



*Speech of The
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Before the
Thematic Session of the
Economic & Social Council*

Given By:

*His Excellency
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New York 28 June, 2010

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In the Name of Allah, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

Mr. President,

The Delegation of my Country expresses its gratefulness for being given the opportunity to speak at the opening of the work of the 2010 Thematic Session of the Economic and Social Council. Moreover, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Delegation supports the statement given by the representative of Yemen on behalf of the Group of Seventy-seven and China.

Mr. President,

Our meeting today coincides with the five-year deadline for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. This target requires from all of us more work in order to be achieved by 2015, something we all aspire. In this regard, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia believes in the importance of cooperation with the International Community, as well as recognizing the many economic and social difficulties that the developing countries are encountering. Consequently, the Kingdom is deeply concerned with development issues and supporting development efforts in developing countries. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia remains persistent on advancing the wheel of development in developing countries and the least developed countries in particular. The main goal was to eradicate extreme poverty and to help the people encountering special and emergency situations. In cases of natural disasters, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is considered among the leading countries who quickly respond by assisting the friendly people all over the world.



The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia regards combating poverty and helping the least developed countries by providing them with financial and moral assistance to build the infrastructure needed for the future of these countries and their peoples as the first Millennium Goal; as well as regarding the achievement of development and eradication of poverty as a moral and humane responsibility.

Mr. President,

Saudi Arabia is considered among the first countries that have contributed to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals because of the great importance it attaches to sustainable development issues and its increase of public expenditure allocations by more than one-half for education, health services and social development.

Mr. President,

Saudi Arabia asserts on the importance of the essential role of the United Nations, particularly the Economic and Social Council, in supporting international cooperation, achieving the Millennium Development Goals agreed upon internationally, enabling the developing countries' access to development programs, enhancing its role in the global dialogue about financing mechanisms, achieving universal education, promoting gender equality and women empowerment, reducing mortality rate among children and health improvement. All those matters, as well as others, should be highly prioritized within the United Nations' priority ladder.

The efforts to develop the situation of women and enhance their participation in the economic and social development of the Kingdom are among the strategic plans concerning women, developing their capacity and removing obstacles preventing their participation in development activities. The Government policies towards the development of women's participation in the economic activity are not



only confined to the strategic objectives and policies, but also they directly addressed developing implementation mechanisms for expanding and deepening this participation.

In the context of increasing and diversifying employment opportunities for Saudi women, my Country's Council of Ministers adopted a range of procedures and measures to enhance economic activity for women with a view to make a quantum leap in its patterns of women's participation.

One of the main concerns of the Kingdom is to improve maternal reproductive health and reducing child mortality. The percentage of pregnant mothers who are receiving health care by health care professionals has risen from 90% to 97%.

Mr. President,

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is considered a donor country and a major partner in international development. The foreign aid constitutes an essential aspect of the Kingdom's Foreign Affairs' policy. Consequently, the Kingdom is considered one of the major donor countries in the world as the estimated total assistance provided to developing countries from 1973 or to 2008 is more than (95.75) thousand million US dollars. Moreover, the success of the development process depends on the international community's respect to the Cultural Privacy and special customs of the developing countries; and to adopt the appropriate development process suitable to this Privacy.



Mr. President,

Saudi Arabia believes that efforts to reform the international financial, monetary and trade system requires that these efforts should be achieved through the existing institutions and by practicing transparency in trade and financial transactions in order to avoid the existing weaknesses in the global financial markets; and building a global economic system that is based on a new partnership between developing and developed countries on a basis of cooperation, interdependence and international economic relations founded on justice, equality, mutual benefits, shared responsibility and the countries' need to enable their products to reach the markets of the developed countries.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia reaffirms that there will be no sustainable development and achievement of the Millennium Goals without the presence of global peace, equality and preservation of the developing countries' rights; to achieve international legitimacy and adherence to international law by enforcing its provisions upon all states without exception; and solving conflicts through methods of peaceful diplomacy to avoid this century's existing wars and conflicts.

Thank you, Mr. President,