



ECOSOC News

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

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 United Nations 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.

CONTENTS

I - ECOSOC Upcoming Events

A - ECOSOC 2007 Substantive Session - Geneva

- High-level Segment (2-5 July 2007)...p 2
- Coordination Segment (6-10 July 2007)...p 2
- Operational Activities Segment (10-13 July 2007)...p 2
- Humanitarian Affairs Segment (16-18 July 2007)...p 2
- General Segment (19-26 July 2007)...pp 2-3

B - Other upcoming events

- Civil Society Development Forum (28-30 June 2007)...p 3

II - Past Events / Activities

A - ECOSOC

- Informal event for the 2007 Annual Ministerial Review (2 April 2007)...p 3
- Special High-level meeting with the BWIs, WTO and UNCTAD (16 April 2007)...p 3
- Mission of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group to Haiti (18-21 April 2007)...p 3
- DESA High-level Symposium (19-20 April 2007)...p 4

B - Outcome 2007 Meetings of ECOSOC Subsidiary Bodies

- Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Fiftieth session (12-16 March)...p 4
- Committee for Development Policy, Ninth session (19-23 March)...p 4
- Commission on Population and Development, Fortieth session (9-13 April)...p 4
- Committee of Experts on Public Administration, Sixth session (10-13 April)...p 4
- United Nations Forum on Forests, Seventh session (16-27 April)...p 5
- Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Sixteenth session (23-27 April)...p 5
- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Sixty-second session (25-27 April)...p 5
- Commission on Sustainable Development, Fifteenth session (30 April-11 May)
- Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Thirty-eight session (30 April-18 May)...p 5
- Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Sixth session (14-25 May)...p 5
- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Sixty-third session (17-23 May)...pp 5-6
- Commission on Science and Technology for Development, Tenth session (21-25 May)...p 6

III - More Information ...p 6

The Members of the Bureau of ECOSOC

President of ECOSOC:

H. E. Ambassador Dalius Cekuolis (Lithuania)

Vice-Presidents of ECOSOC:

H. E. Ambassador Youcef Yousfi (Algeria)

H. E. Ambassador Léo Mérorès (Haïti)

H. E. Ambassador Hjálmar W. Hannesson (Iceland)

H. E. Ambassador Hilario G. Davide (Philippines)



The Economic and Social Council will hold its annual substantive session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 2 to 26 July 2007.

I - ECOSOC Upcoming Events

A - ECOSOC 2007 Substantive Session - Geneva

- At the [2007 High-level Segment \(2-5 July 2007\)](#), the Council will launch its two new functions, namely, [Annual Ministerial Review \(AMR\)](#) and [Development Cooperation Forum \(DCF\)](#), mandated by the 2005 World Summit. An opening plenary session and keynote addresses on the theme “the eradication of poverty and hunger” will feature eminent and distinguished speakers, and a [high-level policy dialogue](#) with representatives of the Bretton Woods Institutions, WTO and UNCTAD will also take place on current developments in the world economy. ECOSOC will also hold a [thematic discussion](#) on “Strengthening efforts at all levels to promote pro-poor sustained economic growth, including through equitable macro-economic policies”. A series of roundtable dialogues and panels, clustered around the themes of the High-level Segment and organized in close collaboration with organizations of the UN system, will take place throughout the Segment. An [Innovation Fair](#) on the theme “Innovation and Transformation for Eradication of Poverty and Hunger” will also be held on the margins of the High-level Segment.
- During the [Coordination Segment \(6-10 July 2007\)](#), the Council will focus on the theme of “The role of the UN system in promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all”. The Segment will provide an opportunity for Member States to review progress made by the UN system in promoting the goals of full employment and decent work; review system efforts to integrate these goals in their policies, programmes and operations, individually and as a system; identify gaps in current approaches; and provide guidance on ways to move forward. The segment will also discuss the progress made in promoting the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the major UN conferences and summits.
- The [Operational Activities Segment \(10-13 July 2007\)](#) will provide a platform for all organizations of the UN development system to promote coordination and guidance to ensure that the policies formulated by the General Assembly, particularly on the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review (TCPR) of operational activities of the UN system are appropriately implemented on a system-wide basis. The 2007 TCPR will focus on how the UN development system provides efficient and effective support to developing countries to realize their national development priorities and achieve the Internationally Agreed Development Goals (IADGs), including the MDGs.
- The [Humanitarian Affairs Segment \(16 - 18 July 2007\)](#), will be an important forum for discussing the activities and issues related to strengthening the coordination of the humanitarian system of the United Nations. The Segment will address the theme “Strengthening of the coordination of United Nations humanitarian assistance through enhancing the effectiveness of needs-based humanitarian assistance” and it will organize two panels: (i) “The use of military assets in natural disaster relief”; (ii) “Needs-based humanitarian financing, including the Central Emergency Response Fund”.
- The [General Segment \(19-26 July 2007\)](#), will undertake the follow-up and review of conferences; review the reports of the Specialized Agencies requested by the Council; and, review and evaluate the annual reports of the United Nations Funds and Programmes, its subsidiary bodies,

...Continued on page 3

...Continued from page 2

including its functional and regional commissions, expert bodies and ad hoc bodies, including the Advisory Groups for countries emerging from conflict, and take relevant action.

