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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

PATRIZIO CIVILI, Assistant Secretary-General of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, said the Council's review of the Ministerial Declaration should focus on assessing progress in relation to basic policies and the Declaration's central message: the need to bring rural development back to the center of attention. That raised the question what response that message had so far generated in policy development. The emphasis on the need for rural development raised questions of collaboration. There was now close and active cooperation between the Secretariat, United Nations agencies and international financial institutions.

Another question was what other values the Declaration had introduced, he said. Had other parts of the system been engaged and how had the Declaration affected policies? How could new initiatives be related to the Declaration? One initiative was the United Nations Public/Private Alliance for Rural Development, which served, among other things, as a catalyst for establishing partnerships. Today's session was evidence of the Council's continued focus on monitoring implementation. The session could yield valuable insights into the way the Council could monitor implementation in the future.