

General Assembly elects Madagascar to serve on UN Economic and Social Council

The General Assembly elected this morning 18 members to the ECOSOC starting on 1 January 2006. Madagascar, the ECOSOC's pilot country for UNPPA, was among the 18 elected.

Other members elected for a three-year term were: Angola, Austria, Benin, Cuba, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Japan, Mauritania, Paraguay, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sri Lanka, and Turkey. ECOSOC has a total of 54 members.

Established by the UN Charter, ECOSOC serves as the central forum for discussing international economic and social issues, and for formulating policy recommendations addressed to Member States and the UN system.

ECOSOC is responsible for promoting higher standards of living, full employment, and economic and social progress; identifying solutions to international economic, social and health problems; facilitating international cultural and educational cooperation; and encouraging universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Among its functions, ECOSOC initiates studies and reports on these issues and organizes major international conferences on issues under its mandate. The Council's broad purview extends to over 70 percent of the human and financial resources of the entire UN system.

Source: UN News Centre, 17 Octobre 2005