

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Substantive Session (New York, 29 June to 27 July 2005)

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), one of the six main United Nations (UN) organs, co-ordinates the work of the 14 UN specialised agencies, ten functional commissions and five regional commissions; receives reports from 11 UN funds and programs; and issues policy recommendations to the UN system and to member States. Under the *United Nations Charter*, ECOSOC is responsible for: promoting higher standards of living, full employment, and economic and social progress; identifying solutions to international economic, social and health problems; facilitating international cultural and educational co-operation; and encouraging universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

ECOSOC is composed of 54 member States elected by the General Assembly for three-year terms and meets annually for a four-week session. The members of the ECOSOC's Bureau for 2005 are as follows: President: H.E. Ambassador Munir Akram (Pakistan); Vice-Presidents: H.E. Ambassador Ali Hachani (Tunisia), H.E. Ambassador Agim Nesho (Albania), H.E. Ambassador Jaime Moncayo (Ecuador), H.E. Ambassador Johan C. Verbeke (Belgium).

In preparation for the ECOSOC session, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan issued a report entitled *Towards achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration* (E/2005/56, see Annex I). Two noteworthy meetings were held prior to the ECOSOC Substantive Session: one in preparation of the High-level Segment (Annex II); the other between ECOSOC and important actors in international financing for development (Annex III).

1. High-level Segment

The 2005 ECOSOC High-level Segment was held from 29 June to 1 July 2005 at UN headquarters in New York. The theme of the High-level Segment was **"Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities"**. Participating in the High-level Segment were two heads of State or government, about 50 ministers, and many other high-level officials and representatives of intergovernmental organisations, civil society, and the private sector. This year's session also featured a new element of "voices against poverty", which involved non-UN actors such as 2001 Nobel Prize Laureate in Economics Joseph Stiglitz giving their views on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

During the session, delegates met in plenary meetings to discuss the achievement of internationally agreed development goals and held a high-level policy dialogue with the executive heads of international trade and finance institutions to discuss international economic cooperation in the context of achieving the MDGs. Delegates also reviewed progress in implementing ECOSOC's 2003 *Ministerial Declaration on rural development*, and attended panels on employment for growth and on the response of the UN Chief Executives Board of Coordination to the *United Nations Millennium Declaration*. Also taking place were a panel discussion with the Chairs of several functional commissions and eight roundtables on development goals relating to poverty and hunger; health; partnerships and financing; human rights and institutions; national strategies; education; gender equality; and environmental sustainability.

In his opening remarks ECOSOC **President Munir Akram highlighted the fact that** despite consensus in the MDGs and other conference declarations, **insufficient progress had been made**. Mr. Akram called on the international community to generate the necessary political will to combat poverty, hunger, and disease. He stressed the role that could be played by the UN in advancing the development agenda in partnership with other international actors such as the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Secretary-General Annan stressed the importance of translating economic growth into development that reached all segments of the population. He suggested that this could be done by increasing development resources, creating more effective policies, and improving partnerships. The Secretary-General applauded the European Union's (EU) steps to increase development assistance to 0.7% of gross domestic product (GDP) by 2015. He reminded developing countries that they must also contribute by improving accountability and

transparency. Mr. Annan called on developing countries to improve the climate for business and increase investment in education and health.

Additional opening remarks were made by Mr. Joseph Stiglitz, Professor of Economics and Finance at Columbia University, New York, and winner of the 2001 Nobel Prize in Economics. Mr. Stiglitz spoke of the need for a fair trade regime that encouraged development, and warned of global financial instability, including massive financial outflows from developing countries and unpredictable exchange rates.

Mr. Juan Somavia, Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO), called on the international community to place greater importance on the role employment could play in reducing social insecurity in developing countries. Rampant unemployment, Mr. Somavia argued, contributed to a growing backlash against the emerging global system. Mr. Antonio Guterres, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, criticised national MDG strategies for placing too little emphasis on the needs of displaced persons. He said this was symptomatic of the limited attention that had been given to the relationship between conflict and the MDGs.

During a policy dialogue focusing on current developments in the world economy, Mr. José Antonio Ocampo, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, described a global economy with a mixed record of success and disappointment. Mr. Ocampo commended some developing countries for successful economic policies, but stressed that much remained to be accomplished. He called for further action regarding the reduction of debt burdens and, echoing the words of Mr. Stiglitz, warned of potential global financial instability. Mr. Supachai Panitchpakdi, Director-General of the WTO, warned of the dependence of much of the world's economy on the United States of America (the USA) and the potential adverse effect of the US trade deficit. Progress during recent trade negotiations, Mr. Panitchpakdi stated, would help eliminate trade-distorting policies and improve development prospects.

Closing the first day of the High-level Segment were eight round table discussions. The discussion topics included: "Eradication of Poverty and Hunger"; "Health"; "Global Partnerships and Financing of MDGs"; "Building State Capacity to Meet MDGs: Human Rights, Governance, Institutions and Human Resources"; "Education and Literacy"; "Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women"; "Environmental Sustainability"; and "National Strategies to Achieve MDGs".

Of particular interest was a presentation by Ms. Charlotte McLain-Nhalpo, from the South African Human Rights Commission / World Bank, spoke of the need to consider a human rights approach to hunger. During the discussion on "Eradication of Poverty and Hunger", she referred to the over 20 countries having constitutions with specific references to the right to food. Ms. Tarja Halonen, President of Finland, during the discussion on "Building State Capacity to Meet MDGs", stated that a human rights-based strategy is a prerequisite for sustainable development and the achievement of the MDGs. A human rights approach would promote development in an equal and just manner. In the same roundtable, Ms. Mehr Khan Williams, Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, urged that a human rights approach to development could empower individuals to hold governments accountable for their obligations to society.

