



The President
of the
Economic and Social Council

**STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL AT THE HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT**

New York, 30 October 2003

Mr. President,
Heads of partner-organizations,
Distinguished delegates,

This is an important occasion, and I am pleased, as President of ECOSOC, to be participating in it.

Important, because I happen to believe that the International Conference on Financing for Development has been the single most significant contribution that the United Nations has been able to make to the development effort in all of its long history. Only the United Nations (with a little help from its friends) had the convening power to bring so many Heads of State and Government together to effectively put development on the front burner of the international agenda. And perhaps only a United Nations Conference could have produced such a lucid road map towards development as the one contained in the Monterrey Consensus, which builds on the objectives of the Millennium Declaration.

Not only did development receive a big boost in the international agenda, but the Consensus went way beyond rhetoric in setting out what must be done, who must do it, how domestic and international responsibilities should interact, and how to organize ourselves for proper implementation. The accent on partnerships – between Governments and civil society, between the United Nations and the other major multilateral institutions, between Ministries of Foreign Affairs and their colleagues in economic cabinets – is in the spirit of cooperation fostered by our Charter. The Monterrey Consensus clearly offers guidelines for policy makers at the national and international levels, and sets in place a follow-up mechanism; a mechanism which we are now in the midst of trying to perfect.

You will recall that paragraph 69 of the Monterrey Consensus sets up the elements for monitoring and follow-up activities. The Economic and Social Council held its first post-Monterrey Spring meeting last April 14, with encouraging results. You will find my report on this meeting issued under the Secretariat's document A/58/77 of 9 May, 2003. The general thrust of our dialogue, as befits the mandate of ECOSOC, was to increase coherence, cooperation and coordination of all stakeholders for the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. Another way of describing this thrust is to define who does what, and how to work together. We had a fruitful dialogue, both at the level of our respective inter-governmental representatives and between our respective Secretariat and Staffs. A notable innovation in the Spring meeting was the presence, for the first time, of a inter-governmental

representation of the World Trade Organization.

We note that, as in all complex processes, we have experienced progress, and also set-backs. Certainly the results of the WTO Ministerial Conference in Cancún fall in the latter category. But we must persist, and, if we work together, we will prevail. I am sure that I represent the sentiment of all member countries of the Economic and Social Council when I pledge that, for our part, we will do all in our power to play the role assigned to us in the Monterrey Consensus, including the possibility, when roadblocks appear, to help illuminate the way forward.

Thank you