

Volume 4 – Number 2

N e w s  f r o m
E C O S O C

Newsletter on the work of the United Nations Economic and Social Council

ECOSOC -- The 54-member Economic and Social Council serves as the central forum for discussing international economic and social issues, and for formulating policy recommendations addressed to Member States and to the United Nations. It makes or initiates studies and reports; makes recommendations on international economic, social, cultural, educational, health and related matters; and promotes respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms. Subsidiary bodies, commissions and committees of ECOSOC carry out its year-round work. ECOSOC strengthens cooperation within the UN system, coordinates the work of the specialized agencies and consults with non-governmental organizations. A substantive session of the Council is convened annually in July, and supplementary formal meetings as well as informal panels on topical issues are held throughout the year.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- ❑ 2005 ECOSOC High-level Segment
- ❑ 2005 ECOSOC Coordination Segment
- ❑ 2005 ECOSOC Operational Segment
- ❑ 2005 ECOSOC Humanitarian Segment
- ❑ 2005 NGO contributions to the High Level Segment
- ❑ Conference on InterFaith Cooperation for Peace: Enhancing Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation Towards Peace in the 21 Century
- ❑ Conference on Sustainable Urban Growth and Architecture
- ❑ Conference on the Critical Role of Nutrition for Reaching the Millennium Development Goals
- ❑ ICT Task Force Working Group on Enabling Environment
- ❑ Promoting an Enabling Environment Conference: “Music Technology, culture and Health Care”

President of ECOSOC: H. E. Ambassador Munir Akram (Pakistan)

Vice-President of ECOSOC: H. E. Ambassador Ali Hachani (Tunisia)

Vice-President of ECOSOC: H. E. Ambassador Agim Nesho (Albania)

Vice-President of ECOSOC: H. E. Ambassador Luis Gallegos (Ecuador)

Vice-President of ECOSOC: H. E. Ambassador Johan C. Verbeke (Belgium)



2005 ECOSOC High-Level Segment

The deliberations on the theme of this year's High Level Segment "Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities" made an important contribution to the process leading up to the high level plenary meeting of the General Assembly to be held in September this year. While expressing their appreciation for the Secretary-General's Report on the theme of the segment (E/2005/56), the Council noted that the internationally agreed development goals, as contained in the various United Nations conferences and summits reflect the inherent inter linkages between the social, economic and environmental dimensions of a comprehensive international development agenda. They also underlined the need for promoting an integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes.

A "Voices against poverty" event was added as a special feature to this year's High-Level Segment. Among others, Professor Joseph Stiglitz, Nobel Laureate in Economics, 2001, addressed the Council and recommended three changes to international governance that could make a contribution towards achieving the MDGs. The first step would be to honour the promise made to put development at the centre of the Doha

round of trade negotiations. The second proposal was to address global financial instability through global reserve reform. Addressing the root causes of debt, international macroeconomic imbalances and market failures in the current international financial system. The third proposal suggested compensating developing countries for forests and biodiversity, as in the case of the EU system for trade in carbon services, which could be a way to provide an economic incentive to protect environmental resources while and at the time generating innovative sources of development finance.

In addition the following three issues were discussed in the High-level Segment:

I. Implementing an international development agenda

Delegations recognized the unique opportunity presented to the international community this year to build momentum towards the implementation of the development agenda.

It was generally recognized that development is primarily the responsibility of developing countries themselves. Developing countries need to intensify their reform efforts, including through further development of their own poverty reduction strategies and well-targeted structural reforms to boost competitiveness and productive investment. Speakers also stressed the importance of South-South cooperation

as well as triangular cooperation and regional initiatives in the achievement of the development goals. The importance of sound macroeconomic, structural and sectoral policies laid the foundation for harnessing the benefits of foreign direct investment and private sector activity as was strengthening institutions and governance and the establishment predictable legal and regulatory frameworks. In addition to good governance, there was a need for the respect of human rights, the rule of law and strong democratic processes based on social justice. Without these, development could not be broad based and all-encompassing.