The High-level Segment's second day began with Ms. Halonen's address, during which she cautioned that attempts to promote human rights and development could not be successful without taking into account the issue of women's rights, gender equality, and the prevention of violence against women. She called on the international community to reform globalisation and remember that the "nation-State" still retained an important role in global governance. Reform of globalisation would help minimise its detrimental impact while promoting practices such as sustainable development and corporate social responsibility. Within nation-States, Ms. Halonen noted the link between strong democratic States and the respect for human rights, good governance, social justice, and favourable economic enterprise environments.

Mr. Armand De Decker, Minister for Development Cooperation of Belgium, offered support for an international system that ensured equal opportunities and promoted human rights. Like Ms. Halonen, Mr. De Decker refuted

the notion that globalisation was irreversible and unalterable, calling on the international community to take active steps to shape the process in a manner based on the principles of multilateralism.

Also addressing the High-level Segment was the Prime Minister of Haiti, Mr. Gerard Latortue, who said that a massive mobilisation of efforts and resources was crucial to fight poverty and hunger. Mr. Latortue lamented the limited results in pursuing the MDGs and reminded the audience of the link between poverty and peace and security.

During the general debate that followed, numerous speakers, including ministers and ambassadors of member States as well as representatives of civil society, presented their views on a multitude of topics related to the theme of the 2005 ECOSOC Substantive Session. A frequent contributor to the High-level Segment, Mr. Peter Anyang' Nyong'o, Minister of Planning and National Development of Kenya, asked that the international community help developing countries, particularly African States, develop government, business, and civil society capacity to reach the MDGs. Mr. Mustapha Mohamed, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department of Malaysia, emphasised the importance of political will as a prerequisite for achieving development targets. Mr. Edgar Maokola-Majogo, Minister of State for Poverty Eradication of Tanzania, noted the progress his country has made in obtaining universal primary education and promoting gender equality.

The NGO/Civil Society Forum highlighted the need to strengthen ECOSOC's role in coordinating implementation of the MDGs, and emphasised the need for transparent, time-bound indicators for monitoring aid, tailoring MDGs to national circumstances, and mainstreaming the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) in achieving the MDGs. Ms. Renate Bloem, President of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organisations (CONGO), welcomed efforts to increase development assistance and promote gender equality, but suggested that indigenous people had been neglected from most plans to meet the MDGs.

During a panel discussion on how the UN System Chiefs Executive Board (CEB) was responding to the Millennium Declaration, the need for system-wide coordination and a dynamic approach to enable the UN to adjust to changing global conditions was highlighted. The CEB panellists emphasised the improvements both necessary and already achieved that will ensure better monitoring, evaluation, auditing, and oversight of the development agenda. During the panel with the chairpersons of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission for Social Development, and the Commission on Population and Development, panelists discussed the Commissions' ten-year reviews and their contribution to the World Summit taking place in September 2005.

During the final day's general debate, Mr. Carlos Alvarado, Vice-Minister for Social Development of Venezuela, named poverty as a key culprit in undermining social rights and quality of life in his country. He requested that new indicators be added to the MDGs to measure employment, housing, and participation in decision-making. Mr. Asim Arar, Head of Department, Multilateral Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, called for greater efforts to promote gender equality and reproductive rights, as well as overall human rights. A representative of the All Pakistan Women's Association spoke of the *Islamabad Plan of Action* adopted at the International Conference on Gender Mainstreaming and the MDGs, held in Pakistan from 28 to 30 March 2005, and highlighted the necessity of eliminating gender-based discrimination and improving the rule of law and good governance.

The High-level Segment concluded without a Ministerial Declaration. ECOSOC President Akram explained that the efforts to put forth a declaration had been unsuccessful since States were not ready to formalise agreements ahead of the upcoming UN General Assembly High-level Plenary, or World Summit, taking place in September 2005. However he noted that he would prepare a summary of the High-level Segment as a contribution to preparations for the World Summit

2. Coordination Segment

The Coordination Segment (5 to 7 July) provided an **opportunity to review the contribution of the UN system, at all levels, towards the follow-up and implementation of the internationally agreed development goals**, including those contained in the *United Nations Millennium Declaration*. Discussions from the segment contributed to the preparatory process for the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly to be held in September.

ECOSOC began the Coordination Segment with a dialogue between the heads of the various UN regional commissions, which include: the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP); the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA); the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA); the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); and the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE). The aim of the dialogue was to identify ways for increased co-operation and coordination in reaching the MDGs at a regional level. Each regional commission's executive secretary introduced their respective reports to the ECOSOC.

Ms. Brigita Schmögnerová, Executive Secretary of ECE, mentioned the constructive role that the regional commissions could play in advancing a regional perspective in the global development agenda. Mr. Kim Hak-Su, Executive Secretary of ESCAP, stressed that regional particularities must be taken into account when working towards the MDGs. The executive secretaries agreed that the regional commissions should continue to increase cooperation with other regional organisations to increase effectiveness and avoid duplication of efforts.

A panel discussion focused on how the UN could improve its operations to achieve internationally agreed development goals. Mr. Patrizio Civili, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, served as moderator and introduced a publication by the Chief Executive Board for Coordination titled *One United Nations – catalyst for progress and change: how the Millennium Declaration is changing the way the United Nations system works*. The Report addresses the issue of enhancing coordination among UN organisations.

Mr. Eduardo Doryan, Special Representative of the World Bank to the UN, noted and applauded the UN for developing what he termed a "focus" in its operations. The acceptance of specific targets, in the form of MDGs, and means to attain them (i.e. the *Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development*) allowed the UN to proceed with a true focus as opposed to the situation less than a decade ago. Participants in the discussion reiterated concepts put forth during the morning session by emphasising the need for regional commissions and organisations to facilitate co-operation across national boundaries.

In the general debate during the coordination segment States discussed, among other issues, the *Report of the Secretary-General for the High-level and Coordination Segment on the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration*. (E/2005/56 - referred to in Annex 1, third para). The delegate from Jamaica, speaking on behalf of the "Group of 77" developing countries¹ and China, suggested that the UN should collaborate further with other multilateral institutions including the Bretton Woods institutions – an idea that found support in all segments of the ECOSOC substantive session. The delegate from the United Kingdom (UK) offered one of the more concrete proposals of the day when he suggested that all UN activities in a country should be clearly under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator. The representative of the Russian Federation reminded the ECOSOC of the importance of implementing the decisions taken at international conferences, but also raised concerns regarding the Secretary General's proposed voluntary "peer reviews" for assessing progress on implementation. The delegate from Switzerland also shared the pessimistic view that "peer reviews" would be difficult and complex to implement in an equitable and effective manner.

