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Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Wednesday, 4 July 2007, at 3 p.m.

President:	Mr. ČEKUOLIS	(Lithuania)
later:	Mr. DAVIDE (Vice-President)	(Philippines)

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* The remainder of the meeting is covered in E/2007/SR.18/Add.1.

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

ANNUAL MINISTERIAL REVIEW: STRENGTHENING EFFORTS TO ERADICATE POVERTY AND HUNGER, INCLUDING THROUGH THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued) (E/2007/71, E/2007/81 and E/2007/CRP.5)

General debate on the theme of the Annual Ministerial Review (continued)

The PRESIDENT invited delegates to make statements on the theme of the debate.

Mr. TSURUOKA (Japan) said that, while the overall proportion of people living on 1 dollar a day or less had declined, disparities among regions were growing. Poverty was one of the root causes of conflicts, organized crime and other threats to human life. As economic activities had expanded and globalization had progressed, new threats to people's lives had emerged, such as terrorism, environmental degradation, infectious diseases and global warming. To eliminate the disparities and cope with new threats meant protecting individuals and empowering them to make choices - that was the essence of the concept of human security.

Japan's cooperation with development partners and United Nations organizations was based on the concept of human security. Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals depended on close partnerships between donor and recipient countries and on a commitment to national ownership. Neither financial nor food assistance alone could provide lasting solutions to poverty and hunger; and rather than addressing those challenges individually, a holistic, human-centred approach was required. Two aspects of human security of concern to Japan - which would be hosting both the G-8 summit and the fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) in 2008 - were climate change and infectious diseases.

The Japanese Prime Minister had recently announced a new proposal on climate change entitled "Cool Earth 50", which set a long-term target of reducing global emissions by half of the current level by 2050. The proposal also outlined principles for the establishment of an international post-Kyoto framework beyond 2012: the framework must involve the participation of all major emitters; it must be flexible and diverse, taking into account individual country circumstances; and it must reconcile environmental protection and economic growth. The Prime Minister had also proposed establishing a new financial mechanism to support developing

countries, which were particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Recognizing that international cooperation was indispensable in enhancing the capacity of developing countries to adapt to changes in their environments, Japan was keen to explore proactive cooperation measures in the areas of mitigation, adaptation and access to clean energy.

In the area of infectious diseases, he stressed that predictable funding mechanisms, such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, to which Japan had already contributed a total of \$660 million, were crucial. To prevent malaria, Japan was distributing 10 million long-lasting insecticide-treated mosquito nets in Africa. The nets had been developed by a Japanese company which had built a factory in Tanzania with a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, creating more than 1,200 local jobs. Japan was also to provide \$5 billion between 2005 and 2009 under its comprehensive Health and Development Initiative. It believed that it was important not only to focus on disease-specific assistance but to strengthen the foundation of a country's health sector by improving health systems, training health-care practitioners and prioritizing child and maternal health. To that end, mother-and-child health notebooks, which had been used in Japan for many years to monitor children's height, weight and immunization history, had been distributed in Indonesia, where they had contributed to a decline in infant mortality.

Japan had made steady progress in achieving its stated goal of doubling its official development assistance to Africa in the three years from 2005. The TICAD process had been the cornerstone of Japan's active cooperation with Africa, and priorities for the fourth session were boosting economic growth, ensuring human security and addressing environmental issues and climate change.

He reaffirmed Japan's commitment to working actively in resolving international economic and social issues, particularly in the areas of poverty reduction and development. He recalled that Japan had assumed the chairmanship of the Organization Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission in June 2007 and would strive to contribute to priority areas in that field.

Mr. STYMNE (Sweden) noted that, although the halfway point to the deadline for the Millennium Development Goals had been reached, progress remained slow. Developing

countries must take the primary responsibility for poverty reduction and development within their own borders. A broad-based approach to poverty reduction should aim to extend legal, economic, political and social empowerment to all segments of society. Good governance, democracy, respect for human rights and gender equality must form part of a comprehensive and coherent agenda for poverty reduction and development. Economic progress was fundamental but it was only part of the equation.

In high-income countries, it was equally important to ensure consistency and coherence across all policy areas, since environmental, migration, security and trade policies had a huge impact on developing countries and their efforts to reduce poverty and promote development. He deplored the fact that trade barriers that substantially limited opportunities for developing countries to use trade as a vehicle for growth were still in place.