It was emphasized that reducing poverty and hunger is a precondition for the majority of the remaining MDGs, but that on the current trajectory, the hunger goal could only be met as early as 2050, well beyond the 2015 deadline. Speakers underscored that hunger had a devastating impact on the lives and livelihoods of people suffering from it: it reduced productivity and working capacity, making people susceptible to disease and preventing children from learning. It thus compromises growth of entire economies. Alleviating hunger is therefore a pre-condition for poverty reduction. In the area of human rights, empowerment of women through protecting their basic human rights was a key concern for many member States as was the social dimensions of development and adequate health systems.

II. The Role of ECOSOC and the United Nations System

Delegations expressed strong support for a central role for ECOSOC in the follow-up to and the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields and the achievement of the MDGs. It should provide policy guidance to the United Nations system on these issues and be an institutional platform for their integrated analysis and mainstreaming. Some representatives also underlined the need for further strengthening the role of ECOSOC and its functional commissions and related subsidiary bodies in pursuing the United Nations Development Agenda and encouraged the functional commissions to further promote synergies in their work. ECOSOC should continue to support the coordination and harmonization among operational agencies as well as humanitarian agencies.

In this respect, delegations stressed the importance of pursuing vigorously the reform of United Nations funds, programs and specialized agencies and to ensure system-wide coherence. The Secretary-General's urgent appeal for a more integrated international environmental governance structure, based on existing institutions was also discussed. With regard to development, some Member States felt that the Council could evolve into a high-level development cooperation forum, where global, regional and national strategies and policies for development

cooperation can be reviewed. Furthermore the Council needed to respond in a timely manner to emerging policy challenges as well as humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters in order to promote coherent United Nations preparedness.

At the country level, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and its Results Matrix should be used as effective tools to assist governments in translating the goals of the United Nations conferences and summits, as well as the MDGs, into national policies, strategies and programmes and to monitor implementation. The need for strong, concrete support for the system-wide role of the Resident Coordinator in promoting the realization of the development goals in their totality was also emphasized as was the need to ensure that the United Nations, at the country level, operates as a team with a common programme in support of countries' poverty reduction strategies. Enhanced cooperation with IFIs was underscored.

III. Other issues

The High Level Segment also included eight Roundtables organized around the Millennium Development Goals. The themes included: The eradication of poverty and hunger, Health, Global partnership and financing of the Millennium Development Goals, Building of state capacity to meeting the MDG; Education and literacy; Gender equality and empowerment of women; Environmental sustainability; National strategies to achieve the MDGs. Detailed

summaries of the roundtables are available in E/2005/CRP.6.

Twelve ministerial breakfasts were also organized. The topics discussed at the breakfasts included: Science, technology and innovation to meet the MDGs, including ICTs; Land and conflict; Microfinance: Building Inclusive Financial Sectors to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals; The Impact of commodities on poverty reduction and sustainable development in the LDCs and other vulnerable economies; Human resources and the MDGs; Working out of poverty; The Role of volunteerism in achieving the MDGs; Forging powerful partnerships; Migration and the MDGs; Synergies between the Brussels Programme of Action and NEPAD in achieving the MDGs; The MDGs as a tool for comprehensive local development in Albania; and The centrality of gender in achieving the MDGs.

2005 ECOSOC Coordination Segment

The deliberations on the theme of this year's Coordination Segment focussed on the implementation of the agreed development goals and the role of the United Nations System both at the international and at the country levels. They complemented the discussions at the High-Level Segment and contributed to bringing greater thematic coherence to the various segments of the ECOSOC session. Delegations commended the Report of the Secretary General for the High-Level and Coordination Segment

(E/2005/56). They also welcomed the report of the Chief Executive Board for Coordination entitled "One United Nations: Catalyst for Progress and Change - How the Millennium Declaration is changing the way the United Nations system works".

The work of the United Nations Chief Executives Board (CEB) for Coordination, in ensuring a better coverage of the MDGs in the system was commended by several delegations. It was also recognised that the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) had proven useful in supporting the implementation of the MDGs.

During the debate, speakers identified implementation as the key challenge ahead. It was generally recognized that the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals goes hand-in-hand with the implementation of the development goals agreed by the international community at the major United Nations conferences and summit in the economic, social, environmental and related field during the past 15 years. One delegation said that the MDGs were a veritable "locomotive" of the global development agenda.