B - Other Upcoming Events

- The [Civil Society Development Forum](#) will be held in Geneva from 28 to 30 June 2007. The Forum will serve as a partner in strengthening for both the Development Cooperation Forum and for the Annual Ministerial Review, by mobilizing NGOs and partners to contribute to the implementation of policies to achieve the internationally agreed development goals (IADGs).

II– Past Events / Activities

A - ECOSOC

- The Economic and Social Council organized at the United Nations Headquarters on 2 April 2007, a half-day informal event on the theme “[Eradicating poverty and hunger – Joining forces to make it happen](#)”. The meeting, which was opened by [Mrs. Asha-Rose Migiro, Deputy-Secretary-General of the United Nations](#), focused on the theme of the event, and also prepared the ground for the discussion of Minister during the high-level segment of ECOSOC in Geneva in July 2007. Two parallel roundtables on “Are we making poverty history?” and “How are we doing in the fight against hunger and malnutrition?” were led by renown policy makers, practitioners and academicians.
- The [tenth Special High-level Meeting of ECOSOC](#) with the Bretton Woods Institutions, WTO and UNCTAD took place on 16 April 2007 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The meeting which was opened by [Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations](#), addressed the coherence, coordination and cooperation for the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus on the road to the review conference at Doha in 2008. A summary ([A/62/76-E/2007/55](#)) by the President of ECOSOC will be submitted for consideration at the Council’s General Segment.
- A delegation of the [Ad Hoc Advisory Group](#) of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) visited Haiti from 18 to 21 April 2007 to assess the country’s economic and social development strategies. On this mission, the delegation evaluated the current situation in Haiti and assessed the post-conflict reconstruction challenges the country faces; examined the work of the United Nations country team and international assistance by all actors on the ground; reviewed existing donor coordination mechanisms, in particular their cohesiveness and appropriateness as models for long-term planning; and considered the institutional capacity development needs of Haitian government institutions from the ministerial to the local levels. A report of the ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti will be submitted for consideration to the General Segment in July 2007.
- [Advisory Group sees a measurable degree of political stability in Haiti-UN Radio](#)

...Continued on page 4

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- The Department of Economic and Social Affairs organized, in cooperation with the Government of Austria, a [High-level Symposium in Vienna](#) from 19 to 20 April 2007. The symposium which focused on key challenges facing development cooperation, facilitated dialogue among stakeholders for the upcoming launch of the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) and to begin a consultative process for the DCF taking place in 2008.

B - Outcome 2007 Meetings of ECOSOC Subsidiary Bodies

- The fiftieth session of the [Commission on Narcotic Drugs](#), took place in Vienna from 12 to 16 March 2007. A report (E/2007/28) on its session will be submitted for consideration to the General Segment of ECOSOC in July 2007.
- The [Committee for Development Policy](#) organized its ninth session in New York from 19 to 23 March 2007. The Committee addressed three themes: climate change and sustainable development; strengthening the international partnership for effective poverty reduction; and the procedure for inclusion of countries in and graduation from the list of least developed countries. The report (E/2007/33) of the session includes policy recommendations for consideration by ECOSOC at its 2007 General Segment.
- The [Commission on Population and Development](#) held its fortieth session in New York from 9 to 13 April 2007. The Commission recognized that the ongoing profound changes in the structure of world population offer a “window of opportunity”, particularly where both fertility and mortality are falling and the proportion of working-age adults is on the rise. The Commission also invited Governments to address the rising rates of HIV/AIDS among young people to insure HIV-free future generation through the implementation of comprehensive evidence-based prevention strategies and responsible sexual behaviour. It also called on Governments to take action to create an enabling environment at all levels to increase job market participation, including special efforts to boost the participation of women, older persons, youth and disadvantaged groups, such as long-term unemployed and persons with disabilities, in order to reduce the risk of exclusion or dependency in later life. A report (E/2007/25) on the fortieth session of the Commission on Population and Development will be presented at the 2007 General Segment of ECOSOC.
- The sixth session of the [Committee of Experts on Public Administration](#) took place in New York from 10 to 13 April 2007. The Committee addressed four substantive items: (a) participatory governance and citizens’ engagement in policy development, service delivery and budgeting; (b) compendium of basic United Nations terminology in governance and public administration; (c) review of the activities of the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance; and (d) public administration perspective on the theme of the annual ministerial review during the 2007 high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council: strengthening efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, including through the global partnership for development. A report (E/2007/44) on the sixth session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration will be submitted for consideration to the 2007 General Segment of ECOSOC.

