

# MEXICO



MISION PERMANENTE

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Statement by Ambassador Claude Heller  
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Permanent Representative to the United Nations

High Level Segment  
Substantive Session  
Of the Economic and Social Council  
On the theme of the Annual Ministerial Review:  
“Strengthening Efforts to Eradicate Poverty and  
Hunger, including through the Global Partnership  
for Development”

*Geneva, July 4<sup>th</sup> 2007.*



**Mr. President,**

My Delegation welcomes the holding of this first Annual Ministerial Review of the ECOSOC; an important outcome of this Council's reform.

Mexico is strongly committed to the strengthening of the ECOSOC as the main organ in charge of issues related to economic and social development.

In this sense, from the point of view of my delegation, by assessing the progress made in fulfilling the commitments agreed to in the United Nations Conferences and Summits in these spheres, the Annual Ministerial Reviews allow to promote, on one hand, an enhanced international attention to the main challenges that we still face in achieving the full development of our peoples, and, on the other, the necessary modifications to the Organization's actions to reach the development goals set forth in these Summits, notably, the Millennium Development Goals.

**Mr. President,**

Mexico is concerned that, halfway through the time frame between the Millennium Summit (2000) and the date established for the accomplishment of the MDG's (2015), progress is insufficient. Inequalities within and amongst nations not only persist but they have increased, particularly in some regions.

We consider it essential for the United Nations system to focus its efforts in supporting national strategies for the fight against poverty, thus maximizing the effectiveness and efficacy of its actions on the ground.

My country is convinced that while economic growth is an essential requirement for development, in itself it is insufficient. In this regard, the fight against poverty and hunger cannot be disconnected from the promotion of policies that foster a favorable environment for productive national and foreign investment as well as the strengthening of the private sector in strategic areas for economic growth such as infrastructure, thus favoring an increased productivity.

Due consideration should be given to the consolidation of access of the most vulnerable groups to the financial sector, as well as to the reduction of the flight of capitals. The incentives to capital markets and particularly access to micro financing services are important tools to improve the quality of life of the populations which need it most in both rural and urban areas.

**Mr. President,**

Since the end of the nineties, Mexico has undertaken important reforms and has implemented a variety of social programmes as part of an ambitious strategy to combat poverty. Efforts aimed at investing in nutrition and human capital of population living in poverty have been a prominent component of this strategy.

Such efforts, together with the macroeconomic stability that we have been able to sustain for approximately a decade, have permitted our country to accomplish the first Millennium Development Goal before the established timeframe, and to achieve additional goals in relation to poverty reduction and hunger.

The Mexican strategy for the reduction of poverty includes, amongst its most effective components, the promotion of micro credit programs that facilitate access to financial services for persons of lower income, in order to foster productivity and self-employment and to improve the quality of life of wide sectors of the population, in particular women. In a context of macroeconomic stability, such measures have reverted to a great extent the negative effects of the economic crisis that occurred in the mid 90's, in terms of people living in poverty.

Mexico firmly believes that the actions undertaken by the international community, including multilateral and bilateral partners, should be fully integrated into national strategies. This requires a global and coherent vision on themes such as market access and capacity building, as well as stability and predictability of Official Development Aid (ODA), in the spirit of the internationally agreed commitments, particularly the Monterrey Consensus.

**Mr. President,**

Mexico, as a middle income country greatly benefits from the work done by the United Nations entities to support our efforts in overcoming the challenges we face in certain areas that still need improvement.

Indeed, for several years now Mexico has been among the countries with highest human development index, and has significantly progressed in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Nevertheless, inequalities by region, ethnicity and gender remain a challenge to overcome. It is also a problem that the Government of my country is firmly decided to confront.

Therefore, in the context of its National Development Plan for 2007-2012, Mexico has established the following key objectives:

- First, to reduce extreme poverty and ensure equal opportunities and enhanced capacities, so that all Mexicans significantly improve their quality of life and are guaranteed food, health, education, adequate housing, and a suitable environment for their development.
- Secondly, to significantly reduce social, economic, and cultural gaps that persist in our society, so that all Mexicans are treated in a fair and equal manner in all spheres of their real life, so that all forms of discrimination are eradicated.

Furthermore, Mexico considers the Millennium Development Goals to be a minimum basis; just a starting point. Therefore, like other middle-income countries, Mexico has established a series of additional goals, with the purpose of adapting to the national reality. Amongst these goals, Mexico aims to decrease food poverty in a 50 per cent and to improve the daily protein consumption of its population. Regarding education, Mexico has the goal of achieving universal coverage of the twelve years required for basic education completion (preschool, elementary school and middle school); and accomplishing satisfactory learning levels on language and mathematics. With respect to health, a significant example is the reduction of the mortality rate because of tuberculosis to a 1.5 per 100 thousand inhabitants, a number lower than the one currently presented by OECD countries.

Mexico appreciates and is grateful for the actions of the United Nations agencies in the field, in support of our efforts on diverse matters such as the promotion of equality, the strengthening of democracy and increased competitiveness. This work fosters the sustainable and integral development of my country.

**Mr. President,**

With regards to development cooperation, Mexico as a middle income country is not an ODA recipient nor a donor. However, my country has become an active provider of technical cooperation, particularly in the field of policies aimed at combating poverty.

I would like to highlight Mexico's active collaboration with international organizations and entities such as the World Bank and the UNDP, with the purpose of giving technical assistance to other developing countries in developing and implementing schemes which are focused on the poorest populations, in order to stop the inter-generational transmission of poverty.

Moreover, Mexico continuously seeks innovative mechanisms for the promotion of south-south cooperation. Allow me to highlight among these a project undertaken between Mexico, Chile and South Africa for the transfer of knowledge and methodological tools to develop public policies for the combat against poverty. The project is being co-financed by Mexico and Chile and will start operating on the second semester of 2007.

While important progress has been made in reducing poverty and hunger, significant challenges still remain and we consider that technical cooperation among countries facing similar problems constitutes a powerful tool to face them.

I thank you very much.