There was a general agreement that ECOSOC should play a central role in the follow-up to and the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, as well as in the achievement of the MDGs. It was noted that because of the breadth of its mandate and its convening power, ECOSOC is especially well placed to serve as a platform for systematic and

comprehensive monitoring of overall progress in the implementation of the United Nations development agenda, as well as for holding continuous dialogue, and for generating new ideas on the most conducive national and international environment for development, as highlighted in the report of the Secretary-General.

Several speakers said that the functional commissions, in accordance with their mandates, should continue to have primary responsibility for the review and assessment of progress made in implementing outcomes of United Nations conferences and summits in their respective areas of competence. While speakers agreed that the working methods of the functional commissions should be further improved, one delegation favoured a harmonization of the functional commissions' multi-year programmes of work and their periodic cycles. Other delegates, in line with General Assembly resolution 57/270B, did not deem it appropriate to apply a uniform approach. Several speakers noted that by bringing more predictability and certainty to its own programme, the Council would enable the functional commissions to better prepare their contributions to the work of the Council and stressed the importance of a multi year programme of work in this regard. Moreover, the Consolidated Report on the work of the functional commissions should be used more effectively in the work of ECOSOC.

The proposal put forward by the Secretary-General for a High-Level Development Cooperation Forum found

the general support of delegations, though there were some divergent views on the details of the mandate. Various views were also expressed with respect to the modalities of the meeting, in particular with regard the segment during which the meeting should be held. Options proposed during the debate included holding the Forum during the High-Level Segment or for the High-Level Segment to be replaced by the Forum. With regard to participation, delegations said that the Forum could bring together member states, international organizations, the private sector and civil society and that it should make use of the work of the regional and the functional commissions. Several delegations supported the proposal of a voluntary peer-review mechanism. The idea of an initial pilot process of voluntary peer reviews as a way of evaluating their value added and of the costs involved was mooted.

There was general support for the proposal of the Secretary-General to hold timely meetings to respond to natural disaster and other threats to development and for an important role of ECOSOC in reconstruction and rehabilitation in countries in post-conflict situations. However, the need to further consider how ECOSOC could contribute to post-conflict situations and humanitarian crises and to ensure that its role remained at the level of policy coordination and review, rather than intervening directly in the operational management of specific situations was stressed. It was felt that the realization of these new initiatives

did not require a radical revision of the structure and timing of the current ECOSOC substantive session.

2005 ECOSOC Operational Activity Segment

The 2005 substantive session of ECOSOC followed the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review (TCPR) of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, which took place at the General Assembly in 2004 and led to the adoption of resolution [59/250](#). The Operational Activities Segment focused on three main elements: (i) an interactive dialogue among senior government representatives and senior officials of United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies and other UN entities, on the reforms being introduced by United Nations development system with the aim of enhancing the effectiveness and relevance of its development support work at the country level; (ii) a debate on funding options for United Nations development cooperation as instrument to implement the new development agenda; and (iii) a dialogue with the executive heads of United Nations funds and programmes.

The Council reaffirmed the unique development role of the United Nations system, through its country-level activities, in supporting the efforts of developing countries to pursue the internationally agreed development goals. It also confirmed the importance that all Member States give to the full implementation of the resolution [59/250](#) on the Triennial Comprehensive Policy

Review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system adopted last December. That requires the broadest involvement of all parts of the United Nations development system and widening the access of recipient countries to the full range of services and experience available throughout the entire system. The reform actions planned by the United Nations system such as simplification and harmonization are a good step in that direction but should be speeded up. One of the biggest challenge is however to obtain a consistent response from all Member States on the role that the United Nations system should play with its operational activities for development, especially in the context the present evolution of the architecture of official development assistance, characterized by the growing importance of non-United Nations actors.

The United Nations system should maximize the use of all its capacities for effective support to MDG-based national strategies, not only in the social domain but also in the economic and other areas, while concentrating on the type of actions for which the system's contribution adds most value. The role of the United Nations in supporting the development of national capacities was emphasized.