The United Nations itself, which had a central role in the work for human development, had been shown by the report of the High-level Panel, "Delivering as One", to be lacking in the necessary coherence; and his Government was eagerly following the "One UN" work in the pilot countries. Synergies must also be exploited with other actors, including the Bretton Woods Institutions and regional development banks. A heavy responsibility rested with donors, old and new, to ensure coordination and coherence in the face of increasingly complex development finance arrangements, including the emergence of new donors, increasing numbers of vertical funds and new sources and instruments for financial development assistance.

Private-sector development was another area where there was scope for improved cooperation and coordination. The private sector was a primary driver of economic growth, which was a prerequisite for the reduction of income poverty. What was needed was pro-poor private-sector development. Poor people must be given both the formal and practical ability to engage in productive and entrepreneurial activities and thereby raise their standard of living.

In that connection, it was important to recognize and promote the role of women as economic agents and a key to sustainable poverty reduction. From a macroeconomic perspective, women were often an untapped resource and were disadvantaged in terms of access to productive resources and human capital.

Globalization had become a key element in private sector development, and there were important roles for foreign companies in developing countries. Responsible business practices led to social and economic inclusion, helping to advance international cooperation, peace and development, which was beneficial both for businesses and society as a whole. Corporate Social Responsibility should be business-led but it was dependent on an enabling environment where Governments had a crucial role to play. The cooperation of businesses, Governments and multilateral institutions in developing a number of tools for companies operating in weak governance zones or areas of conflict was a good example of how Governments could support the efforts made by companies. It was by working together in that way and pulling in the same direction that the MDGs could be achieved.

Mr. STAUR (Denmark), aligning himself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union, noted that, although progress had been made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals in all regions, efforts by both donor and developing countries would have to be intensified in the coming years, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, which continued to lag behind. The 2008 Financing for Development conference would be important in that respect.

The achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women, who had the potential to become real drivers of change and development, were an important stepping stone towards eradicating poverty and fulfilling the interlinked Millennium Development Goals. He noted that, according to World Bank estimates, unequal education and employment opportunities for women in sub-Saharan Africa had slowed down per capita growth by 0.8 percentage points between 1960 and 1992. Trends in reproductive health statistics in Africa likewise remained alarming: HIV/AIDS accounted for over 60 per cent of total female diseases, and 1 in 16 women risked dying due to complications related to pregnancy or childbirth. There was a need to ensure that the commitments made by heads of Government in that regard were translated into effective action. The Danish Government welcomed the Secretary-General's introduction of a new target on maternal health under Millennium Development Goal 5 aimed at ensuring universal access to reproductive health by 2015.

On the issue of climate change, a poverty-focused development strategy should embody a sound strategy to ensure environmental sustainability. It was important that the high-level meeting on climate change, to be held in New York in September 2007, should provide

sufficient guidance to create a sound basis for the thirteenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to be held in December 2007, so that out of that meeting would emerge guidelines and work plans that would allow the conclusion of negotiations on a post-Kyoto framework by 2009.

Mr. ÜZÜMCÜ (Turkey), noting that the rate of improvement in the level of absolute poverty remained insufficient to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, said that efforts to promote pro-poor sustained economic growth must be prioritized. The challenges were immense, with 8 million people dying every year due to malnutrition and poverty and some 800 million people in the developing world chronically undernourished. The attainment of the Millennium Development Goals was contingent upon a comprehensive, balanced, interdisciplinary and coordinated approach. Since there was a close link between poverty and conflict, success in defeating world poverty would doubtless contribute to improved collective security and the establishment of a more stable and peaceful international order. Although the percentages of people living in extreme poverty and chronic hunger had decreased, there remained an enormous backlog of deprivation.

Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals required a comprehensive, balanced, interdisciplinary and coordinated approach, and developed countries must fulfil their commitment to a genuine and mutually beneficial global partnership for development.

The Turkish Government attached great importance to increasing the effectiveness of its development assistance and reinforcing its emerging donor country status at the regional and global levels. Turkey had provided an estimated \$700 million in 2006 as official development assistance, coordinated by the Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA). Having transformed itself from an agriculture-based economy to one of trade and industry, Turkey was engaged in sharing its experience with countries undergoing similar processes, initially in Central Asia, but more recently in Africa. In order to coordinate those activities, TIKA had opened regional field offices in Ethiopia, Sudan and Senegal. A total of 90 countries had benefited from 931 TIKA projects and activities in 2006.

Turkey had been identified as a pivotal country under the Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) mechanism. A TCDC umbrella project co-funded by

the United Nations Development Programme and the Turkish Government was under way, and 200 TCDC arrangements had been put into practice in the fields of group training, study tours, job training consultancy services and project implementation.

Turkey would host the ministerial conference Making Globalization Work for the Least Developed Countries in Istanbul later that month, which would address global imbalances which exacerbated poverty in least developed countries and prevented them from fully and effectively implementing the Programme of Action of the Least Developed Countries for the decade 2001-2010.

