

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

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## ECOSOC will hold its 2009 Substantive Session



## I - SUBSTANTIVE SESSION (6-31 JULY)

➤ At the [2009 High-level Segment \(6-9 July 2009\)](#), to be held in Geneva, more than 500 participants representing governments, multilateral organizations, aid agencies, civil society, private sector and academia will assess and recommend how the world, in the face of the global financial crisis can maintain and accelerate its commitment to global public health and ensure the MDGs are achieved. An opening plenary session will feature addresses by ECOSOC President Sylvie Lucas, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, and President of Swiss Confederation, Hans-Rudolf Merz. Keynote addresses will be delivered by Jean Asselborn, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg; Urmas Paet, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Estonia, and Princess Muna al-Hussein, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

### Policy Dialogue

➤ Executive heads of the international financial and trade institutions will kick off the afternoon of day one with a [policy dialogue](#) on the state of the world economy and its implications for the achievement of the United Nations Development Agenda. The dialogue, which will be moderated by DESA Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Sha Zukang, features Supachai Panitchpakti, Secretary-General of UNCTAD, Pascal Lamy, Director-General of the World Trade Organization, Murilo Portugal, Deputy Managing Director at the IMF and Joy Phumaphi, Vice President for Human Development at the World Bank.

### Annual Ministerial Review

➤ At the [Annual Ministerial Review, from 6 to 8 July](#), eight countries will report on the progress they have made towards the goals and targets of the United Nations Development Agenda. The Ministerial deliberations will address the question of how to ameliorate global public health. Ministers and other high-level officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Development Cooperation, Economic Planning and Health from developing and developed countries are expected to attend. Council President, Sylvie Lucas, and Secretary-General Ban-Ki-moon will open the event. DESA Under-Secretary-General, Sha Zukang, will introduce the main report on global public health.

### Thematic Debate

➤ [The Thematic Debate](#) will focus on “Current global and national trends and their impact on social development, including health”. DESA Under-Secretary-General, Sha Zukang, will introduce [the main report](#). The segment will feature two roundtable dialogues. One will focus on “[Social trends and emerging challenges and their impact on public health](#)” and the other on “[Trends in aid and aid effectiveness in the health sector](#)”.

### Side Events

➤ A number of side-events are being organized for the High-level Segment. These include:

Eight [Ministerial Roundtable Breakfasts](#) which are being organized by number of agencies/organizations/offices in the mornings of 7, 8 and 9 July, focusing on various aspects of global public health and development, including on maternal and child health, digital health, Non communicable Diseases, AIDS vaccines, migration and health, Ageing and Health to name a

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a few. Participants at each of the breakfasts will include Ministers and other heads of delegation of ECOSOC Member States, delegates of non-ECOSOC Member States, high-level UN officials and high-level representatives from civil society and the private sector.

An [Innovation Fair](#), which is a DESA Initiative, will be held in parallel to the High-level Segment. The Fair is designed to showcase innovative projects and practices in the area of global public health by a wide range of stakeholders. It will showcase innovations on three themes; namely, ICT tools for health; innovative partnerships for health and development; and, improving access to health for vulnerable populations. Around 30 Exhibitors will be participating, including private sector companies such as Siemens and Johnson and Johnson, Global Health Partnerships such as GAVI, the Global Fund, UNITAID, NGOs such as the International Federation of the Red Cross and Medicins du Monde and UN system organizations such as WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNAIDS, ITU, IOM, among others. The Secretary General is expected to open the Innovation Fair at 11:00 a.m. on 6 July 2009.

A number of panels and briefings are also being held on a range of issues linked to the theme of the High-level Segment will be held on the margins of the meeting and are being organized by UN system agencies, NGOs and private sector organizations. For a list of these [side-events](#), please visit the ECOSOC website.

