



**2009 ECOSOC SUBSTANTIVE SESSION
Closing of the Coordination Segment
Geneva, 14 July 2009**

**Closing remarks by
H.E. MR. SOMDUTH SOBORUN
VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

Excellencies
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have come to the end of 2009 coordination segment. The segment was defined by enriching and illuminating discussions on challenges of sustainable development, financial crisis, climate change and national development strategies. I would like to thank all delegations for their active participation and to panelists, who enriched our deliberations. I would also like to thank the Secretariat for its invaluable support throughout the segment.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would not even attempt to summarize the whole array of presentations made during the segment. This session has provided an important opportunity to review progress in enhancing coherence, coordination and cooperation among the follow-up activities and institutions related to the implementation of the different elements of the UN development agenda. I would like to capture the essence of key messages that emerged over the last two and a half days.

Firstly, we need to address the impact of financial crisis through coherent and coordinated policies. To ensure coherence and consistency across economic, social and environmental areas, we should work within the framework of sustainable development. It is time to embrace this concept and deploy it to reconcile short-term sectoral policies and objectives with the long-term goal of sustainable development.

Secondly, the UN system has an important role to play in achieving this kind of coherence. While UN system has made some progress in promoting such coherence and coordination, there is a need to do more work and in some areas a need for a fundamental rethink. At the same time, governments also need to promote coherence and coordination in their decision-making. It is essential that they provide coherent guidance in various governing bodies.

Thirdly, there is a need to fully utilize the potential of sector specific inter-agency mechanisms like UN water and UN energy. While the establishment of these mechanisms is certainly a step in the right direction, there is a need to make these arrangements more effective so that they can help the UN system in delivering as one.

Finally, the current crises have provided an opportunity of changing the whole approach toward economic growth and this opportunity should not be missed. Otherwise, we will have to face dire consequences of climate change. There was an unequivocal message that UN system should gear up its activities in the area of sustainable development and assist Member States in shifting to the sustainable way of development.

Overall, this session of the coordination segment has highlighted that the challenges ahead for the UN system in strengthening its efforts to promote sustainable development, are not only about scaling up current initiatives, but also about developing the capacities to adopt more comprehensive approaches.

The draft resolutions that are being negotiated for this segment provide important vehicles to provide guidance to the work of the UN system and we should use them fully. I would like to thank Mr. Tony Fatua from New Zealand for leading this process. I urge all delegations to finalize these resolutions at the earliest.

Thank you.