¹The Group of 77 (G-77) was established on 15 June 1964 by 77 developing countries signatories of the *Joint Declaration of the Seventy-Seven Countries* issued at the end of the first session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Geneva. Although the membership of the G-77 has increased to 132 countries, the original name was retained because of its historic significance.

Many States gave support to the proposal of the Secretary-General to hold timely meetings to respond to natural disaster and other threats to development, as well as for a High-Level Development Cooperation Forum, though there were some divergent views on the purpose of such a forum.

While expressing their appreciation for the **Secretary-General's Report on the theme for the High-level Segment of the Substantive Session of 2006 of the Economic and Social Council** (E/2005/56), Council members did not accept the Secretary-General's recommendation for a theme, but instead chose "sustained economic growth for social development, including the eradication of poverty and hunger" through action on a **draft decision on the theme for the Coordination Segment of the Substantive Session of 2006 of the ECOSOC** (E/2005/L.13).

Another panel focused on the progress that Tanzania has made in developing a national strategy to achieve the MDGs. Mr. John Hendra, the UN Resident Coordinator moderated the panel and also fielded questions from ECOSOC members. Ms. Joyce Mapunjo, Commissioner for External Finance Department, Ministry of Finance, Tanzania, highlighted her country's efforts and noted the key role the UN Resident Coordinator played in development efforts. Ms. Mapunjo stated that the UN was a welcome partner in Tanzania's development strategy and had certain capabilities that were of comparative advantages and could be immediately used to Tanzania's advantage. Mr. Maximilian Kajege, Coordinator of Tanzania's Coalition on Debt and Development, stated that the MDGs offered the Government and civil society the opportunity to form partnerships that would improve accountability and good governance. He praised the UN for helping Tanzanian civil society gain access to local policymakers. Mr. Kajege however cautioned that much of the general population was poorly informed about the MDGs, undermining the Government's and civil society's efforts in that arena.

A final panel provided an opportunity for the chairpersons and representatives of the functional commissions of the UN to share information that would help the UN in achieving the MDGs. Mr. Ernesto Aranibar Quiroga, Chairman of the Commission for Social Development, described a declaration adopted at his commission's most recent session that places people at the centre of development efforts. The representative for the Commission on the Status of Women stressed that ECOSOC could play a greater role in promoting gender mainstreaming in the operations of all functional commissions.

Mr. Mohamed Saleck Ould Mohamed Lemine, Vice-Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights (the Commission), stated that the strategies aimed at achieving the internationally agreed development goals should be interdependent and complementary. As far back as 1993, the World Conference on Human Rights had identified that democracy, development and respect for human rights were interdependent and mutually reinforcing, a view which was reiterated by the Secretary-General in his recent report, *In Larger Freedom: towards security, development and human rights for all*. Mr. Lemine also pointed to the necessity for economic progress and development to build a solid foundation for human rights. The absence of these conditions, however, did not imply that human rights violations were in any way justifiable or tolerable.

Ms. Victoria Tuali-Corpuz, Chairperson of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, reported that her group found that the MDGs would be stronger if put in a human-rights-based framework. According to Ms. Tuali-Corpuz, indigenous people had been marginalised in national MDG strategies and were becoming more impoverished as a result. She called on the UN and national governments to fully take into account indigenous perspectives, as well as implement a right-based approach in their operations.

3. Operational Activities Segment

The Operational Activities Segment (8 to 12 July) focused on reforming the operational activities of the UN to help the organisation improve coordination and increase the effectiveness of the pursuit of the MDGs. **This**

segment afforded ECOSOC the opportunity to explore possible reforms of country-level operations and assess the state of development funding on a program and country specific basis.

The segment included an interactive dialogue on operational activities for development of the UN system, a discussion on funding options and modalities to enhance financing of the UN development cooperation, and a dialogue with Executive Heads of UN funds and programs.

The first day's discussion between member States and UN funds and programs related to the theme **"introducing operational reforms in the UN development system in the pursuit of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration"**. Mr. José Antonio Ocampo began the discussion by recognising the relative strengths and weaknesses of the UN system, and what it could provide developing countries. The primary limitation of the UN for assisting with MDG policy was the organisation's inability to provide the necessary and significant financial resources. Mr. Ocampo cited five attributes of the UN that contributed to the UN's effectiveness: ability to engage various stakeholders; the organisation's distinctive advocacy role; the analytical capacity on complex social and economic issues; conflict prevention and resolution capacity; and the technical capacity to help developing countries build their own capacities.

Numerous contributors to the discussion revisited themes presented in the preceding segments of the Substantive Session. Mr. Atle Leikvoll, Deputy Secretary-General for International Development of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, referred to the need to strengthen the Resident Coordinator system, but cautioned the audience about reducing the flexibility of development actors in a particular country. Mr. Rolando Tungpalan, Assistant Director-General, National Economic and Development Authority of the Philippines, mentioned the common country assessment (CCA) as a mechanism for more effective coordination within a specific country. Mr. Leikvoll also suggested that consideration be given to identifying the best role that the UN could play, utilising its comparative advantage in certain operational areas. Mr. Jean-Michel Severino, Chief Executive Office, French Development Agency, also called on the UN to focus on actions where it remains the most competitive.

Another reiteration of an earlier topic came when Ms. Sigrid Kaag, Deputy-Director of the Programmes Division, The UN's Children's Fund (UNICEF), stated that her organisation felt that a rights-based agenda would allow for a better incorporation of all stakeholders into the development agenda. Better partnerships would reduce vulnerability and ensure that the rights of all parties would be respected.