- The [Dialogue with the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions \(10 July 2009\)](#) will be on the theme, “Regional perspectives on the global economic and financial crisis, including the impact on global public health”. The Dialogue will provide regional perspectives on current challenges and steps to be taken in the area of global public health.
- During the [Coordination Segment \(10 to 14 July 2009\)](#), the Council will focus on the follow up to the 2008 Ministerial Declaration on “implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development” and what role the UN system can play in the implementation of these goals. The segment will also review progress made by the Council in promoting the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the major UN Conferences and Summits.

Four panel discussions on various dimensions and challenges of sustainable development will complement the work for the coordination segment. In particular, panels will focus on the impact of the financial crisis, climate change, and other emerging threats and challenges, on sustainable development; on the role of the intergovernmental process to promote the CEB initiative to develop a system-wide action plan on climate change; and on the national experience with effective sustainable development strategies.

- The [Operational Activities Segment \(15 to 17 July 2009\)](#) will be an important opportunity for Member States to provide further guidance to the UN development system for implementing the 2007 Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities of the General Assembly. The programme of this year’s Segment gives special importance to the role of UN operational activities in helping governments respond to the impact of the global crises (the convergence of the financial and economic and food and energy crises, as well as climate challenges) and health-related issues particularly at national, subregional and regional levels. Two dedicated panels will be organized around these substantive themes. The General Assembly has also identified other overall themes which ECOSOC should look at, including funding, the UN human resources and harmonization of rules and procedures. Member States will also focus on these issues during two thematic dialogue sessions, followed by general debates based on six SG

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reports prepared by the Secretariat. Furthermore, the Council will also hold a participatory dialogue with the Executive Heads of Funds and Programmes. During this dialogue, several issues of system-wide concern, including development effectiveness in the new aid architecture, data collection and knowledge management for development cooperation, and capacity building and innovations in technology will be discussed. Drawing on the discussions during the Segment, it is hoped that the Council will come up with a focused resolution that gives actionable guidance to the UN system.

➤ The [Humanitarian Affairs Segment \(20 - 22 July 2009\)](#) will focus on “Respecting and implementing guiding principles of humanitarian assistance at the operational level - assisting the affected populations”, and “Addressing the impact of current global challenges and trends on the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance”.

The first panel is designed to illustrate the challenges that affect the principled delivery of humanitarian aid and to discuss relevant aspects of respecting and implementing key principles for humanitarian action at the operational level.

The second panel aims to explore the impact and interconnectedness of global mega-trends such as climate change, population growth, urbanization, resource scarcity, and of global shocks such as the food and economic crisis. Its design seeks to elaborate how these trends and shocks shape current and future vulnerabilities and the effective delivery of humanitarian aid.

This year's Segment is also packed with many interesting side-events that will provide Member State with up to date information on current humanitarian issues, initiatives and challenges. Albeit not formally part of the Humanitarian Segment, the informal ECOSOC event on "Coordination in the transition phase between emergency relief and sustainable recovery" constitutes an important opportunity to discuss the issues of transition and early recovery. The focus of this year's panel will be the Secretary-General's report on peace-building in the immediate aftermath of conflict.

➤ The [General Segment \(23-30 July 2009\)](#), will undertake the follow-up and review of conferences; review the annual reports of its subsidiary bodies, including its functional and regional commissions, expert bodies and ad hoc bodies, including the Advisory Group on Haiti, and take relevant action.

## I - OUTCOME PAST EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

### A - ECOSOC

➤ The [Global Preparatory Meeting](#) held on 31 March 2009 in New York helped to identify key issues which require urgent action by Ministers during the July Annual Ministerial Review (AMR). It provided an opportunity to (1) Assess the state of implementation of the United Nations Development Agenda in the area of global public health; (2) Consider the impact of the world financial crisis on health systems, and (3) Explore the challenge of providing health care in a post-conflict environment.