If poverty eradication was to become a reality, it was essential for the United Nations to develop a more comprehensive and coherent development agenda and to ensure greater coordination of all parts of the system. Member States must support all efforts to that end in pursuit of development goals to which Turkey was actively committed.

Mr. WIBISONO (Indonesia), aligning himself with the statement made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, noted that, although the proportion of people living in extreme poverty around the world was declining, uneven and slow progress towards the Millennium Development Goals persisted, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. Growth could only flourish in a global partnership for development, including adequate financing. Developing countries' exports must gain access to markets in a rules-based international trading system. Equally, developing countries must strive to achieve good governance, combat corruption and implement development strategies. A holistic approach, capitalizing on the complementary roles of government, private sector and the donor community, must be adopted in efforts to reduce poverty. Such efforts should aim to create enabling environments and positive investment climates by taking account of factors such as education, development of entrepreneurship and improving the quality of public services and infrastructure.

Indonesia's commitment to achieving the Millennium Development Goals was reflected in the implementation of its national pro-poor, pro-growth and pro-employment strategy. Although Indonesia's economic growth had improved considerably in recent years, the Government was striving to achieve not only high growth, but equitable growth, which would benefit all Indonesians, providing them with more jobs, reducing poverty and delivering a better quality of

life. To that end, the Government was committed to spending the highest portion of the development budget on education, health and anti-poverty programmes, and in 2007 had allocated some \$6 billion to its poverty reduction programme.

The Government was also placing greater emphasis on the economic empowerment of women, through the provision of microfinance and microcredit to support poor women's economic activities, for example. A forum on increasing the productivity of women in the economy had been established and, under the 2004-2009 Mid-Term National Development Plan, the Government had formulated policies to enhance the quality of institutional and cooperative activities in which women were involved. Steps had been taken to develop small and medium-scale enterprises for women, who were also participating in decision-making processes and other related activities. The Government also paid particular attention to other vulnerable groups such as children, young people, the elderly and persons with disabilities.

Through the 2005 Jakarta Declaration on Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific: The Way Forward 2015, Indonesia had been working with other Asia-Pacific countries to develop a regional roadmap aimed at helping countries falling behind in the Millennium Development Goals.

Noting that international cooperation in the area of climate change needed to be enhanced and actions for mitigation, adaptation, financing and technology strengthened, he said that the discussions on climate change in the context of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council, the thematic debate of the General Assembly at the end of July and the high-level event in New York in September 2007 would form important building blocks to raise greater political awareness and momentum in the lead-up to the thirteenth Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC and the third Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol to be held in Bali in December 2007.

Mr. ANDRIANARIVELO (Madagascar) said that poverty eradication and the promotion of partnerships were interlinked, as were pro-poor growth and achievement of the MDGs. The success of the first Annual Ministerial Review might be judged by the extent to which those links were recognized, promoted and accomplished. The challenges of poverty required action and interaction by all - Governments, business, academia, non-governmental

organizations and United Nations bodies. It was therefore significant that the Civil Society Development Forum and the United Nations Global Compact Leaders Summit were taking place in Geneva in parallel with the present session of the Economic and Social Council. Each forum should take account of the debates and outcomes of the others.

Economic growth did not automatically result in poverty reduction, and efforts must be made to ensure that growth benefited all. The MDGs were interrelated, and could only be attained through an inclusive and multi-stakeholder approach. He wished in that connection to draw attention to the recently established Public-Private Alliance Foundation, which emphasized a pro-poor business approach to sustainable development. The Foundation was a non-profit organization that worked to implement the initiatives of the United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development, which was an ad hoc initiative of ECOSOC with Madagascar and the Dominican Republic as pilot countries. The Foundation was a participant in the United Nations Global Compact and had co-sponsored the Seventh Global Forum on Reinventing Government. It encouraged South-South and triangular cooperation and collaborated with a number of relevant United Nations departments as well as working with private investors, commercial interests and community groups. The Foundation's current initiatives involved development promotion activities in the areas of information technology, water, health, agribusiness, including fish-farming, ethanol and cocoa production, as well as microfinance and women's entrepreneurship. Madagascar called for and supported a broad alliance of partners in the fight against poverty.

Mr. McKAY (New Zealand), speaking on behalf of Canada, Australia and New Zealand (CANZ), said that although some progress had been made to meet the MDG on poverty reduction, over a billion people still lived in extreme poverty and over 850 million were undernourished or food insecure. Women and children were disproportionately affected, and progress towards the eradication of poverty and hunger varied across regions, between countries and among communities. While the global response was encouraging, the challenge seemed to be growing since there were regions and countries where both the number and the proportion of food-insecure households had grown.

