

**Statement by the Republic of Korea at the High-level Segment of the  
Economic and Social Council Substantive Session of 2007**

Mr. President,

1. I would like to begin by offering my appreciation for your efforts in helping us hold the first Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) and launch the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) at this substantive session of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). I am confident that these new structures will serve as important mechanisms to review the progress in promoting the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs, and to provide comprehensive guidance in achieving those goals in the most efficient manner.

2. My delegation believes that, at this mid-point in the implementation of the MDGs, it is appropriate and timely that ECOSOC has chosen MDG Target 1, the eradication of poverty and hunger, as the first theme of the AMR. We hope the discussion in this AMR will successfully guide us to accomplish the remaining goals by their target year.

Mr. President,

3. It is certainly a welcome development that economic growth has increased in most developing countries since 2001, averaging over 6 percent in 2004-2006. However, economic growth does not necessarily bring poverty reduction unless such growth is supported by appropriate pro-poor policies and equitable distribution measures. Based on our own development experience, my delegation believes that certain key areas deserve particular attention.

4. First, the urgent priority is rural development. As three-quarters of the world's extremely poor live in rural areas, effective rural development must be central to any strategy aimed at drastically reducing poverty levels. In the course of our national development drive in the 1970s, rural development was an essential element. We first focused on strengthening rural infrastructure. New technologies were introduced to increase agricultural production. Investment in human resource development was given priority. As the result, we could achieve substantial improvement in living conditions. Subsequent increases in agricultural productivity, education and development of human resources helped to produce work force for non-agricultural sectors.

5. Second, we should harness science and technology. As the Secretary-General's report indicates, there will be more than 3 billion mobile phones and 1 billion fixed-line phones around the world by the beginning of 2008. Access to the Internet has rapidly increased all over the world, including in developing countries. It would be unimaginable to achieve our development goals without making full use of information and communication technologies (ICT). My delegation believes that more effort needs to be made to integrate ICTs into poverty reduction strategies.

6. Third, promoting gender equality is central to the development process. From our experience, we cannot stress enough that women's equal participation and input are instrumental in the achievement of development goals. It is discouraging to note, however, that, despite incremental progress in many areas, the feminization of poverty still persists. Education and training for women and girls are essential to ensure that poverty is not inherited. In this respect, my delegation firmly believes that more vigorous

effort should be made to guarantee equal access to education and training at all levels for women and girls.

Mr. President,

7. Development goals cannot be fully accomplished in the absence of sufficient and reliable financial resources. In this respect, the 2002 Monterrey Consensus and subsequent discussions on innovative financial sources for development provide comprehensive directions. My delegation hopes that the review conference on development financing, which is to take place next year, will provide further momentum for reinvigorating the efforts of the international community to achieve the financial commitment targets.

8. On our part, the Republic of Korea has made significant efforts in recent years to scale up its development cooperation. The Korean government is also of the view that, in addition to traditional ODA, innovative financing for development can contribute to the mid- and long-term financial needs of achieving the MDGs. In this context, we have successfully enacted this year an air-ticket solidarity levy to expand the financial basis for development. The emerging array of public-private partnerships in the form of infrastructure funds warrants special attention as an additional source of financing. In the Asia-Pacific region, Korea is leading the discussion on public-private partnerships on infrastructure development and infrastructure financing. The Korean government will hold the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Development in Seoul from October 2-5 of this year. We trust that this will offer an

opportunity for creative policies to attract private investment to meet the needs of developing countries.

In closing, Mr. President,

9. I would like to stress that this year marks a milestone for ECOSOC since this session is taking place in the context of the strengthened ECOSOC framework. In this regard, my delegation would like to once again, express its hope that this year's discussion, especially in the AMR and the DCF, will lead to a productive and policy-oriented outcome. Such a result will be crucial in setting the future tone of this important machinery and refining the role of ECOSOC in coordinating and leading the UN activities in the economic and social field.

Thank you.