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- The [United Nations Forum on Forests](#) organized its seventh session in New York from 16 to 27 April 2007. At the Forum, Member States agreed on the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, and they also elaborated a new multi-year programme of work for the period 2007-2015. The programme of work will reflect the Forum's overall purpose, functions and strategy of international forest management. A report (E/2007/42) on the seventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests will be submitted for consideration to the 2007 General Segment of ECOSOC.
- The [Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice](#) held its sixteenth session in Vienna from 23 to 27 April 2007. A report (E/2007/30) on its session will be submitted for consideration to the General Segment of ECOSOC in July 2007.
- The [United Nations Economic Commission for Europe \(UNECE\)](#) held its [62nd session](#) in Geneva on 25-27 April 2007. Attended by over 400 participants, the Commission session was the occasion for its 56 member States to look at the technical and sectoral work of the ECE in a wider context and provide them with the opportunity to set strategic directions of the Commission's work for the coming biennium. Two panels illustrating the UNECE's contribution to pan-European integration, and three panels devoted to promoting sustainable development in the UNECE region were organized.
- The [Commission on Sustainable Development](#) organized its fifteenth session in New York from 30 April to 11 May 2007. The session focused on the themes of energy, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change. A [Summary](#) presented by the Chairman of the Commission is available on the [internet website of the fifteenth session](#). A report (E/2007/29) on the session will be submitted for consideration to the 2007 General Segment of ECOSOC.
- The [Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#) held its thirty-eight session in Geneva from 30 April to 18 May 2007. A report (E/2007/22) on its thirty-sixth and thirty-seventh sessions will be submitted for consideration to the 2007 General Segment of ECOSOC.
- The [sixth session](#) of the [Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues](#) took place in New York from 14 to 25 May 2007. The Forum addressed the issues of territories, lands and natural resources. Expressing the strong belief that indigenous peoples' right to access and manage communal lands and natural resources was central to their collective survival, the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues recommended that Governments adopt, in relevant national legislation, the principle of "free, prior and informed consent" of indigenous peoples regarding potential development projects or other activities carried out on their lands. A report (E/2007/43) of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its sixth session will be submitted for consideration to the 2007 General Segment of ECOSOC.
- The [Sixty-Third session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific \(ESCAP\)](#) was organized in Almaty, Kazakhstan from 17 to 23 May 2007. The first three days of the meeting, at senior official level, focused on reviewing the work of UNESCAP secretariat in the past year, and the work programme and resources mobilization for the period 2008-2009. The three-day ministerial segment which started on 21 May 2007 focused on how to help poor countries in Asia and the Pacific to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015, and on promoting investment in health services in member countries/regions. Asia-Pacific countries endorsed a regional road map aimed at helping poor countries falling behind

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to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. The Commission also called on the region, which has the lowest level of government spending in health worldwide, to take steps towards universal health coverage. Member states also adopted the *Almaty Declaration* on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the founding of UNESCAP.

- The [tenth session](#) of the [Commission on Science and Technology for Development](#) took place in Geneva from 21 to 25 May 2007. The session focused on the follow-up to the outcome of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) at the regional and international level, and identified achievements, gaps and challenges, as well as future action needed to further implementation. The Commission also developed a multi-year work programme on WSIS follow-up. A report (E/2007/31) of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its tenth session will be submitted for consideration to the 2007 General Segment of ECOSOC.

III– More Information

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has a new website:

<http://www.un.org/ecosoc/>

About ECOSOC: <http://www.un.org/ecosoc/about/>

UN Press Releases and Meetings Coverage on ECOSOC:

<http://www.un.org/ecosoc/ecopress.shtml>

2007 Meetings and Events of ECOSOC and its Subsidiary Bodies:

<http://www.un.org/ecosoc/meetings/>

For further information on the Press Releases and Meetings Coverage of the Functional Commissions of ECOSOC, please visit <http://www.un.org/apps/pressreleases/index.asp>

For further information on the work of the UN Secretariat in economic and social affairs, please visit DESA News at:

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