



**S U D A N**

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**STATEMENT  
BY**

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**Permanent Representative  
of the Republic of the Sudan to the United Nations**

**AT THE GRNERAL DEBATE  
OF THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT**

**2008 SUBSTANTIVE SESSION  
OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**New York , 2, July 2008**

(Check against delivery)

**Mr. President**

**Honorable Ministers, delegates, and guests:**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Allow me at the outset to express my country's appreciation for your capable stewardship of the Economic and Social Council since assuming the Presidency. I would like to express my delegations' appreciation to the Secretary General for his thorough reports prepared for this segment, and the recommendations contained therein.**

**My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the G77 and China, Ethiopia on behalf of the African Group, and Bangladesh on behalf of the LDCs.**

**Mr. President**

**We gather in this August forum at a time of challenge and change as we work together for a more strengthened ECOSOC. The global challenges we face today are huge: a global food crisis, the adverse impact of climate change that is threatening the very existence of societies and eroding hard won gains, and a global financial crisis with wide ramifications.**

**These crises have exposed the deep inequality and structural weakness that plague the international system, and brought to bear issues which call for urgent global response. The most important of these issues are the governance of the international system, and the status of implementation of international development commitments.**

**We believe that ECOSOC's new function , The Annual Ministerial Reviews (AMR), and the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF), must continue to review in a sustained manner the status of implementation of the internationally agreed commitments, and focus on strengthening the global partnership for development as contained in the Millennium declaration, the Monterrey Consensus and the Johannesburg plan of Implementation.**

**We believe that ECOSOC is well positioned to play a leadership role in tackling these global emerging challenges, and must continue to enhance its effectiveness in addressing in an integrated manner the issue of sustainable development with its three pillars, economic development, social development and environmental protection. .**

**Mr. President,**

**At the mid way point in achieving the MDGs, Africa continues to suffer and the magnitude of its special needs remain daunting. Extreme poverty is rampant where the absolute number of the poor is rising and is projected to stand at 360 million by 2015, poor health and the spread of disease continue to take the lives of millions of people around the continent.**

**This is worsened by slow international support. The World Bank reports that delivering commitment to double aid to Africa over the period from 2004-2007 has been slow, rising by only \$ 5 billions in real terms compared with target increase of \$ 25 billion by 2010.**

**Mr. President.**

**Amidst these global challenges, Sudan is exerting serious efforts at laying down the foundation for achieving sustainable development, by seeking to provide a conducive environment, whereby peace and development go hand in hand. We strongly believe that international efforts to promote sustainable development in all countries can help reduce the likelihood of conflict.**

**Amongst the core strategic objectives of Sudan's National Strategic Five Year Plan (2007-2011), the first since the conclusion of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), is the realization of political stability through national unity, promoting sustainable development, modernizing agriculture, eradicating poverty, and achieving balanced development between rural and urban areas.**

**Sudan is currently moving along firm strategic development planning and medium term priority setting with a strong engagement with the international community: Sudan United Nations Development Assistance framework (UNDAF) has been recently endorsed and extended to cover (2009-2012) which signals the move to a multi-year cycle to ensure continuity and stability of development assistance and engagement with UN Funds and Programs, and with all stakeholders.**

**Sudan Third Consortium which was held in Oslo 6-7 May 2008, provides a forum to annually review progress in social and economic aspects of the CPA, and is a further illustration of the country's strong engagement with the international community. The international community reaffirmed in Oslo its commitment to broad based development in Sudan through greater financial support to deliver the peace dividends that would help sustain peace.**

**Mr. President,**

**Having been recognized for its abundant diverse agricultural resources, water resources and land, Sudan has embarked on an unprecedented agricultural revival and rural development aimed at diversifying the economy and addressing the negative impact of over-reliance on oil production, while addressing the food crisis and combating poverty and hunger. To this end, the Government has allocated 20% of public revenue annually for agriculture, and a considerable percentage of the Agricultural Banks revenue is allocated to microfinance for small producers, in addition to tax exemption for agricultural and livestock production.**

**Sudan is also implementing bilateral and regional partnerships in the area of food security within South South cooperation with a number of Asian, Middle Eastern, and African countries, and have put in place legislations and regulatory framework aimed at providing the conducive environment for foreign investment.**

**However, like most countries in Africa, Sudan faces many challenges. Climate change poses a serious challenge. The country's fragile ecosystem, on which the vast majority of the population depends, suffers from recurrent drought and floods which are leading to pressing challenges to address the national priorities of food security, water supply, and public health. This is specially pressing in rural areas, home to around 70% of the total population. Therefore, the goal of Sudan's National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA) is to identify priority activities to address climate variability and climate change within the context of economic development, with focus on three sectors, agriculture and rural development, water resources and public health.**

**Other challenges include unsustainable external debt burden which currently stand at around 30 billion dollars thus impeding Sudan's efforts at achieving sustainable development. Indeed funds released through debt relief can assist the Sudan to shoulder the heavy burden of reconstruction and development. However, it is disappointing that despite implementing prudent macroeconomic an debt relief criteria, debt relief continues to be held hostage to political conditionality. We hope that the newly established Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) will seriously address these obstacles and their impact on development efforts.**

**Finally Mr. President.**

**The true success and relevance of ECOSOC could best be measured by its ability to continue to refine its new functions and adapt them to global emerging challenges, and in particular, by its effectiveness in addressing the structural weaknesses of the global economic governance. We hope that this session will be a defining step in that direction**

**I thank you.**