

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.

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The Members of the Bureau of ECOSOC

President of ECOSOC:

H. E. Ambassador Léo Mérorès (Haiti)

Vice-Presidents of ECOSOC:

H. E. Ambassador Andrei Dapkunas (Belarus)

H. E. Ambassador Antonio Pedro Monteiro
Lima (Cape Verde)

H. E. Ambassador Jean-Marc Hoscheit
(Luxembourg)

H. E. Ambassador Kim Hyun Chong (Republic
of Korea)



UN Photo/Eric Kanalstein

Ambassador Léo Mérorès, Sixty-fourth President of the Economic and Social Council speaks at the first session of the 2008 ECOSOC Organizational Session, 14 January 2008.

I - PAST EVENTS

A - ECOSOC



UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe

**Ambassador Léo Mérorès
Sixty-fourth President of the
Economic and Social Council**

► Ambassador Léo Mérorès of Haiti was elected 64th President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council on 14 January 2008 at the Council's organizational session. The other members of the bureau include the Permanent Representatives of Belarus, Cape Verde, Luxembourg and the Republic of Korea representing their respective regional groups. In his statement to the Council, the new President [stressed](#) the importance of the theme of the 2008 Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) -- "implementing the agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development" - - saying that the Council can provide a forum for the integration of the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development that is presently lacking at the global level. "I will make every effort to ensure the success of the first-ever biennial Development Cooperation Forum (DCF)," he said, adding that the DCF is expected to become a principal mechanism for global dialogue and policy review on key development cooperation issues. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon addressing the meeting, [reiterated](#) that the Forum will pave the way for an inclusive framework for addressing the latest trends in development cooperation and the critical issues of aid quality and quantity.

► In preparation for the first Development Cooperation Forum, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in cooperation with the Government of Egypt, organized a [High-level Symposium in Cairo](#) from 19 to 20 January 2008. Focusing on recent examples of how countries partner up to ensure an impact of development cooperation based on national priorities, the one-and-a-half-day symposium included three sessions with country-based case studies, panel discussions and interactive dialogue, addressing the following topics: conditionality, South-South and triangular development cooperation, and aid quality.

► On 29 January 2008, the [second annual meeting of the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council with the Chairpersons of the functional commissions](#) took place under the Chairmanship of the President of the Council. The meeting provided an opportunity for an exchange of views between the Chairpersons and the Bureau in an effort to strengthen policy coherence and to enhance the Commissions' contribution to the Council. Ambassador Mérorès highlighted the challenge of better aligning the work programmes and priorities of the Functional Commissions in a more systematic and balanced way with the core priority areas of the UN Development Agenda. "I am hopeful that if this is achieved, Commissions will be much better placed to build stronger linkages among themselves and reinforce their valuable contributions to the work of the Council", he said, stressing that this meeting would facilitate opportunities to achieve this pivotal goal.

► On 25 February 2008, ECOSOC held a special event on "[How corporate philanthropy can contribute to advancing the Millennium Development Goals, particularly for sustainable development](#)" with participation of more than 200 corporate and foundation executives. The event was jointly organized by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the UN Office for Partnerships, and the Committee Encouraging Corporate Philanthropy (CECP), an independent international forum of business CEOs and chairpersons undertaking philanthropic activities.

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► An Informal Global Preparatory Meeting for ECOSOC's 2008 High-level Segment was held on 6 March 2008. The meeting focused on how the second [Annual Ministerial Review \(AMR\)](#) on "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development", and the first [Development Cooperation Forum \(DCF\)](#) can best be used to advance implementation of the internationally agreed development goals (IADG), including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by the 2015 target date.

The morning session addressed how the Annual Ministerial Review can help deliver on implementation, and the role of ECOSOC in achieving sustainable development ([See informal summary](#)). The objectives of the session were to: identify steps that ECOSOC could take to establish the Annual Ministerial review as the implementation forum of the United Nations to advance and assess progress towards the IADG; identify measures to further enhance [National Voluntary Presentations](#) as a process of accountability that aims to bolster the efforts of the Governments to achieve the goals; and, identify major challenges in the area of sustainable development that require urgent action by Ministers at the AMR July session, including the need to take additional measures and launch new initiatives.

The afternoon session on the [Development Cooperation Forum](#) focused on expectations for the first Forum and beyond, and to determine how it can potentially contribute to the Accra High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in September 2008 and the Doha Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus in November 2008.