The Council debated funding modalities and trends related to United Nations development cooperation, in the context of this changing development cooperation architecture. Diversified range of modalities available to fund United Nations development cooperation

were examined, although the real difficulty lies in the effective use of existing modalities, as well as in donors' and recipients' trust in United Nations efficient management. Many agreed that "the insufficiency of core resources for both administration and programme development represents the single most important constraints on the performance of development entities" ([A/60/83-E/2005/72, para.20](#)). The discussion at ECOSOC opened the way to further consideration of this crucial issue by the General Assembly as well as for an expansion of the debates in future sessions of the Council, starting from 2006, as it reviews trends and perspectives of funding of all types of development cooperation (as requested by the Assembly resolution 59/250, para.23). The Council adopted a resolution (document [E/2005/L.29](#)) that confirms the role of the Council in overseeing the United Nations system operational activities for development, monitoring progress in their effectiveness, emphasizing the quantitative and evaluative contents of the required reporting.

2005 ECOSOC Humanitarian Segment

This year's Humanitarian Affairs Segment of ECOSOC was well-received and very productive, with better and more constructive engagement from member States than in previous years.

The Segment included a day-long panel on lessons learned from the Indian Ocean earthquake-tsunami disaster,

which featured a special presentation from the Special Envoy for Tsunami Recovery, former US President Mr. Bill Clinton. Key issues highlighted by the panelists included the importance of response coordination, particularly with the providers of military assets; the need to build regional and national response capacity and preparedness; the importance of transparency and accountability in the sources and uses of tsunami funds; and the need for investment in reducing future disaster risk.

On July 15, the Council adopted a resolution by consensus that endorsed a broad package of humanitarian reforms, many of which reinforce the Secretary-General's proposals in the *In Larger Freedom* report, including:

1. There was broad support for improving international, regional and national response capacity, particularly in those humanitarian sectors where capacity is less well-developed.

2. The resolution also called for improvements in response coordination, including by improving stand-by arrangements, engaging more systematically with the providers of military assets, and strengthening support to resident/humanitarian coordinators and United Nations country teams.

3. Member States recommended that the General Assembly improve the Central Emergency Revolving Fund (CERF), including through the possible

inclusion of a grant facility. To this end, they requested the Secretary-General to report to the 60th Session of the General Assembly clarifying the criteria and management of an expanded CERF.

4. Member States also requested the General Assembly to ensure respect for humanitarian principles and interests in the mandate, design and implementation of integrated missions.

5. The issue of state sovereignty and the responsibility to protect continued to be of concern to some delegations and, as a result, Member States could not agree on an appropriate reference to humanitarian protection work in the resolution.

2005 NGO Contributions to the High Level Segment

Once the theme for the 2005 High-Level Segment of ECOSOC was adopted, the ECOSOC began to assist NGOs in preparing their contributions. This included capacity building workshops, advisory missions and the dissemination of information on preparatory activities at the regional level through the collaboration of the UN-NGOIRENE coordinators. This year, 27 preparatory forums were held and 172 contributions of Non-governmental Organizations were received.

The Forum made outstanding recommendations calling for all stakeholders to "*Think Bold and Do-able, Think Collective and Supportive, Think Coalitions*" in order to have *Goals*

Set – Goals Met, focusing on the following areas:

i. MDG 8–Partnership Development: The recommendations in the area of partnership development included, a) inclusive mobilization at all levels of civil society, particularly rural dwellers and marginalized groups; b) synergy between development actors and harmonization between donors; c) mobilization and local partnership campaigns to lobby governments and hold them accountable to their promises, encouraging them to turn goals set into goals met; d) synergizing civil society energies with national programs and ODA efforts; e) deepening United Nations relationships with the NGO community and civil society, especially with regard to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); and vi) participation and empowerment of people living in extreme poverty (MDG 1), through partnership activities.

ii. ODA and development aid, especially the development of clear and transparent indicators: The recommendations included, a) encouraging and lobbying developed countries to devote 0.7% of GNP to international development aid; b) encouraging and lobbying developed countries to eliminate trade barriers and subsidies so as encourage economic opportunities, especially in agriculture, for rural and impoverished people; c) harmonizing efforts between aid agencies and economic authorities, including the World Bank and the WTO.

iii. In the area of human rights and security: a) reaffirming the commitment to human rights, democratic governance and values of freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, and respect for nature and shared responsibility, and b) assuring human rights and security within the framework of the Millennium Declaration and the MDGs.

