

14. *Recognizes* the devastating impact of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases on societies, and calls for measures by United Nations bodies, especially the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS co-sponsoring agencies, and development partners to further mainstream HIV/AIDS concerns into rural development planning, including poverty eradication and food security strategies and multisectoral development activities covering economic and social aspects, including the gender perspective;

15. *Invites* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system dealing with issues of development to strengthen their cooperation in addressing and supporting the empowerment and the specific needs of rural women in their programmes and strategies;

16. *Stresses* that the United Nations system should improve its coordination in support of national efforts to increase the school enrolment rate, especially of the girl child, and to provide quality education for the rural poor, inter alia, through mobilizing the financial and technical resources necessary, including the full utilization of modern methodologies and technologies as well as the establishment of distance learning education systems;

17. *Recognizes* the importance of employment for pro-poor growth in rural areas, and encourages the United Nations system and development partners to assist countries, upon their request, in mainstreaming employment into investment policy and poverty reduction strategies, including those focused on rural area development;

18. *Invites* the United Nations system to further assist developing countries in their efforts to enhance access by the rural poor to productive assets, especially land and water, in order to promote social and economic development;

19. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to further support capacity-building programmes for, and exchanges of experience on, rural development through enhanced coordination and information exchange mechanisms such as the United Nations System Network on Rural Development and Food Security;

20. *Stresses* that the United Nations system should further support regional and subregional initiatives, where appropriate, in order to promote an integrated approach to rural development, and requests the United Nations regional commissions to further enhance regional and interregional cooperation, in particular for sharing best practices;

21. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and regional organizations to undertake measures to further promote South-South cooperation, including triangular cooperation, in the area of rural development, and in this regard underlines the need for increased cooperation among bodies of the United Nations system to promote South-South cooperation;

22. *Notes* the work of the United Nations system on partnerships, welcomes the establishment of a multitude of partnerships for sustainable rural development at the field level entered into by various United Nations agencies, Member States, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society in general, and encourages the United Nations system to continue to promote partnerships at the national and international levels in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions.

50th plenary meeting
23 July 2004

E/2004/49. United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council adopted on 2 July 2003,¹⁴¹ which underlined the importance of alliances and partnerships among actors in different sectors for the promotion of integrated rural development,

Underlining the importance of the contribution of the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society in general to the implementation of the outcomes of United Nations conferences in the economic, social and related fields,

Recalling the central role and responsibility of Governments in national and international policy-making,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 58/129 of 19 December 2003, entitled "Towards global partnerships", in which the Assembly, inter alia, identified the principles and objectives of such partnerships and welcomed the establishment of a multitude of partnerships at the field level, entered into by various United Nations organizations, Member States and other stakeholders, such as the United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development (the United Nations Alliance),

1. *Welcomes* the initiative of the Government of Madagascar to serve as the pilot country for the United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development (the United Nations Alliance);

2. *Invites* all Member States, the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system, the Bretton Woods institutions, civil society, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders to support the programmes and activities of the United Nations Alliance in its mission to promote sustainable rural development, consistent with General Assembly resolution 58/129 and other relevant resolutions and decisions of the Assembly and the Economic and Social Council;

3. *Stresses* that activities of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system at the country level in support of the United Nations Alliance should take into account the implementation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2006 on the work of the United Nations Alliance.

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2004/50. Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991, recalling that humanitarian assistance should be provided in accordance with and with due respect for the guiding principles contained in the annex to that resolution, and recalling also other relevant resolutions of the Assembly and resolutions and agreed conclusions of the Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2003/5 of 15 July 2003 and General Assembly resolution 58/114 of 17 December 2003,

Welcoming the fact that at the humanitarian affairs segment of 2004 the Economic and Social Council considered the theme "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian assistance of the United Nations: present and future challenges" and that the Council held two panels, on "Strengthening preparedness and response to natural disasters, with an emphasis on capacity-building" and "Field-level coordination for the purpose of continuing the presence and operation of United Nations humanitarian assistance missions in higher-risk environments",

Recognizing that the affected State has the primary role in the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of humanitarian assistance within its territory and in the facilitation of the work of humanitarian organizations,

Emphasizing the importance of continued international cooperation in support of the efforts of affected States in dealing with natural disasters and complex emergencies in all their phases, and recognizing that the magnitude and duration of many emergencies may be beyond the response capacity of many affected countries,

Reaffirming that humanitarian assistance is of cardinal importance for the victims of natural disasters and other emergencies,

Reaffirming also the importance of the principles of neutrality, humanity and impartiality for the provision of humanitarian assistance,

Reaffirming further that independence, meaning the autonomy of humanitarian objectives from the political, economic, military or other objectives that any actor may hold with regard to areas where humanitarian action is being implemented, is also an important guiding principle for the provision of humanitarian assistance, and should be applied in

full respect for and compliance with international humanitarian law,

Welcoming positive developments towards the resolution of some long-standing complex emergencies, while remaining deeply concerned about the outbreak of new complex emergencies and the protracted nature of other complex emergencies,

Noting the increase in the number and nature of organizations engaged in humanitarian action, and mindful of the need to ensure that this multiplication of actors does not detract from the effectiveness of the humanitarian response and the neutrality and independence of humanitarian assistance,

Expressing profound regret and grave concern at the tragic loss of the lives of humanitarian staff while providing humanitarian assistance and the increased insecurity encountered by humanitarian staff as well as the acts of violence committed against them, in particular deliberate attacks, and mindful of the need to provide the fullest possible protection for their security, and, in this regard, bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 58/122 of 17 December 2003 and Security Council resolution 1502 (2003) of 26 August 2003,

Gravely concerned that, in some of the world's current complex emergencies, access by humanitarian agencies to affected civilian populations remains limited, sporadic and sometimes restricted,

Bearing in mind that success in peace negotiation, among other processes, could lead to a significant increase in voluntary repatriation of refugees and in the possible reintegration of internally displaced persons, and expressing its belief that the United Nations system should give due consideration to these developments in the planning of its response,

Noting with grave concern the growing intensity and recurrence of natural disasters, and reaffirming the importance of sustainable measures to reduce the vulnerability of societies to natural hazards using an integrated, multi-hazard and participatory approach to addressing vulnerability, risk assessment and disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery,

Noting the grave humanitarian and development implications of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and other widespread major infectious diseases prevalent in humanitarian contexts, such as malaria, tuberculosis and cholera, for the affected countries,

Gravely concerned that violence, including sexual abuse and sexual and other violence against women, girls and boys, continues to be, in many emergency situations, deliberately directed against civilian populations, and reiterating that acts of sexual violence in situations of armed conflict can constitute serious violations or grave breaches of international humanitarian law and constitute, in defined circumstances, a