Despite Asia's impressive recent economic performance, the Asia-Pacific region remained particularly poor, with 1.9 billion people living on less than US\$ 2 a day. His

delegation was particularly concerned by the crisis faced by food-import-dependent least developed countries, most critically in sub-Saharan Africa. In addition to the stresses attendant on the expected doubling of the urban population by 2030, increases in food and commodity prices would place pressure on poor households and Governments alike.

CANZ believed there was a compelling need to improve the collaboration and effectiveness of key multilateral food and agriculture agencies in support of nationally-led food security strategies. It was encouraging to note the development of creative partnerships by the Rome-based agencies, aimed at building the capacity of poor farmers and countries to better supply and benefit from local food procurement by United Nations agencies. The eradication of poverty and hunger was an important focus of CANZ's ODA efforts, within an approach that recognized development as a multifaceted and wide-ranging process. Its assistance rested on the premise that sustainable and broad-based economic growth, led by a dynamic private sector, was crucial for driving poverty reduction, and must be underpinned by peace, security and stable and effective government.

To that end, CANZ encouraged: improvements in governance, based on the rule of law, respect for human rights and environmental sustainability; sound economic and budgetary management, including efforts to combat corruption; broad participation in the benefits of economic growth; universal access to health and education services; efforts to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women; and improvements in trade and economic policy, including openness to trade and investment. A truly liberalizing Doha Round outcome would be the best way to increase global incomes and more fully integrate developing countries into the world economy, potentially delivering millions out of poverty. Donors and recipient Governments, international agencies, civil society and the private sector must work together to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, to which CANZ was fully committed.

Mr. HILL (Observer for Australia) said that the voluntary country presentations made during the 15th and 16th meetings of the present session (E/2007/SR.15 and E/2007/SR.16) were a positive new aspect of the Annual Ministerial Review. It had been encouraging to hear that the situation of the poor had improved in a number of countries. The presentations had evinced pride in good governance, institution-building, increased production and greater efforts to meet the needs of the people - and a refreshingly constructive spirit of

cooperation. There had been an honest recognition of the challenges and difficulties that lay ahead, and of the need for long-term engagement to secure improvements and respond to changing economic and social circumstances. He welcomed acknowledgement of the need for official development assistance, commercial capital, open markets and technology transfer, as well as the importance of transparency, democracy, accountability, rule of law and other prerequisites of sustained economic growth. He appreciated the emphasis on investment in human capital: education, health, housing, clean water, sanitation and decent work. The Annual Ministerial Review should not be seen as a form of peer review, but rather as an opportunity to share experiences of success, difficulties and ways of working more effectively together to eradicate poverty and hunger and to promote a better life for all.

Mr. HELLER (Mexico) said that his country was concerned that, at the halfway point in the time frame for attaining the MDGs, inequalities in and among nations not only persisted, but had in some cases increased. While economic growth was essential for development, it alone was insufficient: the fight against poverty and hunger must remain linked to the promotion of national and foreign investment and strengthening of the private sector in strategic areas for economic growth. Access to the financial sector, reduction of the flight of capital, incentive to capital markets and access to microfinancing services were important for improving the quality of life of people living in rural and urban poverty.

Over recent years, Mexico had undertaken an ambitious poverty-eradication strategy, including efforts to invest in nutrition and human capital. In the context of macroeconomic stability sustained for almost a decade, they had enabled Mexico to accomplish the first MDG before the established deadline. One of the most effective components of the strategy had been the promotion of microcredit programmes that facilitated access to financial services for persons of low income, in particular women. Its efforts had largely reversed the negative effects of the economic crisis of the mid 1990s.

Although Mexico had made significant progress in its efforts to meet the MDGs, many inequalities by region, ethnicity and gender remained a challenge. In the context of its national development plan for 2007 to 2012, Mexico had therefore set two key objectives: to reduce extreme poverty and ensure equal opportunities and enhanced capacities so as to improve the

quality of life for all Mexicans and guarantee food, health, education, adequate housing and an enabling environment for development; and to significantly reduce social, economic and cultural gaps and eradicate all forms of discrimination.

The MDGs being regarded as a starting point, the Government had established a series of additional goals, including reducing food poverty by 50 per cent and increasing the daily protein consumption of the population. In education, it had set itself the goal of achieving universal compulsory education of 12 years, with satisfactory learning levels in language and mathematics. In the field of public health, a significant gain had been a reduction in the death rate from tuberculosis to a level lower than that prevailing in the OECD countries.