► The [ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti](#) met with representatives of the [World Bank](#), the [International Monetary Fund](#), the [Inter-American Development Bank](#) and the [Organization of American States](#) on 8 April 2008. The discussions evolved around the work of these organizations in Haiti, the effectiveness of development support to the country and prospects for international aid in the context of the implementation of the [Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper \(DSNCRP\)](#) elaborated by the Haitian Government.

B - ECOSOC Subsidiary Bodies

► The [Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations](#) held its 2008 regular session on 21-30 January 2008 in New York. It considered applications from 145 organizations applying for general, special or roster consultative status with the Council, including 42 applications deferred from previous sessions. It recommended 70 applications for consultative status and deferred 68 others. It reclassified two organizations from roster to special status. It closed consideration of two organizations that did not meet the criteria required for status, namely "the Foundation for Research and Support of the Indigenous People of Crimea" and "Association Sahel Solidarité Action". In addition, the NGO Committee recommended against granting status to two organizations: FELGT - Federación Estatal de Lesbianas, Gays, Transexuales y Bisexuales and the American Sports Committee, Inc. The 2008 resumed session of the Committee will be held from 29 May to 6 June 2008. The Committee continues to be the only intergovernmental organization that conducts its business through an electronic meeting system, called the Paperless Committee.

► The [Commission for Social Development](#) held its forty-sixth session from 6 to 15 February 2008 focusing on the 2007-2008 priority theme "Promoting full employment and decent work for all", and the review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups. At its first policy session the Commission discussed policy options and practical measures to facilitate the implementation of the goal of full employment and decent work. As an outcome of the discussions, the Commission approved a policy-oriented resolution on "Promoting full employment and decent work for all" (E/CN.5/2008/L.), which recognized the crucial importance of full employment and decent work to poverty eradication and social integration, and reaffirmed that the goals of full

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employment and decent work should be made a central objective of national and international policies as well as national development strategies to achieve the MDGs. The Commission decided to keep full and productive employment and decent work for all under review and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the resolution to the Commission at its forty-seventh session and the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session. In connection with its review of plans and programmes of action regarding social groups, the Commission held a panel discussion with the participation of the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions on the regional review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. The Commission also held a discussion on “full employment and decent work: intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women”. Other [resolutions](#) were also adopted: Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (E/CN.5/2008/L.3); Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda (E/CN.5/2008/L.4/Rev.1); First review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing 2002 (E/CN.5/2008/L.5); Further promotion of equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities and protection of their human rights (E/CN.5/2008/L.7), and Future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development (E/CN.5/2008/L.6).

► The [Commission on the Status of Women](#) held its fifty-second session in New York from 25 February to 7 March 2008 where it considered one priority theme, “Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women” and assessed progress in the implementation at the national level of the recommendations contained in its agreed conclusions on “Women’s equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peacebuilding”, adopted at its forty-eighth session in 2004. It also examined the emerging issue of “Gender perspectives on climate change”. The Commission adopted wide-ranging agreed [conclusions](#) on “Financing for gender equality and women’s empowerment”, which Chairperson, Mr. Olivier Belle (Belgium) said would not only raise awareness about investing in women and girls as a vital component towards achieving sustainable development for all, but would also provide an important input to the preparations for the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to review implementation of the 2002 Monterrey Consensus, to be held in Doha, Qatar, next November. It also approved resolutions on The release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts (E/CN.6/2008/L.1); Ending female genital mutilation (E/CN.6/2008/L.2/Rev.1); Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women (E/CN.6/2008/L.3); Strengthening of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (E/CN.6/2008/L.4); Women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS (E/CN.6/2008/L.5/REV.1).

► The [Statistical Commission](#) held its thirty-ninth session in New York from 26-29 February 2008. This year’s session attracted the participation of over 120 countries, mostly represented at the level of Head of National Statistical Office. A primary task of the Commission is to make nationally produced statistical data comparable globally through the development of conceptual and methodological standards. In this vein, the Commission adopted three technical statistical norms in the areas of (i) Industrial Statistics, (ii) Distributive Trade Statistics and (iii) Tourism Statistics. It also decided to develop an agenda for action by the statistical community on the climate change issues. With respect to the monitoring of progress towards the MDGs, the Commission expressed satisfaction with the technical work of the Interagency and Expert Group on MDG indicators, which is led by DESA. In this context it reiterated the importance of the ECOSOC Resolution 2006/6 which stressed the need to increase statistical capacity at the national level. The Commission congratulated the Statistical Division of DESA on the launch of the web portal ‘UNdata’, which brings UN databases together and allows them to be easily accessible and searchable through the internet. A report (E/2008/24) on the 39th session of the Statistical Commission will be presented at the 2008 General Segment of ECOSOC.

