



## The President of the UN Economic and Social Council visits Europe

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ECOSOC President Néstor Osorio meets with WFP Executive Director Ertharin Cousin in Rome - Photo: ©WFP/Rein Skullerud

H.E. Mr. Néstor Osorio, President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), paid an official trip to Europe last week to explore opportunities for cooperation in support of the United Nations development agenda and the upcoming ECOSOC substantive session.

During his visit, Mr. Néstor Osorio addressed the *Ministerial Segment of the 10<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF10)*, hosted by the government of Turkey in the historic city of Istanbul. The President praised the work of the Forum and stressed the need to strengthen the complementary and

mutually supportive relations between ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies.

Mr. Osorio then held meetings in Geneva with senior officials from the World Trade Organization (WTO), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the World Health Organization (WHO). He also met with the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

“Innovation is the foundation of modern society. It is essential to create new products, processes, markets, and industries that can increase productivity and competitiveness. Innovation is also crucial to address the interconnected dimensions of sustainable development,” Mr. Osorio said at the opening of the 2013 Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) regional meeting for Europe. “The 2013 Annual Ministerial Review of ECOSOC will focus on how to harness the power of STI to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and promote sustainable development”.

Mr. Osorio travelled in Rome and met with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) as well as the Chairperson of the Committee on the World Food Security. Topics discussed at these meetings included potential areas for collaboration; the upcoming ECOSOC AMR on science, technology, innovation and the role of culture; food security; the post-2015 development agenda; and the ECOSOC strengthening efforts.

At the end of his official visit to Europe, the President of ECOSOC met with Pope Francis to discuss global poverty. They exchanged views on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 development agenda, as well as the role of ECOSOC. Mr. Osorio stressed during an interview with the Vatican radio that “2015 is when the MDGs are supposed to be evaluated, not terminated or concluded, but evaluated. So [our task is to] evaluate how we can take further steps in the post 2015 period in a more comprehensive and committed way with all the actors from developed and developing countries”.