The Government welcomed United Nations support for its national efforts to foster sustainable and integral development. As a middle-income country, Mexico was neither a donor nor a recipient of official development assistance. It had, however, become an active provider of technical cooperation - in collaboration with international organizations such as the World Bank and UNDP - to provide technical assistance to other developing countries through targeted measures to assist the poorest populations. Mexico continued to seek to promote South-South cooperation, including through a joint project with Chile and South Africa for the transfer of knowledge and policymaking tools for addressing poverty. It considered technical cooperation among countries with similar problems to be a powerful tool in the continuing challenge of reducing poverty and hunger.

Mr. Davide (Philippines), Vice-President, took the Chair.

Mr. LI Baodong (China) said that, in a context of expanding globalization, international development cooperation faced new opportunities and challenges. Sustained growth in the world economy should facilitate international cooperation for common development. On the other hand, we faced sobering challenges, including increasing imbalance in the global economy, energy shortages, the growing instability of the international financial market, stagnation of the Doha Round and an increase in economic nationalism. Other non-traditional challenges included climate change, environmental deterioration, epidemics and population aging. The Annual Ministerial Review provided an opportunity to carry out a mid-term review of progress towards the goal of poverty reduction and to discuss plans for future cooperation.

The first task of the international community was to develop a truly global partnership for development. Developing countries, which had the primary responsibility for their own development, should formulate comprehensive strategies for poverty alleviation. At the same time, the international community should reform the existing international economic system and allow developing countries greater participation to ensure sound economic globalization and create an enabling external environment for poverty elimination.

Secondly, steps should be taken to provide efficient financial and technological support to developing countries, since lack of capital and technology hindered poverty alleviation. Developed countries should fulfil their commitment to devote 0.7 per cent of gross national income to official development assistance, including between 0.15 and 0.2 per cent to LDCs. They should rise above short-sighted commercial interests, ease technology monopoly and increase the transfer of technology to developing countries.

The third goal should be to push forward the Doha Round in order to contribute to the steady growth of the world economy and an orderly conduct of world trade. Its success depended on the political will and coordination of all parties. The developed countries, in particular the major trading countries, should show greater political goodwill, give priority to agricultural development and ensure that developing countries received tangible benefits.

Finally, development policies should be better coordinated, and resources should be pooled for greater effectiveness. To that end, China supported the United Nations efforts to strengthen dialogue and cooperation with the Bretton Woods Institutions, WTO and other relevant international development institutions.

China had always attached great importance to poverty alleviation and development, as reflected in the reduction of the national poverty rate from 30 per cent in 1978 to 2.3 per cent in 2006. The Government had drawn up a development-oriented poverty alleviation programme for rural China for the period 2001 to 2010, and had designated a large number of regions and villages for priority-relief assistance. Public institutions and organizations were encouraged to participate in development projects in poor areas. Local officials and inhabitants were urged to take responsibility for improving their own working and living conditions and were called upon

to play a role in policymaking, institution-building and management. Measures were taken to strengthen labour skills in poor areas, assist people in seeking employment in non-agricultural industries, and encourage the establishment of bases for agricultural product processing.

Economic development should go hand in hand with developments in science, technology, culture, education and health. Poverty reduction called for efforts to provide all-round development, while focusing on economic growth. The Chinese Government had integrated poverty relief into its efforts for sustainable development. A national programme had recently been launched to address climate change through economic restructuring, raising energy efficiency and the development and use of hydroelectric power and other renewable energy resources.

Despite the progress made, China remained the largest developing country, and there was still a considerable imbalance between urban and rural areas, among different regions, and between economic growth and social development. The existence of 21.48 million poor people, 35.5 million low-income farmers in rural areas, over 22 million urban citizens living at subsistence level, 80 million people with disabilities and 24 million job seekers in cities each year was a measure of the continuing challenge of poverty reduction in China.

As it scaled up its national poverty-alleviation efforts, China was continuing to support international cooperation to that end. It had pledged US\$ 20 million to the Asia Development Bank to establish the China Special Fund for Poverty Reduction and Regional Cooperation. The International Poverty Reduction Centre officially set up in Beijing in 2005 provided a new platform for international cooperation in poverty reduction. As China's economy grew, the Government would continue to actively participate in international cooperation, share experiences, and undertake practical cooperation in the global cause of poverty alleviation.

Mr. HANNESSON (Iceland) said that the Council had an important role in reviewing progress towards the attainment of the MDGs, promoting stronger efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, and encouraging a global partnership of all stakeholders for development. The global partnership rested on the principles of transparency, accountability, good governance, equity and commitment to poverty reduction. For developing countries to attain those goals, it was crucial that developed countries should deliver on their own commitments.

