

30/06/2005



Press Release ECOSOC/6157

Economic and Social Council
2005 Substantive Session
11th & 12th Meetings

Extract from Press Release

SPEAKERS IN HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL CITE

INSUFFICIENT PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING MILLENNIUM GOALS

ABDOUL AZIZ SOW, Minister of NEPAD, African Integration and Good Governance of Senegal, said that, in his country, extreme poverty was rampant, especially in the rural areas. A vicious cycle could be seen, which found rural populations trapped. The Senegalese authorities had not remained passive, but had established a decentralized rural development strategy, the objectives of which were to allow access to rural populations to essential social services, and provide access to markets. The strategy had produced positive results, which was important in view of the urgency of improving the living standards of the rural population. However, the poverty level remained very high. He reiterated the central role played by rural development in achieving poverty eradication and sustainable development.

When the floor was opened, the representative of the Dominican Republic reported on the experience of his country, which was one of eight pilot countries of the Millennium Project. His President had established a presidential commission specifically for the Millennium Development Goals. He noted that being a pilot country was not always good because it was that country that was responsible for making errors while other countries could learn from them. After evaluating the country's needs, it was determined that the country needed a strategy to promote rural development that was more integrated and oriented towards the marginalized population. His country had 9 million people, two thirds of which lived in rural areas. What was needed was an agenda for the poor.