Discussions during the Operational Segment focused on the **examination of areas of reform in UN operations; the need for streamlined and predictable funding; identification of alternative sources of funding; and a dialogue with the executive heads of UN agencies**. Mr. Ocampo stressed the importance of increased and improved funding for meeting the MDGs. He stated that the UN was best suited for building national capacities, but that did not permit the organisation to neglect the issue of funding.

Some pointed comments came from Mr. Peter Anyang' Nyong'o of Kenya who criticised the UN for what he considered to be archaic bureaucratic practices and an obsession with protecting outdated rules and procedures. Mr. Nyong'o also drew attention to the use of experts, based in foreign countries, who wasted resources by offering useless "quick fix" solutions and seeking information that could be easily obtained through the Internet and other communication methods.

Other presentations retained a more celebratory image of the UN. Mr. Andrew Rogerson, Research Fellow at the International Economic Development Group, identified the strength of the organisation as having universal reach, political neutrality, and capability for setting standards. Mr. Ocampo mentioned the UN's ability to organise and convene international conferences as one of the UN's primary strengths.

Presentations were also made by the heads of the UN funds and programs, including: UNICEF; UN Population Fund (UNFPA); UN Development Program (UNDP); and the World Food Program (WFP). Ms. Thoraya Ahmed Obaid (Executive Director of UNFPA) emphasised her group's commitment to placing the individual at the centre of their work. Focusing on people, she said, would allow all development programs to benefit from the trust of the population they are serving.

The third day of the Operational Activities Segment concluded with ECOSOC's consideration of operational reform, funding, and South-South cooperation. Mr. Patrizio Civili described the progress the UN was making in developing mechanisms for coordinating and measuring progress in the pursuit of country development and the MDGs. Mr. Yiping Zhou, Director of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation of UNDP, noted the rapid progress in South-South cooperation within the last few years. He also cited increased support for South-South cooperation from Northern countries such as Canada, the EU, Japan, the USA, and the Nordic countries. The delegate from Jamaica said that developing countries needed to benefit more consistently from the experience accumulated by the UN in promoting development.

A few comments addressed the importance of maintaining concern for national sovereignty in the quest to achieve internationally agreed development goals. The representative of the Russian Federation spoke of the need for recipient countries and donor countries to operate in an environment of trust, without any coercion from either party of the international community. The delegate from South Africa suggested to ECOSOC that the UN be aware of the value of national ownership and local expertise in any development efforts.

Another theme that drew considerable attention was the issue of funding. The representatives of China, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Indonesia agreed that the major barrier to South-South cooperation was the shortage of funding. The delegate from the USA, while generally agreeing with other speakers, was hesitant to endorse increased funding plans without increasing the scrutiny of the methods and results associated with the programs in question.

4. Humanitarian Affairs Segment

The Humanitarian Affairs Segment (13 to 18 July) centred on the theme of "**Transition from relief to development**". It also devoted considerable attention to other pressing issues pertaining to **humanitarian and disaster relief assistance**. Mr. Johan C. Verbeke, ECOSOC Vice-President, introduced the theme of the segment, drawing attention to the wide range of responses that international crises required. He emphasised the importance of national ownership in devising any transition process from relief to development.

During the segment, Mr. Paul Gustave Magloire, Minister of the Interior and Territorial Collectives of Haiti, described the devastating impacts of natural disasters on the Haitian population and the economy. Ms. Sally Fegan-Wyles, Director, UN Development Group (UNDG) noted the progress that the international community had made in delivering assistance to post-conflict populations. Mr. James Adams, Vice-President of Operations Policy and Country Services, World Bank, emphasised a point frequently mentioned during the segment: the necessity to improve the capacity of government institutions in responding to humanitarian disasters.

Member States also contributed to the dialogue about humanitarian assistance and the transition to development. The representative of the Russian Federation cautioned against focusing exclusively on post-disaster efforts and called on the international community to dedicate more resources to disaster prevention. The representative of Cuba suggested that better South-South cooperation could improve knowledge sharing with respect to natural disaster recovery strategies. The UK delegate remarked that the response to the tsunami in the Indian Ocean in December 2004 demonstrated a model for successful international efforts. The UK, however, noted that other regions, particularly Africa, had not received similar support in previous crises. The delegate from China reminded ECOSOC that humanitarian assistance should be provided following the guiding principle of "humanity, neutrality and impartiality".

The delegate from Kenya called for the creation of early warning systems to minimise the impact of humanitarian and natural disasters. The Azerbaijan representative amongst others called for ensuring national ownership of recovery strategies. The delegate from Iran asked that coordination between the UN and national and local relief agencies be increased. A heated statement by the delegate from Cuba referred to the situation in Iraq as undermining the credibility of humanitarian interventions. He accused the international community and their actions of being tainted by powerful countries that infringe on the sovereignty of weaker countries. Mr. Luca Dall'Oglio, International Organization for Migration (IOM), noted that migration brought stress on populations and resulted in increased vulnerabilities. On a related note, the delegate from Japan said that the UN should improve its capacity for protecting and assisting vulnerable populations

Former US President Bill Clinton, the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Tsunami Recovery, spoke to a crowded ECOSOC chamber during this segment. His remarks came during a day dedicated to sharing lessons learned during the Tsunami response in Asia. He began by describing the objective of the international community's objective of "building back better" in affected communities. Mr. Clinton reported on the successful immediate response to the Tsunami and commented on the difficulties in sustaining efforts during a long-term recovery period.

Mr. Clinton provided numerous specific examples of areas he intended to address in his capacity as Special Envoy. He said that large sections of the population in affected areas were residing in temporary shelters despite what he considered to be adequate resources available to provide improved housing. He asked that the UN restore the Maldives to "least developed country" status so that it could enjoy the associated benefits of being classified as such. Mr. Clinton mentioned that issues such as housing construction, coastal zoning, and land titles could be addressed in the near future.

