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## **Press Release ECOSOC/6157**

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Economic and Social Council  
2005 Substantive Session  
11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Meetings

### **Extract from Press Release**

#### **SPEAKERS IN HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL CITE**

#### **INSUFFICIENT PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING MILLENNIUM GOALS**

A representative of the International Land Coalition stressed the need to redress power imbalances restricting the access of poor households to land. Because land access touched upon fundamental inequalities in rural areas, challenges were great and progress had remained variable. On the positive side, his organization had seen improved exchanges of knowledge on governmental successes with those difficult challenges, and had worked with several to foster greater stakeholder participation in policy formulation and improved systems for land management.

However, he said, in some cases political will was lacking, especially when the political and landed elites were one and the same. The international community must ensure that the Ministerial Declaration continued to receive attention and was brought forth to be reviewed again in 2008. He encouraged governments to concentrate on agrarian reform and land access in their texts they prepared for the upcoming September Summit.