour to welcome all of you here today to consider how Governments, the corporate sector and foundations, can work together to advance the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

When world leaders gathered to adopt the Millennium Declaration in September 2000, they set a target date of 2015 to achieve the MDGs and bring about improvement in the lives of the poorest and most vulnerable, particularly women and children. Half-way to that target date, regrettably, many countries find themselves way behind in their efforts towards realizing the MDGs.

Consequently, and in an effort to accelerate the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, ECOSOC has been conferred the critical task of finding effective ways of helping countries to achieve the implementation of these goals. One thing is clear: Governments cannot by themselves achieve the successful attainment of these goals. The active involvement of all parts of society is critical if we are to succeed. As the central forum for policy dialogue and review on issues relating to worldwide economic and social development, ECOSOC has the distinct advantage of bringing together stakeholders from all different sectors - governments, international organizations, civil society, the private sector and academia - to discuss and recommend courses of action.

Excellencies,
Madame Deputy Secretary-General,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today's meeting can serve as a very useful launch of a discussion on how the corporate giving community could partner with governments and other stakeholders in support of ECOSOC's work, particular within the framework of the two important new mandates it has been tasked with, namely the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) and the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF). Please allow me to say a few brief words on these two functions, which will be held during ECOSOC's high-level segment this upcoming July.

The AMR seeks to advance and evaluate progress made in the implementation of the United Nations' development work, particularly the Millennium Development Goals. The theme of this year's Review will be "Implementing the internationally agreed development goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development". It will consider issues relating to the three pillars of sustainable development, namely, economic growth, social development and environmental protection, and try to find ways to accelerate the implementation of commitments made by countries to overcome obstacles and promote a better life for all.

Further, ECOSOC will hold its first DCF this July. Its aim is to review trends in development cooperation and promote greater coherence in the development activities of the various development partners. It is expected to become a principal mechanism for global dialogue and policy review on key development cooperation issues. It is vital that the views of all stakeholders on these issues, particularly from civil society and the private sector, are considered through their participation in the discussions and deliberations of the Forum.

I have no doubt that our deliberations today will yield new and exciting ideas for collaboration and partnership in our efforts to improve the quality of life for the many impoverished and vulnerable people worldwide. I intend to make recommendations and proposals which may come out of our discussions today available at ECOSOC's substantive session in July, in particularly at the AMR and the DCF.

I am now pleased to give the floor to Ms. Asha Rose-Migiro, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, to make her welcoming remarks.