iv. On MDG 3, and highlighting gender equality and Perspectives: a) a more comprehensive approach to gender with clear indicators for gender perspectives; b) the inclusion of gender principles and dimensions in all the MDGs and not only restricted to MDG 3.

v. On MDG 7, emphasizing the promotion of environmental sustainability through education and good management of natural resources (including soil and water).

vi. In the area of MDG 1, on the eradication of poverty and hunger, the recommendations included, a) renewing focus on rural development; b) engaging and empowering people living in poverty in rural areas; and c) sustainable energy sources and management of natural resources for the poor and rural people.

vii. Emphasis on ECOSOC to become a “Development Cooperation Forum” as recommended by the recent Eminent Persons Panel and its report on Threats, Challenges and Change, which also emphasized the importance to engaging civil society and the NGO community in United Nations reform activities.

viii. Regarding the achievement of the implementation of the MDGs as a whole the following were emphasized: a) the facilitation by governments of all stakeholders; b) the role of monitoring and evaluation processes; c) the integration of civil society in the campaign to achieve the Millennium Development Goals; d) the support of ECOSOC to civil society to implement the MDGs through a United Nations technical cooperation program that will be implemented with the support of UN-NGO-IRENE; e) the MDG Global Watch for partnership, and f) the important role of youth.

Conference on InterFaith Cooperation for Peace: Enhancing Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation Towards Peace in the 21 Century

The Conference on Interfaith Cooperation for Peace was organized under a tripartite partnership among governments, the United Nations system and civil society representing religious non-governmental organizations. This tripartite conference is of historic significance and bring together three main sectors that have much to gain in working together. The Conference was held on 22 June 2005. The Conference aimed at enhancing interfaith cooperation, promoting the culture of peace and dialogue among civilizations, as well as translating shared values into practical action, to achieve sustainable peace in the twenty-first century.

H.E. Dr. Alberto G. Romulo, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Philippines, chaired the

Conference. Statement of H.E. Mrs. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, President of the Republic of the Philippines; H.E. Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General, United Nations; H.E. Mr. Jean Ping, President, General Assembly, United Nations; H.E. Mr. Munir Akram, President, Economic and Social Council; H.E. Mr. Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General, UNESCO; and Mr. Hiro Sakurai, President, Committee of Religious NGOs at the UN were part of opening ceremony.

The following recommendations were made:

1. Member States of the United Nations, in partnership with the United Nations system and civil society, should undertake practical actions in the fields of education and the media, to foster understanding, tolerance and cooperation between peoples of different religions and beliefs so as to overcome intolerance and combat stereotypes and misperceptions.

2. An open-ended tripartite consultative group composed of representatives from Member States, the United Nations system, and non-governmental organizations should be formed to follow-up on the conclusions and recommendations of this Conference with an emphasis on practical actions. The open-ended tripartite consultative group should also identify new ways to address interreligious, intercultural and intercivilizational issues and concerns, including the opportunity and mechanism for religious leaders to speak, interact and respond more clearly

and quickly in times of violence, crises and conflict.

3. The Secretary-General is invited to explore enhancing the implementation mechanisms and to follow up on the Declaration on a Culture of Peace and its Programme of Action, and the Global Agenda for the Dialogue Among Civilizations of 2001 adopted by the General Assembly and other initiatives on the dialogue among cultures and civilizations.

For more information:
www.un.org/docs/ecosoc/meetings/2005/22June2005.html

Conference on Sustainable Urban Growth and Architecture

A conference on sustainable urban growth and architecture co-sponsored by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, and the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships, took place on 6 June 2005, in the Economic and Social Council Chamber.

The event mobilized all stakeholders with regard to planning sustainable urban growth and sustainable architecture, and feeds into discussions in a) the 14th Commission on Sustainable Development on energy in 2006, and b) the Meeting of the World Urban Forum in Vancouver, Canada, that also coincided with the 10th Anniversary of HABITAT II Conference in 2006.