► The [Commission on Narcotic Drugs \(CND\)](#) held its fifty-first session in Vienna from 10 to 14 March 2008. Overall, there was a notable degree of engagement and interest by Member States, as demonstrated by the growing number of Ministers participating and a record number of resolutions and

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decisions - 23 submitted and 21 adopted - some of which contained significant policy developments and initiatives. An important outcome related to the preparations for the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the CND, to be held in March 2009, on the follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem (UNGASS 1998). In its capacity as the governing body of the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Commission established an open-ended intergovernmental working group to discuss how to improve the governance and the financial situation of UNODC. The resolution, entitled “Strengthening cooperation between United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other United Nations bodies for the promotion of human rights in the implementation of drug control treaties”, adopted by consensus after a considerable discussion among Member States, requested UNODC, within its existing mandate, to continue to work closely with the competent UN organs, including UN human rights agencies. Other resolutions dealt with subjects such as: drug trafficking routes from Afghanistan; the consequences of cannabis use; promoting alternative development in countries producing illicit drug crops; strengthening cross-border cooperation in the area of drug control; strengthening international support for States in West Africa in their efforts to combat drug trafficking, and strengthening international cooperation for the control of chemicals used for the manufacture of synthetic drugs.

► The [Committee for Development Policy](#) held its tenth session in New York from 17 to 20 March 2008. The President of the Economic and Social Council addressed the meeting and stressed the importance of the Committee’s contribution to the work of ECOSOC by providing insights on how the international development agenda could be further fine-tuned and implemented more effectively. [Mr. Sha Zukang, Under Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs](#) shared his views on the role of this Committee in the work of the United Nations on development, especially in bringing new and emerging issues to the global development agenda. Among the three themes on the agenda, the Committee addressed issues concerning the achievement of internationally agreed goals in regard to sustainable development with a special focus on climate change. A main concern for the Committee is that actions to mitigate climate change - while necessary to ensure sustainable development - should not reverse the development prospects of any nation, especially the developing countries and those most immediately adversely affected by climate change. The Committee also addressed the current financial turmoil and its implications for developing countries. The experts discussed whether the existing multilateral contingency financing mechanisms were suitable for dealing with the current financial turmoil and the possible deceleration of the world economy. The third item on the agenda dealt with the monitoring of the development progress of countries graduating from the list of least developed countries, and the methodology for identifying countries for inclusion in and graduation from the list. The report of the session will include policy recommendations for consideration by ECOSOC at its substantive session of 2008.

► On 18 March 2008, Dr. Philip O. Emafo, President of the [International Narcotics Control Board \(INCB\)](#), briefed the Council on international drug control matters, including on the [latest report of INCB](#) and the outcome of the recent session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The comprehensive 130-page INCB annual report highlights worldwide trends in illicit drug production, trafficking and abuse. One special focus of the current report is on the principle of proportionality and drug-related offences where INCB calls for a better balance of law enforcement efforts. In addition, INCB encourages health care and justice systems to work hand in hand if a lasting reduction of the drug problem is to be achieved. The President of ECOSOC who chaired the briefing said: “INCB sheds light on the many facets of the drug problem and how the drug issue is intricately linked to both economic and social development, the key areas of the Council’s mandate”.

► The [first joint annual meeting of the African Union \(AU\) Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and the Economic Commission for Africa \(ECA\) Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development](#), took place in Addis Ababa from 31 March to 2 April 2008. Ambassador Léo Mérorès, President of the Economic and Social Council, who participated at the meeting stressed that the Council has played an important role over the years in supporting Africa’s development. He said that “From the follow up to and monitoring of the Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, a United Nations framework to support Africa’s development, to the creation of the

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ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group on African Countries Emerging from Conflict, with the two Groups on Guinea-Bissau and Burundi ably led by the Ambassador of South Africa to the United Nations, the Council has had a long history of active engagement with Africa”.

At the closing of the event, African Ministers issued a statement reiterating their commitment to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Africa by 2015. The meeting presented a series of challenges facing Africa in the 21st century, among them, the problems of job creation, poverty reduction, the rising price of oil and foodstuff, climate change and the mobilization of resources to improve quality education. Ministers endorsed an ECA initiative to create the African Climate Policy Centre, which will be the policy arm of the Clim-Dev Africa programme. They also adopted resolutions on financing for development, climate change, research and development, and endorsed the Economic Commission for Africa's proposed strategic framework for the 2010 – 2011 biennium.