Increased official development assistance was critical if many developing countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, were to achieve the MDGs by the target date; and his delegation applauded those countries that had committed to increasing their ODA allocations. Iceland's development assistance was set to almost triple over the next two years, and would increase still further after 2009.

The promotion of gender equality was particularly important in the fight against poverty and hunger. Women were more likely than men to be poor, malnourished and illiterate, they usually had less access to employment, and they were less likely to be politically active. Women's empowerment should be included in national development strategies, and gender equity was vital to sustainable development: greater efforts should be made by development partners and United Nations agencies to pursue gender equality, and more weight should be given to the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), for which Iceland had increased its support tenfold over the past two years and would do so still further. Iceland had increasingly directed its development cooperation at gender-specific projects in the LDCs, since women played a fundamental role in their development, and support for the education, health and economic activities of women had a multiplier effect for their communities.

Food security had also been an important aspect of Iceland's partnership for development. Its bilateral fisheries projects had contributed to the improvement of food security and reduction of malnutrition, and the Government would continue to increase its support for the World Food Programme. Education and capacity-building were important tools for poverty and hunger eradication, and basic and adult literacy programmes had become a significant part of Iceland's bilateral cooperation. A special emphasis had been placed on education and capacity-building of people living in poverty.

There was no simple formula for the eradication of poverty and hunger. However, increased official development assistance, food security, gender equality, infrastructure development, access to energy, education and health services, fair trade, good governance and improved investment climates for private-sector development were essential objectives of the global partnership for development.

Mr. RIPERT (France), welcoming the strengthening of ECOSOC's functions, stressed the need to ensure that the Annual Ministerial Review and the Development Cooperation Forum fulfilled their role of coordinating economic, social and environmental activities at the international level, thereby enhancing international efforts in the area of sustainable development. France would contribute to the new initiatives with a view to continuing to adapt the Council's working methods and improving its effectiveness as a major instrument for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.

In keeping with the continuing need to mobilize development financing, the European Union countries had fulfilled or even surpassed their official development assistance commitments. France had devoted 0.47 per cent of its gross national income to ODA in 2006, including 64 per cent to Africa, and was pursuing with determination its target of 0.7 per cent of GNI by 2015.

The urgent challenges facing developing countries made it essential to devise new forms of predictable and sustainable financing, while increasing traditional aid. A number of innovative development financing mechanisms had already begun in some cases to yield results. For example, the international solidarity contributions on airline tickets - introduced in France in July 2006 - was serving to fund a joint drug purchase facility, UNITAIDS, to combat major pandemics, in recognition of the close connection between health and development. It was hoped that the initiative would encourage other examples of the targeted pooling of resources by groups of countries so as to turn globalization to positive account through the safeguarding of "global public goods" such as health and the environment.

Increased development assistance must go hand in hand with greater effectiveness in terms of better coordination of donor initiatives and increased efforts by the receiving countries to ensure that international aid impacted meaningfully on the everyday life of its citizens, and was seen to do so by the public in the donor countries.

All concerned should contribute in a spirit of partnership to the development goal, founded on the principle of national ownership. The United Nations must play its part, in accordance with

the recommendations of the High-level Panel on System-wide Coherence, by ensuring that its different components “delivered as one” in keeping with the priorities defined by countries themselves under their national development strategies.

Mr. MILLER (United States), welcoming the voluntary presentations made to the Council on the challenges and achievements of a number of developing countries in the eradication of poverty and hunger, said that they had shown that economic growth in the developing world was mostly good within a globalized environment, but equally that economic growth was not the only answer.

Poverty eradication entailed a complex array of societal changes - equality for women, an enabling environment for the private sector, respect for human rights and the rule of law, and the political empowerment of the poor. Inclusive systems of democratic governance that guaranteed civil and political liberties and economic freedom were essential. Individual personal ownership of economic choices was arguably more significant than national ownership of development strategies. Freedom was corroded by corruption, which should be fought through policies that promoted political accountability, transparent public sector management, competitive markets, and limits on the absolute power of the State.

Countries that wished to grow must ensure that they were attractive to investors. Private capital accounted for over 80 per cent of the US\$ 158 billion investment flow from the United States to developing countries, official development assistance having increased by an annual rate of 5.5 per cent over the previous 25 years. The fundamental realignment of monetary flows from public to private funding underscored the need for countries to implement regulatory frameworks and commercial laws that encouraged business formation and built public confidence in private markets, through a clear definition of property rights, transparent rulemaking, enforcement of contracts and a general respect for the rule of law.

