

Summary of meetings

Monday, 2 July 2007

Economic and Social Council Substantive session of 2007

13th meeting

Opening of the session

The President of the Economic and Social Council, H.E. Mr. Dalius Čekuolis (Lithuania), opened the substantive session of 2007.

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters [1]

The Council adopted its agenda as contained in documents E/2007/100 and E/2007/100/Corr.1. The Council also approved its programme of work as set out in document E/2007/L.6.

Opening of the high-level segment

The President of the Council made an opening statement.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations made a statement.

The President of the General Assembly, H.E. Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa, made a statement.

The Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, Ms. Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka, read out the 2006 Special Citation of the Habitat Scroll of Honour .

The Secretary-General presented the 2006 Special Citation of the Habitat Scroll of Honour to the Prime Minister of Bahrain, H.H. Sheikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, who made a statement.

Keynote addresses on the theme “The Eradication of Poverty and Hunger” were made by H.E. Ms. Micheline Calmy-Rey, President of the Swiss Confederation and Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and H.E. Mr. Gediminas Kirkilas, Prime Minister of Lithuania.

High-level policy dialogue on current developments in the world economy and international economic cooperation [2]

The Council held its high-level policy dialogue on current developments in the world economy and international economic cooperation. The Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs made a statement and moderated the dialogue.

Statements were made by the following panelists: Mr. Supachai Panitchpakdi, Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; Mr. Pascal Lamy, Director-General of the World Trade Organization; Mr. Murilo Portugal, Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund; and Mr. François Bourguignon, Senior Vice President and Chief Economist of the World Bank.

An exchange of views ensued and interventions were made by the representatives of Pakistan (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Portugal (on behalf of the European Union), the Russian Federation, the United States, Kazakhstan, Guinea and China.

The panelists responded to comments made and questions posed by delegations.

14th meeting

Thematic discussion on the theme “Strengthening efforts at all levels to promote pro-poor sustained economic growth, including through equitable macro-economic policies” [2(a)]

The Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Mr. Sha Zukang, introduced the report.

Parallel round tables:

Round table 1:

Growth, poverty reduction and equity – emerging paradigm

The round table was chaired by H.E. Mr. Dalius Čekuolis (Lithuania), President of the Council, and moderated by Mr. Kermal Derviş, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme.

The Moderator opened the discussion of the round table and made a statement.

Following a statement by the Moderator, presentations were made by the following panelists: George Gyan-Baffour, Deputy Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Ghana; François Bourguignon, Senior Vice-President and Chief Economist, The World Bank; Jayati Ghosh, Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University.

The panelists then engaged in a dialogue with the delegations of: India, the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Pakistan, Philippines, China, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Namibia, Algeria, Bolivia, Guinea, Brazil and Thailand.

The panelists made concluding remarks and the Moderator summarized the discussion of the round table.

The Chairman of the round table made concluding remarks.

Round table 2:

Coherence and coordination of macroeconomic policies at all levels

The round table was chaired by H.E. Mr. Hjalmar Hannesson (Iceland), Vice-President of the Council, and moderated by Mr. Jomo Kwame Sundaram, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development.

The Chairman made an opening statement.

Following a statement by the Moderator, presentations were made by the following panelists: Murilo Portugal, Deputy Managing Director, International Monetary Fund; Augusto Manuel Nogueira Gomes Correia,

President, Portuguese Institute for Development Assistance; and Ana Maria Carrasquilla, Chairperson, Latin American Reserve Fund.

The panelists then engaged in a dialogue with the delegations of Italy, Pakistan, Belarus and Kazakhstan and responded to questions raised by the Moderator.

The chairman of the round table made concluding remarks.