During the first morning session, the Council took stock on where we stood on achieving the international health goals. It was highlighted that the use of new medicine and technologies has allowed developing countries to decrease their child mortality rates, while low income countries

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in particular lagged behind on reducing maternal mortality rates, especially in remote rural areas. There is a need to look into data more carefully and disaggregate in order to have a fuller picture. In a second morning session on the impact of the world financial and economic crisis on the achievement of the health goals, it was stressed that extra efforts were needed to sustain funding for public services at a time of increased demand. It was noted that in line with the Abuja Declaration, low income countries should devote 15% of their budget to the health sector, while donors should devote 0.1% of their GNP to health in low income countries.

The meeting also focused on the challenges of reconstructing the health sector in post-conflict countries. The majority of countries farthest from reaching the MDGs are in or emerging from conflict. Lack of progress in health in these countries is undermining global progress on health and non-health MDGs. Investment in the reconstruction of the health has the potential to work as a source of national reconciliation, stability and legitimacy of the State. The constraints to rebuilding the health sector includes the weak capacity of the State to extend its reach throughout the country, the lack of health-related human resources and the low salaries health workers receive. There is a need to balance the need for quick action and results with long-term more sustainable approaches.

➤ 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](#) was held on Monday, 27 April 2009, at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The overall theme of the meeting was "*Coherence, coordination and cooperation in the context of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development.*" The meeting focused on the following sub-themes, "Addressing the impact of the global financial and economic crisis on development, including issues related to the international financial and monetary architecture and global governance structures"; and "Strengthening of the intergovernmental inclusive process to carry out the financing for development follow-up".

#### **AMR Regional Meetings on the theme of Global Public Health**

➤ The [South Asia Regional Ministerial Meeting](#) on "Financing Strategies for Healthcare", held in Colombo on 16-18 March 2009, hosted by the Government of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, provided an opportunity to (1) examine in greater depth the financing aspects of health services and public health, (2) assess progress in achieving the health-related development agenda in the region and outstanding challenges; and (3) exchange lessons learned and replicable examples of good practices.

Today, resources available for health in many of the world's countries remain extremely limited. In 2006, it was lower than US\$30 per capita per year in 33 of the world's countries. The meeting examined key challenges countries, particularly low-income countries, face in adapting their domestic health financing systems to the increased demands put on it by the world financial crisis. It also explored the role of external sources of health care financing.

A clear message was that for universal coverage to be achieved, ways need to be found to increase domestic funding and to enhance its efficiency. This implies moving away from the reliance of out-of-pocket payments towards a system of prepayment and pooling. At the same time external sources of health care financing need to become more predictable and better aligned with national priorities. Especially, post conflict countries, which are often heavily reliant



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on external assistance, will continue to need the support of the international community. Today, health remains under-funded during recovery and rehabilitation compared to other policy areas.

➤ The [Asia-Pacific Regional Ministerial Meeting](#) on the theme “Promoting Health Literacy” was held in Beijing on 29 and 30 April 2009, hosted by the government of the People’s Republic of China. Organized as a multi-stakeholder event, with the participation of 110 delegates, including health ministers, experts from the United Nations system, academia and the private sector, the consultations consisted of plenary meetings and panel discussions. The delegates examined the notions of health literacy, shared experience of good practices and recommended ways of scaling up effective health literacy interventions, given the general low level of health literacy in the region and worldwide, the reported positive impact of health literacy on health and development and the urgent need to make progress on achieving the MDGs and combating NCDs.

Consensus was reached on a number of key issues in promoting health literacy, in particular, scaling up of effective health literacy interventions; demonstrate how improved health literacy can enhance the effectiveness of primary health care; developing culturally appropriate measures for reporting progress; strengthening joint action within and beyond the health sectors; promoting use of modern ICT and encouraging the media to ensure information accuracy; and, building community capacity through empowerment and institutional capacity for sustainable action, including the use of the evidence based approach by practitioners. Finally there was a suggestion to develop a regional plan to achieve planned changes in a collaborative and sustained manner.

➤ The [Western Asia Regional Ministerial Meeting](#) on the theme “Addressing non-communicable diseases and injuries: Major challenges to sustainable development in the 21st century” was held in Doha on 10 and 11 May 2009, hosted by the Government of Qatar. The meeting focused on the global and regional magnitude of non-communicable diseases (cardiovascular diseases, cancers, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases) and injuries and solutions to better prevent and treat them. The event was attended by 70 delegates from high-level representatives from Western Asia, as well as regional and international experts, NGOs and business representatives.