Trade liberalization, which benefited those countries that removed barriers to the free flow of goods, was another vital component of growth and opportunity. According to World Bank reports, per capita real income grew nearly three times faster for developing countries that had

lowered their trade barriers than for other developing countries in the 1990s. Removing trade barriers in the framework of the Doha Round would ensure that more people benefited from economic growth, especially the poor.

With reference to observations on the role of his country in driving world economic activity, his Government would do everything possible to ensure that the United States remained a champion of liberty and human rights, an engine of economic growth, a society that welcomed ideas and immigrants from around the world, an economy open to goods and services produced by others, a significant source of private investment, a generous provider of development and humanitarian assistance, and a leading developer of the research and technological change that promised a better future for all.

The first Annual Ministerial Review had provided evidence that the global partnership for development was yielding results around the world. However, the persistence of intolerable poverty and hunger in many countries proved that the job was not done. In the spirit of its new partnership, the international community could, and must, do more.

Ms. GALLARDO HERNANDEZ (El Salvador) was confident that the Council's new format would strengthen its coordination and standard-setting work through an integrated and coordinated approach to social and economic development. She hoped that the ministerial declaration would lay the basis for the improved coherence and effectiveness of development cooperation.

The thematic discussion called for close reflection on the complex relationship between economic growth, poverty eradication and equity in the developing countries. In pursuit of the broad-based growth implicit in the concept of "pro-poor" growth, each country should promote a climate of sustainability and good governance conducive to confidence among external partners, by facilitating equitable macroeconomic policies and by ensuring that growth went hand in hand with gradual changes in the distribution of resources and access to basic social services. The empowerment of women, which remained a key task in certain countries, was a prerequisite for sustainable national development, requiring their participation in economic activity and access to information, education, health and credit facilities.

El Salvador's commitments at the Social Development Summit and the Millennium Summit, among others, had been incorporated into the national development plans, including the President's solidarity network plan (Plan Red Solidaria). They were aimed at strengthening the social, economic and political basis of the country, with the emphasis on sustainable economic growth through greater participation in international trade and increased productivity. Economic policy was focused on promotion of the agriculture, industry, tourism, export and investment sectors, expansion of the role of the private sector and integration in the global economy through various bilateral and multilateral trading instruments, including the Doha Round. Its policies had resulted in a growth of 4.2 per cent in GDP and a growth in exports of 3.7 per cent in 2006, with projections of a 5 per cent increase by the end of 2007. Current transfers in the form of foreign remittances and external aid had enabled El Salvador to control its current account deficit, which had helped to stabilize the level of domestic savings. The challenge for El Salvador remained to channel part of those transfers into increased savings and investment.

As a consequence, El Salvador had been able to attain some of the Millennium Development Goals, such as a 60 per cent reduction in the national poverty level in 2001 and a 30 per cent reduction in 2006. Similarly, significant progress had been made in reducing illiteracy and infant mortality over the same period. Under the solidarity network plan, the Government had pursued its efforts to improve the well-being of the population, notably communities suffering from extreme poverty, through integrated education, health and nutrition programmes as well as improvements in the network of basic and development services, in keeping with the MDGs.

However, middle-income countries such as El Salvador had recently been concerned that the international community might reduce its support for previously successful development programmes. Since the 1990s there had been some difficulty in translating growth rates into a substantial reduction in poverty indicators. Some of those countries were playing a leading role in promoting economic and social stability within a given region, thereby contributing to the maintenance of peace, disease prevention, financial stability and environmental sustainability. While they had experienced a certain economic growth, they continued to be faced by such challenges as institutional weakness, the difficulty of integrating into international markets, and limited technological and productive development. While South-South cooperation was

important in generating a sense of recipient ownership and promoting initiatives adapted to national conditions and needs, and while countries remained responsible through their respective Governments for promoting their own development, international cooperation played a key role in helping them to escape from the vicious cycle of poverty. It was for that reason that the middle-income countries were calling for a development cooperation system embodying integrated and coordinated donor policies consistent with national development strategies. El Salvador was hosting a meeting of middle-income countries in October 2007 with the intention of articulating their concerns and proposing to the international community specific programmes that addressed their needs.

Mr. LEVANON (Observer for Israel) said that an enhanced and reinvigorated ECOSOC had the responsibility to lead and coordinate the efforts of the international community to eradicate poverty and reduce hunger in accordance with the Millennium Goals. Each State must take primary responsibility for its own economic and social development by strengthening governance, combating corruption and mobilizing domestic resources for development. At the same time, national efforts should be complemented by supportive global programmes and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries, while taking into account their national conditions and strategies and ensuring respect for national ownership.