Fielding questions from representatives in ECOSOC that included Japan, Mexico and Bangladesh, Mr. Clinton stressed the measures taken to prevent corruption and increase accountability with regards to donor funding. Mr. Clinton explained that while misuse of funds is indeed a formidable challenge, the lack of capacity in putting reconstruction funds to use is a far more important limiting factor. The Special Envoy also asked that the international community consider ways to galvanise support for international issues in the same manner that the tsunami disaster effectively provoked global support. He optimistically suggested that obstacles such as poverty and malaria could be overcome were they to generate a similar outpouring of support from the international community.

5. General Segment

In the General Segment (18 to 25 July) the Council reviewed the reports of its subsidiary bodies, and took action on relevant resolutions contained in those reports. A wide range of topics was discussed, including **post-conflict stabilisation in war-torn countries; human rights conditions and monitoring; and the situation in Israel and Palestine**. The ECOSOC actions on the report from the Commission elicited substantial numbers of comments from delegates who attended the sessions in high numbers.

ECOSOC began the General Segment by taking up consideration of the Ad Hoc Advisory Groups on **Haiti, Burundi, and Guinea-Bissau**. Referring to the situation in Haiti, the UK delegate stated that the overall environment in Haiti was a strong example demonstrating the relationship between human rights, security, and development. She also suggested that the lessons learned in Haiti could be put to use in future deliberations about the proposed Peacebuilding Commission². Other member States had more critical stances regarding the

²The proposed Peacebuilding Commission, that will be discussed as a part of the UN reform package at the September 2005 World Summit, aims to help countries in distress and countries coming out of conflict to rebuild their institutions and return to

efforts in Haiti, with the delegate from the USA accusing the Ad Hoc Group of overstepping its mandate. The delegate from the Russian Federation added that the Ad Hoc Group had unfortunately duplicated the efforts of other actors in Haiti. Support for the Ad Hoc Advisory Groups in Burundi and Guinea-Bissau was more unanimous, with praise for successes and encouragement for continued involvement. Throughout the day and the rest of the General Segment, numerous representatives called for a Peacebuilding Commission.

Ms. Salafa Al-Bassam, Chief, Regional Commissions New York Office, provided the introduction of a *Report on the socio-economic repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living condition of the Palestinian people* (A/60/65 – E/2005/71). The Report drew out some of the most emotive interventions of the ECOSOC Substantive Session. Representatives from Syria, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Lebanon, as well as the observer of Palestine, offered strong backing for the two reports and noted links between the military and political situation and the economic and social well-being of Palestinians. The delegate from Israel called on ECOSOC to discontinue its consideration of the reports due to their political motives. He argued that ECOSOC was the wrong venue for discussing political matters presented in a biased fashion. The draft resolution **on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation** (E/2005/L.24/Rev.1) was adopted by a vote of 49 in favour and 2 against (Australia, USA), with 1 abstention (Costa Rica).

ECOSOC endorsed resolutions and draft decisions from the *Report of the 49th session of the Commission on the Status of Women* (E/2005/27) with little discussion and without a vote, including: a declaration concerning the tenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, which was transmitted to the General Assembly; a draft resolution on the situation of women and girls in **Afghanistan**; and a draft decision on the *Report of the 49th session of the Commission on the Status of Women*, which also contained the provisional agenda and documentation for the 50th session.

The *Report of the 43rd session of the Commission on Social Development* (E/2005/26, supplement 6) contained two draft resolutions that were of particular interest, including one entitled **Further promotion of equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities and protection of their human rights** (E/CN.5/2005/L.3), and one, entitled **Comprehensive and integral international convention to protect and promote the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities** (E/CN.5/2005/L.4). Both were adopted without a vote.

The *Report of the Secretary-General on capital punishment and implementation of the safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty* (E/2005/3) was introduced by Mr. Eduardo Vetere, Division for Treaty Affairs of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The first Report, based on a survey of 72 States, noted the progress of countries such as China in limiting the application of the death penalty, particularly against the youth and the elderly, as well as for mentally ill or handicapped people. Mr. Vetere stated that the number of executions in countries retaining the death penalty had declined in the past decade. He did, however, recognise the limitations of the survey since many States still using the death penalty had not fully responded to the survey questions.

After adopting a draft decision on the report, the UK representative intervened on behalf of the EU and associated countries. He said that the EU was committed to the universal abolition of the death penalty, denounced the use of the death penalty against juveniles, and noted execution methods such as stoning as being especially objectionable. The representative commended the Secretary-General for the report and called for increased participation by countries that refrained from accurately reporting the actions in the survey.

The *Report of the Committee on NGOs* (E/2005/32) prompted an exchange of views between the representatives from the USA and China. The USA disagreed with the recommendation in the Report to suspend A Women's Voice International. In its view, the NGO had rightfully highlighted abuses against women

normality. See Kofi Annan's Report, *In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all* (A/59/2005) Available at www.un.org/largerfreedom

and Christians in China. The Chinese representative reiterated the NGO's violation of the rules of the Commission as the reason for suspending its consultative status. The draft decision on the report was adopted without a vote.

A wide range of texts recommended by the ECOSOC's subsidiary bodies were introduced toward the end of the general segment. Mr. Bacre Waly Ndiaye, Director, New York Office of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), introduced the reports relating to human rights. Mr. Ndiaye spoke of the links between human rights and the MDGs. The pursuit of the MDGs offered an opportunity to bring about vast improvements in the human rights of millions of people around the world. A human rights framework is important and effective in achieving the MDGs and he urged the international community to support these objectives.

Following the introduction of the reports, the delegate from China criticised the Commission for having a "credibility deficit". He mentioned problems stemming from polarisation and double standards as chief hindrances to the Commission's work. He called for further consideration of proposed reforms of the Commission that had been suggested at its previous session, including the proposed elimination of country-specific agenda items. The representative from the Russian Federation cautioned against a hasty reformation of the Commission. He said that the confrontational stances taken by many member States did a disservice to the advancement of human rights protection.