In the course of the discussion, the serious threat to the health of people in the region was highlighted, as well as the threat to socio-economic development and poverty reduction initiatives. Consensus over the increasing impact on development were balanced with optimism that affordable solutions exist, in particular by addressing common modifiable risk factors and integrating the care of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and injuries into primary care. Many solutions require the active involvement of sectors other than health. The challenge is to identify and incorporate these solutions into multi-sectoral policies with effective mechanisms to ensure that health is an integral part of all policies. The delegates agreed to establish a Regional Ministerial Task Force on NCDs and Injuries to conduct external reviews of the progress made in the region with regards to addressing NCDs and injuries. They also recommended that indicators to monitor the magnitude, trend and socio-economic impact of NCDs and injuries be integrated into the core Millennium Development Goal (MDG) monitoring and evaluation system during the MDGs Review Summit in 2010. Key messages will be presented by Qatar's Minister of Public Health, H.E. Abdullah bin Khalid Al Qahtani, to the Council during the Annual Ministerial Review.

➤ The [Latin America and Caribbean Regional Ministerial Meeting](#) on the theme of ‘HIV and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean’ was held on 5 and 6 June in Montego Bay,

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Jamaica. The event was hosted by the Government of Jamaica and drew together 103 delegates from ministers and high-level representatives from the health, education, labour and economic planning sectors. Governments, as well as international organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector were represented. Participants took stock of the progress made in controlling HIV in the region; analyzed the main obstacles in achieving further successes; and discussed ways of making further advances in the prevention, treatment, care and support of HIV, towards the achievement of the HIV-related MDGs.

A number of key messages emerged from the presentations and discussions. Firstly, addressing HIV is central to public health, socio-economic development and human security. Secondly, current investments in HIV must be maintained and/or increased, with a focus on integrated development approaches. Thirdly, prevention of HIV infection is a critical component in reversing the HIV epidemic. Significant increases will be required in prevention coverage, particularly in health education, especially among most-at-risk population and youth. Fourthly, as stigma, homophobia and discrimination represent perhaps the single greatest barrier to attaining the HIV-related Goal, urgent and increased investment is needed in support of human rights, including sexual rights, and social justice programmes, in accordance with the legal framework of each country.

There was also a consensus that that these actions should be taken with a multi-sectoral approach, as reflected by the presence of a number of sectors in the meeting, in addition to the health sector. Especially in the area of HIV prevention, the health sector should work in close cooperation with the education sector so as to reach all the youth.

A total of 10 recommendations emerged from the discussions and will be presented by H.E. Ruyard Spencer, Minister of Health and the Environment of Jamaica to the Council during the Annual Ministerial Review.

➤ The [Africa Regional Ministerial Meeting](#) on "eHealth - information and communication technology for health", hosted by the Government of Ghana on 10-11 June 2009 tackled Africa's health challenges through e-Health. Improving the access and utilization of digital data in support of health care, a field known as eHealth, was the main topic discussed. Over 90 participants, among them, government ministers, health experts, policy makers, NGOs and business representatives examined over two days the utilization of ICTs to respond adequately to the health-related challenges faced by the continent.

Mainstreaming eHealth into health systems is considered to be one of the promising solutions to many challenges in the region. The meeting pointed to four major areas that require special attention. Firstly, the need for infrastructure. This includes roads, electricity grids, broader and extensive internet access, schools, hospitals and primary care clinics. Secondly, the need to develop human resources, especially in the area of health. Such human resources development could also focus on training ehealth experts. Thirdly, the need for further strengthening of regional integration. This is particularly required in the health sector, including in the area of eHealth. Regional eHealth opens opportunities for rapid scaling up and also offers economies of scale. Finally, the need for continuous and enhanced international support, and better integration in the global financial, trading and communication networks. Key messages will be presented by Ghana's Minister of Health, H.E. Mr. George Yankey to the Council during the Annual Ministerial Review. [Official website of E-Health](#)

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## B - OTHER ECOSOC MEETINGS

➤ At its 53<sup>rd</sup> session (2-13 March 2009) this year, the [Commission on the Status of Women](#) considered “The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS” as the priority theme. A number of interactive events related to the priority theme were held, including a high-level round table and interactive expert panels on key policy initiatives and on capacity-building in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes.

