

TURKEY

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Colleagues,

It is an honor for me to address you at the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council. I believe that our deliberations so far both during the Annual Ministerial Review and the Development Cooperation Forum were fruitful. We were able to share views on best practices and success stories as well as common challenges which need to be overcome in the timely achievement of the MDGs. The open exchange of views will certainly feed into the High-Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals this September.

Excellencies,

This year's ECOSOC substantive session convenes at a critical juncture. As we stand only five years away from our target date for the achievement of the MDGs, the world continues to feel the ongoing repercussions of the multiple crises. The developing countries, and in particular the least developed countries as well as countries suffering from conflict are facing an even more daunting challenge as the hard-won progress on some of the MDGs is under threat. Therefore, the High-Level Plenary Meeting in September will be very critical in addressing the current gaps and challenges in achieving the MDGs and coming up with the right policy responses to accelerate progress. Our leaders must send a clear political message across the globe that MDGs are achievable with the right policies, adequate investments and reliable international support.

In this context, Turkey believes that the report of the Secretary-General on trends and progress in development cooperation gives a thorough analysis of the current situation and makes accurate recommendations for future action.

Today, we see that the parameters of international development cooperation are changing as new actors become more active in the formulation and implementation of development policies and strategies at the national, regional and international levels. In addition to the core group of developed countries that are OECD-DAC members, emerging donor countries have acquired a unique position in

international development cooperation. South-South Cooperation has become a major form of technical cooperation among developing countries.

Against this background of an evolving network of international development cooperation, it is time that we give a fresh impetus to the global partnership for development. We believe that a renewed partnership that is further enhanced by increased ODA from developed countries, the comparative advantage of emerging donors and best practices of developing countries will work to the benefit of developing countries, in particular the LDCs. However, while scaled-up and predictable ODA is critical in providing a valuable contribution to the development efforts of developing countries, it is not sufficient to generate and sustain balanced growth and development. Better-targeted aid which responds to the country-specific needs and challenges, reinforced by national ownership of recipient countries is more likely to generate robust growth and development. This is why renewed global partnership is even more important as ODA must be complemented by private capital flows, including foreign direct investment and microfinance facilities which need to be channeled into productive sectors and infrastructure projects. Mobilization of financial resources into employment generating activities deserves particular attention in terms of sustainability of livelihoods.

The importance of coordination and coherence in the formulation and implementation of development policies and strategies cannot be emphasized enough. I would like to underscore the role of UN in this respect. An effective, coherent and better coordinated UN system with an integrated development agenda will notably facilitate the development process. Turkey will continue to contribute to the efforts towards the enhancement of the effectiveness, efficiency, accountability and credibility of UN System in this regard.

Mr. President,
Excellencies,

2010 lends itself as a landmark year also for gender issues with the 15th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 10th anniversary of the Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and last but not least, the upcoming High-Level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs in September. All these milestones are tantamount to the fact that the empowerment of women and gender equality are high on the agenda of the international community and the commitments of the states for the

fulfillment of these goals are under the close purview of the international public opinion.

Thus, this year's theme for the Annual Ministerial Review on "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women" is particularly relevant and creates an ample opportunity both to take stock of where we stand in terms of our commitments and to prepare ourselves for the deliberations in September.

It is true that over the past decades, considerable progress has been achieved on a global scale, for the advancement of women, for the provision of gender equality and for the full protection of human rights of women. As a result of this progress, we notice today greater awareness towards the rights and needs of women. More equitable laws that protect women from discrimination were introduced, more commitments were voiced by States to repeal discriminatory laws and social practices and more women took their rightful place in the social, economic and political fabric of the societies they live in.

The international legal instruments and the widespread efforts of the international community, including the non-governmental organizations, have helped achieve progress towards eliminating barriers before the advancement of women and girls.

The inextricable link between women's security and the international peace and security has also begun to be acknowledged in greater terms. As such, the Security Council Resolutions 1325(2000), 1820(2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889(2009), to which Turkey lent its strong support, all underline the importance of empowering women as a key element for the international peace to sustain.

However, as the majority of speakers that have taken the floor before me have also mentioned, despite the progress, much needs to be done to ensure universal adherence to the rights of women, as well as to overcome remaining gaps and challenges related to the MDGs. Stubborn disparities still persist between males and females. Gender equality and women's rights are not adequately integrated in all MDG targets, which at the same time hinder sustained progress on MDGs.

Today, we should voice more strongly that without women and men having the same opportunities and rights, be it in education, health, social affairs or the economy, none of the targets we set for ourselves through the MDGs could be achieved in full. As the Secretary General rightly emphasized at the opening of this

session, *"until women and girls are liberated from poverty and injustice, all our goals-peace, security, sustainable development-stand in jeopardy"*.

Therefore, in this critical year of review and assessment, all of us - the international organisations, national governments, civil society and the private sector, need to renew our efforts and further place gender equality at the heart of the development agenda.

It is our hope that through the establishment of the Composite Entity for gender issues under the roof of the UN, we, the family of nations, will be able to give a more structured and coordinated, thus better tailored response to the current needs and challenges we face in the realization of full gender equality and the empowerment of women all over the world.

We have a road map before us that is solidified in the Ministerial Declaration that we will adopt tomorrow. Turkey is determined to fulfill its commitments in this regard and ready to contribute to efforts at the international level as well.

Thank you.