The *Report of the Commission on Human Rights* (E/2005/23-E/CN.4/2005/134 and Corr.1), introduced by Mr. Ndiaye contained one draft resolution and 43 draft decisions approved by the Commission during its meetings earlier in the year, all but one of which were adopted by ECOSOC (Annex IV). 16 of the texts required a recorded vote. The resolution ***Principles and guidelines on the right to remedy and reparation for victims of gross violations of human rights and humanitarian law*** (E/2005/23) passed with a vote of 43 in favour and none against, with 5 abstentions (Australia, Germany, India, Nigeria, USA). The USA called for a vote on the text, objecting to the references to the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Draft decisions (E/2005/23) to extend the mandates of Special Rapporteurs in **Myanmar** and the **Democratic People's Republic of Korea** (DPRK) were adopted without votes. A similar draft decision on the **situation of human rights in Belarus** (E/2005/23), however, drew comments from three States opposing the proposal. The text aimed to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur. The representative of the Russian Federation accused the Special Rapporteur of acting inappropriately and compromising the work of the Commission. The representative from Cuba cited the political motivation of the draft as its reason to vote against the document. The Chinese representative also made a brief intervention stating its opposition to the measure. The draft was adopted by a vote of 23 in favour and 11 against, with 15 abstentions.

Also voted on was the draft decision on the **Working Group on Indigenous Populations** (E/2005/23) in which ECOSOC authorised the Working Group to meet for five working days prior to the 57th session of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (the Sub-Commission). The draft was adopted by a vote of 32 in favour and 17 against, with 1 abstention (Denmark). The US representative explained its vote by stating that the Working Group had ceased to be effective and necessary. The Indigenous Forum and other bodies were better able to achieve the tasks of the Working Group, he said.

The only text to be rejected by ECOSOC was the draft decision on Human Rights and Human Responsibilities (E/2005/23). The text would have endorsed the decision of the Commission requesting Mr. Miguel Alfonso Martínez to prepare a new version of the pre-draft declaration on human social responsibilities. The UK representative, on behalf of the EU and associated countries, spoke out against the draft decision, arguing that the text would undermine efforts to secure individuals' unalienable human rights. The EU was opposed to the text, which placed too much power in the hands of States for determining which rights could be afforded to individuals. Lobbying by human rights NGOs helped ensure the draft decision was rejected, but only by a slim margin. The end vote was: 23 in favour and 25 against, with 2 abstentions (Azerbaijan and Tanzania).

ECOSOC also took up the report on the 4th session of the **Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues** (E/2005/43) containing three draft decisions. The three draft decisions, which were adopted without a vote, concerned: a meeting of the international expert group on the MDGs and indigenous participation; the venue and dates for the forum's 5th session; and the provisional agenda and documentation for the 5th session.

Following consideration of the drafts, member States **were given the opportunity to make general comments relating to the adoptions and/or rejections of the texts**. Cuba's representative used the opportunity to denounce the allegations of human rights violations made against his country in the text E/2005/12 on alleged human rights violations in Cuba. He argued that the text had been drafted by the primary violator of human rights in the world, namely the USA. The Commission was in a crisis due to the politicisation and double standards that had emerged in its work, as a result of the work of some countries that sought to assert their own political interests. The representative from Venezuela referred to the work of the 4th session of the Indigenous Forum, saying that certain outcomes undermined the principle of State sovereignty. Colombia's representative also expressed its reservations about some elements of the Indigenous Forum's report.

The *Report of the 49th session of the Commission on the Status of Women* was ultimately approved without a vote following a vote on the draft resolution on **the situation and assistance to Palestinian women** (E/2005/27). The US representative condemned the resolution for focusing exclusively on the situation of Palestinian women without giving due consideration to the condition of Israeli women. He said that while the USA agreed that the plight of Palestinian women remained important, a one-sided resolution would not help bring peace and an improvement to the overall conditions. The draft decision was adopted by a vote of 46 in favour and 2 against (Australia, USA), with 4 abstentions (Canada, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iceland, Nicaragua).

The final day of the General Segment addressed a variety of outstanding issues on the ECOSOC agenda. The draft resolution on a long-term program of support for Haiti was adopted without a vote after the representatives from Canada, Brazil, Argentina, Venezuela, and Jamaica expressed strong support for the measure. The USA and Japan cautioned ECOSOC about the funding implications of the draft resolution, but did not call for a vote on the overall text.

Annex I

The Secretary-General's report, *Towards achieving internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration (E/2005/56)* identifies important issues that are essential to the successful pursuit of international development goals. The Secretary-General calls on the international community to reaffirm its commitment to the MDGs, and issues numerous recommendations on how to advance the development agenda. He states that sector-specific approaches to development must be replaced with an integrated framework addressing the multitude of issues for which the UN has developed capabilities. The report further identifies increased resources, better national capacities, and improved monitoring and tracking as ways to achieve the MDGs. Secretary-General Annan calls on ECOSOC to convene more frequent meetings on disaster responses and increase coordination on all aspects of the development agenda. Finally, the Report recognises the important role that other actors, such as multilateral financial institutions, the private sector, and civil society, can have, in working with the UN, in the creation and implementation of international development policies.

Annex II

ECOSOC held a preparatory meeting for its 2005 High-level Segment on 16 to 17 March 2005 in New York. The meeting's focus was on achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major UN Conferences and Summits. There were roundtable discussions on a variety of topics, including: the eradication of poverty and hunger; education and literacy; health and mortality; global partnerships and financing development; gender equality and the empowerment of women; environmental sustainability; and implementation of the internationally agreed development goals. The outcomes of the preparatory meeting were taken into account during ECOSOC's High-level and Coordination Segments.

Annex III

ECOSOC hosted a day-long special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions, the WTO and the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on April 18, 2005. Participation by the boards of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, a significant number of Finance and other Ministers, Central Bank Governors, as well as the President of UNCTAD's Trade and Development Board signalled the importance of this meeting to its participants. The purpose of the meeting was to improve communication between ECOSOC, the Bretton Woods Institutions, the WTO, and UNCTAD. This year, the dialogue focused on "coherence, coordination and cooperation in the context of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus: achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration".