The conference was presided by H.E. Mr. Munir Akram, Permanent Representative of Pakistan, President of ECOSOC. H.E. Ms. Sonia Tschorne, Minister of Housing and Urban Development of Chile; and Mr. Ken Yeang, renowned architect, also participated in the discussions on sustainable growth and architecture. Member States of the United Nations, representatives of agencies and organizations of the UN system, the World Bank, the IMF, intergovernmental organizations, civil society, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academia, and others also attended the meeting.

For more information:
www.un.org/docs/ecosoc/meetings/2005/6June2005.html

Conference on the Critical Role of Nutrition for Reaching the Millennium Development Goals

An event on the *Critical Role of Nutrition for Reaching the Millennium Development Goals* was held in the ECOSOC Chamber on Tuesday, 7 June 2005 (10.00 a.m. to 12 noon). It was co-sponsored by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition (SCN). The topics that were covered included Nutrition and Poverty Reduction; Nutrition and Child Health; Nutrition, Women's Health and Gender Equality; Nutrition and Education; and Brazil's Zero Hunger Programme and MDGs.

The event made an important contribution in enhancing awareness and mobilizing all stakeholders with regard to the issues of *Nutrition and MDGs*. Participants at the meeting included Mr. Patrus Ananias, Minister of Social Development and the Fight Against Hunger, Brazil, Ms. Catherine Bertini, SCN Chair and Ambassador Kirsti Lintonen, Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations. Member States of the United Nations, representatives of agencies and organizations of the United Nation system, the World Bank, the IMF, intergovernmental organizations, civil society, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academia and others also attended the meeting.

For more information:
www.un.org/docs/ecosoc/meetings/2005/7June_am2005.html

ICT Task Force Working Group on Enabling Environment

The United Nations ICT Task Force Working Group on Enabling Environment organized a two day workshop in Maputo, Mozambique (11–12 May 2005). The ‘Workshop on Open Access’ was the third in a series and discussed issues relating to creating access to ICT in developing countries. The objective of the workshop was to identify successful solutions and standards for access networks as well as looking at new value chains, promoting opportunities for new actors and innovative business models making “first mile” access more of a utility for society at large. This was the

first time that a workshop was held in an African country. The Working Group intended to enable more participation from that continent as well as to bring the debate closer to the field. The Eduardo Mondlane University of Maputo (UEM) hosted the workshop and the main financial sponsors were Sida and IDRC. Some sponsorship was also received from the Mozambique national telecom regulator INCM, the Mozambique telecom incumbent TDM and a Mozambique wireless phone service provider Mcell.

For more information:
www.openaccess.uem.mz

Promoting an Enabling Environment Conference: “Music Technology, Culture and Health Care”

On 9 June 2005 the international Conference “Promoting an Enabling Environment: Music, Technology, Culture and Health Care” took place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The event was part of a series of events organized by the International Council for Caring Communities in collaboration with the United Nations ICT Task Force, the Programme on Ageing of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Rusk Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine at New York University. Participants discussed how information and communication technologies can improve health care delivery, staff efficiency and effectiveness and how the power of musical rhythm can be utilized in health care delivery. The event addressed

applications related to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals in terms of creating partnerships and improving the health of citizens worldwide. Topics included ICTs as an enabling tool for rural and urban delivery of health care services, including the use of telecentres and mobile centers for tele-health, tele-diagnosis and tele-rehabilitation; emerging technologies in music and medicine; the power of music in creating a dialogue among children; and new understanding of the impact of musical rhythms and its utilization as a medical tool.

For more information:
<http://www.international-iccc.org/>

Publications for sale:

Publication on the High-level Segment theme of 2005: Achieving the Internationally Agreed Development Goals

Publication on funding for United Nations Development Cooperation: challenges and Options, United Nations ICT Task Force series 8: WSIS: Moving from the past into the future

Publication on United Nations ICT Task Force series 9: Village Phone Book

Future events:

13 September: High-level roundtable on "Innovation and investment: Science and technology to meet the Millennium Development Goals

15 September: The role of ECOSOC in the follow-up to the World Summit

7 October: Economic Policy and Challenges faced by developing countries to effectively integrate into the global economy

27 October: Globalization and Interdependence

12 October: Panel discussion on External Debt

3 November: Panel discussion on sustainable development challenges

17 November: The role of the private Sector in Achieving the MDGs