► In preparation of the 2008 High-level Segment of ECOSOC, the NGO Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) held an [NGO Forum](#) on 4 April 2008 from 3:00 to 6:00 pm at ECOSOC Chambers, titled, “The role of civil society in promoting sustainable development and the new international aid architecture”. The NGO forum was co-sponsored by Non Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS), World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) and Conference of NGOs (CONGO). The Forum gathered the best practices of NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC on the theme of the Annual Ministerial Review, "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development". The opening statement was delivered by H. E. Ambassador Antonio Pedro Monteiro Lima (Cape Verde), Vice-President of ECOSOC and the closing by Mr. Nikhil Seth, Director, Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination of DESA. The forum was moderated by Ms. Hanifa Mezoui, Chief, NGO Section, and included presentations from member states, UN entities and NGOs. The web-cast for the NGO Forum was viewed by NGOs all over the world and is available through <http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo/>. Success stories submitted by NGOs are also posted at the Virtual AMR Innovation Fair Pavilion: AMR Innovation Fair blog at: <http://www.amrif2008.blogspot.com/>

II– NOTEWORTHY ANNOUNCEMENTS

A - ECOSOC

► The [special high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development \(14 April 2008\)](#), will address the overall theme of “Coherence, coordination and cooperation in the context of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, including new challenges and emerging issues”. Three simultaneous round tables in the morning will address the following sub-themes: “New initiatives on financing for development”; “Supporting development efforts and enhancing the role of middle-income countries, including in the area of trade”; and “Supporting development efforts of the least developed countries, including through trade capacity-building”. In the afternoon, in an innovation this year, there will be an interactive dialogue on “Building and sustaining solid financial markets: challenges for international cooperation”, followed by a special event on “Financing of climate change mitigation and adaptation”.

► The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) will hold an [informal preparatory meeting, "Land and Vulnerable People in a World of Change"](#) (17 April 2008) on the 2008 thematic discussion, “promoting an integrated approach to rural development in developing countries for poverty eradication and sustainable development, taking into account current challenges”. The participants will discuss current global trends and their impact on the livelihoods of poor rural people, in particular those without secure land access or tenure and those struggling to survive on degraded lands and drylands. The meeting will be opened by ECOSOC President Léo Mérorès, and Sha Zukang, USG of DESA.

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B - ECOSOC Subsidiary Bodies

► The [forty-first session of the Commission on Population and Development \(CPD\)](#) is taking place from 7 to 11 April 2008 at United Nations Headquarters. The Commission is considering as its priority theme “Population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development”. The Commission is considering three reports of the Secretary General, namely a report on world population monitoring, focusing on population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development, a report on monitoring of population programmes focusing on population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development, and one on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. The documentation for the forty-first session is available on the Population Division’s website.

► The [seventh session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration \(CEPA\)](#) is taking place from 14 to 18 April 2008 at United Nations Headquarters. In a rapidly changing and globalizing world, with Member States implementing the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs, capacity development must be an integral part of building more legitimate governance and public administration processes. In light of this, and in accordance with the theme of this year’s Annual Ministerial Review of the High-level Segment of ECOSOC, the Committee will cover the priority theme of capacity development in public administration and governance, with a particular focus on post-conflict countries and disaster management situations. In addition to this main theme, the Committee will work on basic United Nations terminology in public administration and governance, the work programme of the Division for Public Administration and Development Management of DESA and the public administration perspective on sustainable development. The seventh session of CEPA will also include a commemoration session on the 60th anniversary of the United Nations Programme on Public Administration, Finance and Development.

► The United Nations central policy-making body on crime prevention and criminal justice issues, the [Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice \(CCPCJ\)](#), will hold its seventeenth session on 14-18 April 2008 at United Nations Office in Vienna. The Commission is also the preparatory body for the quinquennial UN Congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice. Participants will discuss issues ranging from world crime trends to the implementation of the United Nations Conventions and other applicable international instruments on transnational organized crime, corruption and terrorism. Pivotal in the Commission’s programme of work is the annual thematic discussion, which this year, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 61/143 of 19 December 2006 and in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2007/253 of 26 July 2007, will be devoted to the crucial issue of “aspects of violence against women that pertain directly to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”. A series of side events are planned to highlight key themes, such as the illegal trafficking in forest products, international standards in small arms control, juvenile justice, prisoners with special needs, and care-based treatment of female inmates and their children.