At the meeting, Secretary-General Kofi Annan said the coming months offered a unique opportunity to make real changes in the international system, including increasing official development assistance and the completion of the Doha Round for world trade. Mr. Trevor Manuel, Minister of Finance of South Africa and Chair of the Development Committee, reported on the meeting of the Development Committee, a joint ministerial body of the Boards of Governors of the World Bank and the IMF. Mr. Augustin Carstens, representing the Chair, presented the outcome of a ministerial-level meeting of the International Monetary and Finance Committee. Ms. Mary Whelan, President of the Trade and Development Board of UNCTAD made a presentation on the work of the Board. Following opening statements, various aspects of the main theme were discussed in six round tables addressing the following three issues: (i) Policies and strategies; (ii) Trade, investment, and private flows; and (iii) Official Development Aid, innovative sources of financing and debt.

Annex IV

Draft decisions and resolutions acted upon from the report of the 61st session of the Commission on Human Rights

By Decision 1, ***Use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right to self-determination***, ECOSOC endorsed the Commission's decision to establish a working group on the use of mercenaries, to be composed of five independent experts, one from each regional group, to meet intersessionally for a period of three years, reporting annually to the Commission and the General Assembly.

By Decision 2, ***The Right to Development***, ECOSOC approved the decision of the Commission to renew the one-year mandate of the open-ended Working Group on the Right to Development. The Decision was adopted by a vote of 46 in favour to 2 against, with 1 abstention.

By Decision 3, ***Human Rights in Myanmar***, ECOSOC endorsed the Commission's decision to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar.

By Decision 4, ***Situation of Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea***, ECOSOC endorsed the Commission's decision to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for a further year.

By Decision 5, ***Situation of Human Rights in Belarus***, ECOSOC endorsed the Commission's decision to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for a further year. The Decision was adopted by a vote of 23 in favour to 11 against, with 15 abstentions.

By Decision 6, ***Effects of economic reform policies and foreign debt on the full enjoyment of all human rights***, ECOSOC endorsed the Commission's decision to request an independent expert to report to the General Assembly on the matter. The Decision was adopted by a vote of 29 in favour to 18 against, with 4 abstentions.

By Decision 7, ***The right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health***, ECOSOC approved the Commission's decision to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health for a period of three years. The Decision was adopted by a recorded vote of 50 in favour to 1 against, with no abstentions.

By Decision 8, ***Enforced or involuntary disappearances***, ECOSOC approved the Commission's request to the Intersessional open-ended Working Group to elaborate a draft legally binding normative instrument for the protection of all persons from enforced disappearance to meet for a period of ten days in one formal session before the end of 2005 with a view to the completion of its work, and to report to the Commission at its 62nd session.

By Decision 9, ***Independence and impartiality of the judiciary, jurors and assessors and the independence of lawyer***, ECOSOC endorsed the Commission's decision to request the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers to submit a report on the activities relating to his mandate to the General Assembly at its 60th session and to the Commission at its 62nd session.

By Decision 10, ***The right to freedom of opinion and expression***, ECOSOC approved the decision of the Commission to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression for a further three years and its request to the Special Rapporteur to submit each year to the Commission a report covering activities relating to his mandate.

By Decision 11, ***Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment***, ECOSOC approved the request of the Commission to the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its 60th session on the

overall trends and developments with regard to his mandate and a full report to the Commission at its 62nd session, including all replies sent by governments that are received in any of the official languages of the UN.

By Decision 12, ***Elimination of violence against women***, ECOSOC endorsed the Commission's decision to request the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, to present an oral report to the General Assembly at its 60th session.

By Decision 13, ***Human rights of migrants***, ECOSOC approved the Commission's decision to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on human rights of migrants for a period of three years.

By Decision 14, ***Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and protection of Human Rights***, ECOSOC endorsed the Commission's recommendations to authorise the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion of Human Rights to meet for five working days prior to the 57th session of the Sub-Commission. The Decision was adopted by a vote of 32 in favour to 17 against, with 1 abstention.

By Decision 15, ***Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights to elaborate a draft declaration in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 49/214 of 23 December 1994***, ECOSOC authorised the Working Group established in accordance with Commission Resolution 1995 of 3 March 1995 to meet for a period of ten working days prior to the 62nd session of the Commission. The Decision was adopted by a vote of 49 in favour to none against, with 1 abstention.

By Decision 16, ***Human rights and indigenous issues***, ECOSOC endorsed the Commission's request to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people to submit a report on his activities for the General Assembly at its 60th session and to the Commission at its 62nd session.

By Decision 17, ***Human rights and international solidarity***, ECOSOC endorsed the Commission's decision to appoint an independent expert on human rights and international solidarity for a period of three years to study the issue and prepare a draft declaration on the right of peoples to international solidarity. The Decision was adopted by a recorded vote of 32 in favour to 18 against, with no abstentions.

By Decision 18, ***World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action***, ECOSOC endorsed the Commission's decision to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance for a period of three years.

By Decision 19, ***Human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises***, ECOSOC approved the request of the Commission to the Secretary-General to appoint a special representative on the issue on human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises, for an initial period of two years. The Decision was adopted by a vote of 47 in favour to 3 against, with no abstentions.

By Decision 20, ***Composition of the staff of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights***, ECOSOC drew the attention of the General Assembly to Commission Resolution 2005/72 in the context of the consideration of the agenda item on human resources management. The Decision was adopted by a vote of 32 in favour and 18 against with no abstentions.

By Decision 21, ***Advisory services and technical assistance for Burundi***, ECOSOC endorsed the decision of the Commission to request the independent expert to continue to study the situation of human rights in Burundi, and to request him to submit an interim report to the Secretary-General at its 60th session, and to report thereon to the Commission at its 62nd session.

By Decision 22, ***Assistance to Sierra Leone in the field of human rights***, ECOSOC endorsed the decision of the Commission to request the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to report to the General Assembly at its 60th session and to the Commission at its 62nd session on assistance to Sierra Leone in the field of human rights.