The Commission also evaluated progress in the implementation of its previously-agreed conclusions on “Equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels,” through an interactive dialogue and considered as the emerging issue “The gender perspectives of the financial crisis,” through an interactive expert panel discussion. An expert panel on “Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health: a gender perspective,” was held to provide input to the 2009 ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review.

During the general discussion, over 130 speakers representing Member States, Permanent Observers, regional groups, UN entities and other intergovernmental organizations and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) made statements. The Commission adopted agreed conclusions on the priority theme. They provide a set of policy recommendations on a broad range of areas where action is required to address the equal sharing of responsibilities, including labour and social policies, the provision of services and infrastructure, the elimination of gender stereotypes, data collection and research; and international cooperation. The Commission recognized that gender inequality and discrimination, including stereotypical perceptions of men and women, contribute to the continuing imbalance in the division of labour between women and men. It noted the need for men and boys to take responsibility and work in partnership with women and girls.

The Commission expressed its deep concern over the negative impact of the global economic and financial crisis. The agreed conclusions called for measures to reconcile caregiving and professional life, and to ensure men’s equal responsibilities for household work. Such measures include the design and implementation of family-friendly policies and services such as quality care services and access to maternity, paternity, parental and other forms of leave. Other forms of support called for include social protection measures such as health insurance and child and family allowances. The agreed conclusions include measures to reduce the burden of care on households through the provision of public infrastructure, including clean water supply, sanitation, energy, telecommunications and affordable housing programmes. The Commission also called for strengthened efforts to protect the rights and ensure decent work conditions for all domestic workers, including women migrant domestic workers.

The Commission also adopted a resolution on “Future organization and methods of work of the Commission” that included a new multi-year programme of work for 2010 to 2014 and a resolution on “Preparations for the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women” on the modalities for the commemoration of the 15th anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 2010. The Commission also adopted a resolution on the future work of the Working Group on Communications on “Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women”.

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Approximately 300 parallel events were organized by UN entities, Permanent Missions, and NGOs. 1,993 civil society members representing 323 NGOs were present during the session.

Immediately following the closure of the fifty-third session, the Commission opened its fifty-fourth session to elect its new Bureau. By acclamation, it elected Ambassador Armen Martirosyan (Armenia) of the Eastern European Group of States as the Chairperson for both the fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth sessions. The Commission also elected Ms. Leysa Sow (Senegal) of the African Group; Mr. Roberto Storaci (Italy) of the Western European and other States Group; and Mr. Takashi Ashiki (Japan) of the Asian States Group. The Commission agreed that, upon nomination of a candidate by the Latin American and Caribbean States Group, it would elect that candidate post-facto at its second meeting in 2010.

- The [fifty-second Session](#) and [High-Level Segment](#) of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs were organized in Vienna from 11 to 20 March 2009.
- The [Commission on Population and Development](#) held its forty-second session on 11 April 2008 and from 30 March to 3 April 2009. The special theme for the forty-second session was “The contribution of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.” A report presented to the Commission documented how rapid population growth caused by sustained high fertility was associated with higher poverty levels, lower levels of primary education, and high child and maternal mortality. It concluded that the high fertility characterizing the majority of the least developed countries constituted an obstacle to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Also reported to the Commission were revised estimates of the costed components of the Programme of Action, which were in line with costing estimates for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals and reflected more accurately than the estimates contained in the ICPD Programme of Action the necessary financial resources needed to achieve the relevant targets under the Millennium Development Goals’ framework as well as the goals and objectives of the ICPD Programme of Action.