► The [seventh session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues](#), on the theme of “Climate change, bio-cultural diversity and livelihoods: the stewardship role of indigenous peoples and new challenges”, will take place from 21 April to 2 May 2008 at United Nations Headquarters. Indigenous peoples’ representatives, Member States, UN system entities, NGOs and academia will focus on the issue of climate change, and research into mitigation measures being taken and how these are impacting on indigenous peoples. There will also be a special focus on the Pacific region, as an area that is already feeling the adverse impacts of climate change. The session will also highlight the issue of indigenous languages, given that 2008 has been declared the International Year of Languages by the General Assembly and more than 4000 of the world’s remaining 6000 languages, many of which are under threat of extinction, are spoken by indigenous peoples. Given that this is the first session of the Permanent Forum after the adoption by the General Assembly of the United Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Forum will also discuss and decide how it will discharge its new mandate under article 42 of the Declaration.

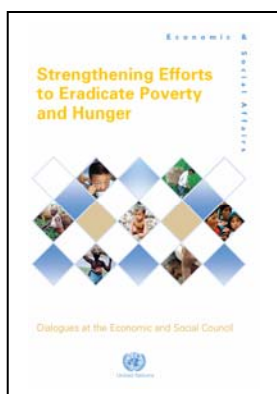
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► The [sixteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development \(CSD-16\)](#) is scheduled from 5 to 16 May 2008 at United Nations Headquarters. The forthcoming session will focus on the review of progress in the implementation of agreed sustainable development goals and targets in the areas of [Agriculture](#), [Rural development](#), [Land](#), [Drought](#), [Desertification](#), and [Africa](#). CSD-16 will also review the implementation of CSD-13 decisions on water and sanitation. The two-week review session will feature thematic and regional interactive discussions, a special day on SIDS, three days of High-level Segment including two ministerial roundtables, a dialogue with heads of UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes, and a multi-stakeholder dialogue with major groups. Furthermore, there will be two additional multi-stakeholder dialogues with major groups, including one with representatives of CSD registered partnerships, during which they are expected to report on their activities in the thematic cluster and highlight any best practice, challenge or obstacle they might have encountered in implementing sustainable development on the ground in regard to the thematic cluster on the agenda. The CSD-16 will also feature the fifth edition of the Partnerships Fair, and of the Learning Centre, in addition to numerous of side events.

III – NEWS

- [Development not a privilege but a right for all, says Ban Ki-moon](#), 11 January 2008
- [Haitian diplomat elected to lead UN Economic and Social Council in 2008](#), 14 January 2008
- [Migiro appeals for international cooperation on ‘explosive’ issue of migration](#), 17 January 2008
- [UN will strive to strengthen its development agenda, pledges Migiro](#), 21 January 2008
- [Decent work key to poverty reduction, social integration – Migiro](#), 6 February 2008
- [Migiro stresses role of philanthropy in achieving global development goals](#), 25 February 2008
- [We ‘cannot wait’ to end violence against women – Secretary-General Ban](#), 25 February 2008
- [Sustained efforts needed to advance action plan on ageing, UN says](#), 25 February 2008
- [Barbados advocate, New York-based NGO win 2008 UN population award](#), 5 March 2008
- [Afghanistan must do more to rein in ‘unprecedented’ drug trade – UN agency](#), 5 March 2008
- [Drug control efforts should focus more on health than crime, says UN official](#), 10 March 2008
- [UN launches initiative to improve Internet access in Asia-Pacific region](#), 11 March 2008
- [Inaugural Development Cooperation Forum can play vital role, says ECOSOC](#), 12 March 2008
- [At meeting of African development partners, UN official urges long-term view](#), 13 March 2008
- [Over 100 million Europeans lack access to safe drinking water, UN says](#), 14 March 2008
- [Neglect of agriculture in Asia leaves hundreds of millions in poverty – UN report](#), 27 March 2008
- [Ban Ki-moon envisions ‘African century’ – if development goals are met](#), 31 March 2008

IV – ECOSOC PUBLICATION



[Dialogues at the Economic and Social Council, “Strengthening Efforts to Eradicate Poverty and Hunger”](#)

This book presents statements, issues papers and summaries of high-level roundtable dialogues that took place during the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in July 2007, at which the Annual Ministerial Review and Development Cooperation Forum --- two new functions mandated by world leaders at the 2005 World Summit --- were launched. The discussions revolved around strengthening efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger. The publication is intended as a resource for policy makers and scholars, while also explaining to the public audience the importance of achieving the Millennium Development Goal 1 on “Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger”.