By Decision 23, ***Technical cooperation and advisory services in Nepal***, ECOSOC endorsed the decision of the Commission to request the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to submit a report on the human rights situation and the activities of her Office, including technical cooperation in Nepal to the General Assembly at its 60th session and to the Commission at its 62nd session.

By Decision 24, ***Rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic religious and linguistic minorities***, ECOSOC endorsed the Commission's request to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to appoint an independent expert on minority issues for a period of two years.

By Decision 25, ***Protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism***, ECOSOC approved the decision of the Commission to appoint a special rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism for a period of three years.

By Decision 26, ***Situation of human rights in the Sudan***, ECOSOC approved the Commission's decision to establish the mandate of a special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan for one year, and to request the Special Rapporteur to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its 60th session and to report to the Commission at its 62nd session.

By Decision 27, ***Assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights***, ECOSOC endorsed the decision of the Commission to extend the mandate of the independent expert appointed by the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Somalia for a further year.

By Decision 28, ***Technical cooperation and advisory services in the Democratic Republic of Congo***, ECOSOC approved the decision of the Commission to extend the mandate of the independent expert to provide assistance to the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo in the field of human rights for one year.

By Decision 29, ***Corruption and its impact on the full enjoyment of human rights, in particular economic, social and cultural rights***, ECOSOC endorsed the decision of the Commission to request the Secretary-General to facilitate the work of the Special Rapporteur to undertake an in-depth study on corruption and its impact on the full enjoyment of human rights, in particular economic, social and cultural rights, by enabling her to attend the meetings of "Friends of the United Nations Convention against Corruption," which take place in Vienna.

By Decision 30, ***Study on non-discrimination as enshrined in article 2, paragraph 2, of the International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights***, ECOSOC endorsed the decision of the Commission to appoint Mr. Marc Bossuyt as Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission to undertake a study on non-discrimination.

By Decision 31, ***Promotion of the realization of the right to drinking water and sanitation***, ECOSOC endorsed the Commission's request that the reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission to conduct a detailed study on the relationship between the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights and the promotion of the realisation of the right to drinking water supply and sanitation be published in the official languages of the UN. The Decision was adopted by a vote of 47 in favour to 2 against, with no abstentions.

By Decision 32, ***Terrorism and human rights***, ECOSOC endorsed the Commission's recommendation that a compilation into a comprehensive document of all the reports and documents submitted to date by the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on terrorism and human rights be published as a UN publication as part of

the Human Rights Study Series. The Decision was adopted by a vote of 33 in favour to 2 against, with 14 abstentions.

By Decision 33, ***The difficulty of establishing guilt and/or responsibility with regard to crime of sexual violence***, ECOSOC endorsed the decision of the Committee to appoint Ms. Lalaina Rakotoarisoa as Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission entrusted with preparing a detailed study on the difficulty of establishing guilt and/or responsibility with regard to crime of sexual violence.

By Decision 34, ***Discrimination based on work and descent***, ECOSOC endorsed the decision of the Committee to appoint Mr. Yokato and Ms. Chin-Sung as Special Rapporteurs of the Sub-Commission to preparing a comprehensive study on discrimination based on work and descent, on the basis of the three working papers submitted to the Sub-Commission on this topic (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2001/16, E/CN.4/Sub.2/2003/24 and E/CN.4/Sub.2/2004/31).

By Decision 35, ***Final report on the study on indigenous peoples' permanent sovereignty over natural resources***, ECOSOC endorsed the Commission's recommendation to authorise the OHCHR to convene an expert seminar during the year 2005, to which representatives of indigenous peoples and governments as well as the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission will be invited. The Decision was adopted by a vote of 33 in favour to 2 against, with 15 abstentions.

By Decision 36, ***Human rights and human responsibilities***, ECOSOC **rejected** the decision of the Commission to request Mr. Miguel Alfonso Martinez, author of the study on human rights and human responsibilities, to prepare, without financial implications, for submission to and discussion at its 62nd session, a new initial version of the pre-draft declaration on human responsibilities (E/CN.4/2003/105, Annex I).

By Decision 37, ***Enhancing and strengthening the effectiveness of the special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights***, ECOSOC endorsed the decision of the Commission to request the High Commissioner for Human Rights to organise and open-ended seminar during 2005, from within existing resources, in consultation with the Expanded Bureau of the Commission, as part of the effort to enhance and strengthen the effectiveness of the special procedures of the Commission.

By Decision 38, ***Dates of the sixty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights***, ECOSOC endorsed the Commission's decision that the first meeting of the Commission would be held on the third Monday in January with the sole purpose of electing its officers, and that the 62nd session of the Commission would be held from 13 March to 21 April 2006.

By Decision 39, ***Organization of work of the sixty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights***, ECOSOC authorised six fully serviced additional meetings, including summary records, in accordance with rules 29 and 31 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, for the Commission's 62nd session. The Decision was adopted by a vote of 48 in favour to 1 against, with no abstentions.

No action was required on draft decision 40 on reform proposed by the Secretary-General in the area of human rights submitted by the President of ECOSOC, since ECOSOC, at its resumed organisational session in June, took action on a draft decision on reform.

By Decision 41, ***Technical cooperation in the field of human rights in Afghanistan***, ECOSOC endorsed the Commission's request to the High Commissioner for Human Rights that she report to the General Assembly at its 60th session and to the Commission at its 62nd session on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan and on the results of technical assistance in the field of human rights, particularly as regards the development of national capacities in the field.

By Decision 42, ***Situation of human rights in Haiti***, ECOSOC approved the Commission's request to the Independent Expert to continue his mission and to report at the 62nd session of the Commission.

By another decision, ECOSOC adopted a resolution concerning **the convention on prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide**.

ECOSOC also adopted a resolution, ***Basic principles and guidelines on the right to a remedy and reparation for victims of gross violations of international human rights law and serious violations of international humanitarian law***, by a vote of 43 in favour to none against, with 5 abstentions.