

**Statement by Counselor Li Kexin at the 2009 Substantive Session of  
ECOSOC under Item 4: the Role of the United Nations System in  
Implementing the Ministerial Declaration of the High-level Segment of  
the Substantive Session of 2008 of the ECOSOC**

July 13, 2009, Geneva

Mr. President,

The Chinese delegation welcomes the report submitted by the Secretary General under this item and associates itself with the statement by the representative of the Sudan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

As was pointed out by the Secretary General's report, in connection with the priority areas identified by the Ministerial Declaration of the high-level segment of the 2008 substantive session of ECOSOC, the UN system has achieved certain progress in the areas of energy, climate change, water, agriculture and rural development, sustainable urbanization, social equality and institutions for sustainable development.

However, we must not overlook the fact that the overall global situation of sustainable development remains grim. The dramatic increase in food prices has considerably reduced the purchasing power of low-income, food deficit countries; The intensification of climate change events and environmental degradation is putting at risk the safety and livelihood of a growing number of people; Widening inequalities, unemployment, underemployment and poor working conditions are becoming a major obstacle to achieving sustainable development worldwide; and the financial and economic crisis that has swept the whole world has made the struggle of the international community for sustainable development even more difficult.

Many countries are facing unprecedented challenges in their endeavor to achieve sustainable development.

Mr. President,

Agenda 21 and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development have set down for the world the roadmap and concrete goals towards sustainable development. The implementation of these goals and commitments requires enhanced cooperation among countries in a joint response to challenges and the UN system should play an effective role to help countries to strengthen cooperation.

First, the most urgent problems should be addressed as a priority. Economic growth is the basis for sustainable development. Under the current circumstances, the foremost tasks facing countries of the world are to overcome the financial crisis, restore economic growth, create employment and maintain economic and financial security, and concentrated efforts are needed to tackle them. One important component part of this endeavor is the reform of the governance structure of the international financial institutions and the establishment of an institutional framework which is favorable to the steady development of the world economy and finance. In this respect, the UN system should and must play a bigger role.

Secondly, emphasis should be put on implementation and action. The 2008 Ministerial Declaration once again stressed the role of the international community in helping developing countries in the following areas: mobilize adequate and sustained resources, help with and finance the acquisition and transfer of key technologies, and capacity building at various levels. There is no lack of commitments on the part of the international community, but the key is to fulfill these commitments and turn them into real action. The UN

system should play a coordinating role in assisting countries reinforce development cooperation in their common endeavor for development.

Thirdly, it is necessary to give full play to the role of the ECOSOC and the CSD. Realizing sustainable development is an integrated undertaking that involves many aspects such as economic growth, social development and environmental protection. At present when many developing countries are constrained by multiple challenges, we should give priority consideration to the question of how to let the ECOSOC and the CSD fully play their roles. I hope that the current session can, in view of the current situation, carefully sort out the responsibilities of various organs, effectively coordinate their work, pool resources and integrate capabilities to implement assistance measures so as to really help developing countries realize development.

Mr. President,

The Chinese government attaches great importance to sustainable development. It has set down a sustainable development strategy that is people-centered, comprehensive and coordinated and has formulated the Eleventh Five Year Plan for Economic and Social Development which contains a series of concrete goals and initiatives for the realization of sustainable development. My government took an active part in the formulation of the relevant internationally agreed development goals and deems their implementation its obligation. We are determined to eventually realize sustainable development and are confident that we can achieve this goal.

Thank you, Mr. President.