The Commission adopted a resolution on national, regional and international action regarding the contribution of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. In that resolution, the Commission reaffirmed the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the key actions for its further implementation and recognized that their implementation was integrally linked to global efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development. The resolution recognized the dire need to increase financial resources for the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, particularly for family planning, and called upon the international community to assist Governments and to increase funding to reduce unmet need for family planning.

- The [Eighteenth Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice](#) took place from 16 to 24 April 2009 in Vienna.
- The [United Nations Forum on Forests](#) held its 8<sup>th</sup> session from 20 April – 1 May 2009 under the chairmanship of Dr. Boen M. Purnama of Indonesia. At this biennial meeting of the Forum, delegates from all 192 Member States discussed ways to improve global management of forests at a time when climate change and numerous environmental and economic crises continue to pose severe risks to forests. In total, over 650 participants from Member States, IGOs and

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civil society participated in the session.

The key themes of the session were: Forests in a Changing Environment and Means of Implementation for Sustainable Forest Management. The first theme covered issues such as desertification, forest degradation, climate change and biodiversity; while the second included consideration of a voluntary global financial mechanism/portfolio approach/forest financing framework for sustainable forest management. The discussions were particularly timely, enabling the Forum to strengthen the contribution of forests and sustainable forest management to tackling key environmental and development challenges. The UNFF8 resolution called for unprecedented levels of coordination and enhanced cooperation among processes and regions to ensure that sustainable forest management strategies are brought into relevant policies and programmes such as those on climate change, biodiversity desertification and water resources

- The [Seventeenth Session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development \(CSD\)](#), which took place from 4 to 15 May 2009, marked the conclusion of the third biennial cycle of CSD. The Session attracted over 1000 participants, including 50 Ministers or Vice-ministers, heads of UN Agencies and the three Rio Convention secretariats. The session met took policy decisions on agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and African development.
- The [Eighth Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues](#) was held on 18 - 29 May 2009. The eighth session was a review year of the recommendations of the UNPFII on economic and social development, indigenous women and the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.
- The twelfth session of the [Commission on Science and Technology for Development \(CSTD\)](#) took place 25-29 May 2009 in Geneva. The Commission reviewed the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). In addition, it considered two priority themes, “Development-oriented policies for a socio-economically inclusive information society, including policies relating to access, infrastructure and an enabling environment” and “Science, technology and engineering for innovation and capacity-building in education and research”. As a contribution to ECOSOC's Annual Ministerial Review theme for 2009 on "implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health", a special panel discussion was devoted to “Delivering innovation in global public health”. The Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of two draft resolutions, one on “Science and Technology for Development”, and one on “Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society”, which contain several calls for action to national governments and the international community.
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- Economic and Social Council the adoption of two draft resolutions, one on “Science and Technology for Development”, and one on “Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society”, which contain several calls for action to national governments and the international community.

Participants urged the CSTD to play the role of “torch-bearer” for innovation and innovation-oriented planning, and to support efforts by national governments to integrate STI into national development strategies. They also called on all stakeholders to assist developing countries in their efforts towards narrowing the digital divide, particularly with regard to access, affordability, speed in broadband, local content and data privacy. They also encouraged all stakeholders to continue to cooperate on and to develop ICT partnerships towards capacity building, technology and knowledge transfer and research and development (R&D). The CSTD was also requested to organise, during its 13th session, a substantive discussion on the five year progress made in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes.

### III – ECOSOC PUBLICATION



SPECIAL EVENT ON  
PHILANTHROPY  
AND THE GLOBAL  
PUBLIC HEALTH  
AGENDA February 2009

Final Report

- This [book](#) presents the key debates that took place during the Special Event on Philanthropy and the Global Public Health Agenda, at which top executives and philanthropy leaders discussed with ECOSOC Members and other partners ways to strengthen partnerships towards achieving the health Millennium Goals (MDGs) in the areas of maternal and girls’ health and neglected tropical diseases.