Israel, which had initiated a variety of development programmes and shared its experience with others from the earliest days of its statehood, strongly supported global development. Research and development programmes that had benefited many other nations had included those addressed to global challenges such as poverty, desertification, water management, agriculture, climate change, management of energy resources and public health. In 2006, through the Centre for International Cooperation (MASHAV), Israel was active in 108 countries training thousands of participants in courses focusing on human capacity-building.

Israel, which had always attached great importance to its relations with Africa, was currently providing expertise in such areas as food security, gender equality, democracy, education and health to assist the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). It also actively supported international initiatives such as the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA) and the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Debt Initiative.

Israel was considering expanding its development cooperation in the context of its participation in the global effort to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Mr. Lee SUNG-JOO (Observer for the Republic of Korea) welcomed the new Council structures, which should serve as important mechanisms to review progress in promoting internationally agreed development goals.

Observing that the increase in economic growth in most developing countries since 2001 was a welcome development, but that such growth needed to be underpinned by appropriate pro-poor policies and equitable distribution measures, he suggested that certain key areas were deserving of particular attention. They included: giving priority to rural development, including agricultural productivity, education and human resource development, which improved living conditions and helped to produce a work force for non-agricultural sectors; harnessing science and technology, with particular reference to integrating ICTs into poverty-reduction strategies; and promoting gender equality through education and training to ensure that poverty was not inherited.

Development goals could not be fully met without adequate and reliable flows of financial resources. The Monterrey Consensus and subsequent discussions on innovative financial sources for development had provided comprehensive directions, and it was to be hoped that the 2008 Review Conference on the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus would provide further momentum for reinvigorating the efforts of the international community in reaching financial targets.

His Government, which had successfully implemented an air-ticket solidarity levy to expand the financial basis for development, believed that innovative financing for development additional to traditional ODA could contribute to the mid- and long-term financial needs for achieving the MDGs. The Korean Government, which was holding the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Development in Seoul in October 2007, believed that the emerging array of public-private partnerships in the form of infrastructure funds warranted special attention as an additional source of development financing.

Mr. JAZAIRY (Algeria), associating himself with the statement made by the representative of Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the continued existence of social and economic disparities between countries and regions of the world were obstacles to joint progress and social peace and contributed to diverse forms of instability. The theme of the Ministerial Review was a timely reminder of the commitment of the international community to promote the global partnership for development and of the need to take urgent and concerted action to eradicate or at least reduce poverty and hunger.

ECOSOC should play a leading role in consolidating the progress and giving effect to the commitments made at the Millennium Summit and other international conferences devoted to development. Recalling that part VII of the Millennium Declaration was devoted specifically to meeting the special needs of Africa, most of whose population continued to suffer from poverty and hunger, he said that the international community had a duty to strengthen its cooperation and develop better targeted strategies to remedy that situation.

The much vaunted benefits of globalization remained unrealized or only partly realized in the developing countries, despite their sacrifices. Many were faced rather with a decline in living standards; and even in the countries of the North, globalization was giving rise to hitherto unforeseen problems. The consequences of globalization therefore needed to be studied in greater depth with a view to alleviating its negative effects and better channelling its positive dynamics.

While good progress had been made in Algeria toward the realization of the Millennium Development Goals, other countries, in particular in Africa, were lagging behind. During the 2005 World Summit it had become clear that there was a gap between progress actually made and the hopes for a better life of over a billion poor people, a majority of them women. In many cases, poverty had been aggravated by accelerating desertification arising from global warming attributable to the negligence of the rich countries.

The growing gap was not unrelated to the unequal efforts by the different development partners to fulfil the agreed targets. The failure of international development policies and the unfavourable international trade environment were major factors in the persistence of widespread poverty. There was a vital need to define a coherent and integrated framework for international

finance and trade based on a global partnership taking into account the needs of the South. The international community must pursue its action in a spirit of solidarity and must safeguard and strengthen the United Nations in fulfilment of the commitments made at the Millennium Summit and the International Conference on Financing for Development.

Many attempts had been made in recent years to correct the unfavourable trends in development assistance and international trade. The United Nations, in particular the Council, continued to have a key role to play in combating these trends and promoting pro-poor growth conducive to development. The session should give rise to an international development programme based on partnership and an equitable distribution of the financial burden.

Mr. SOW (Guinea), associating himself with the statement made by the representative of Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, welcomed the launch of the Annual Ministerial Review and Development Cooperation Forum at the current session and the expanded mandate of the Council.

Recalling the political and social upheaval in Guinea in January and February of the current year, he said that the new Government was committed to addressing the problem of the deteriorating living conditions of the population, which had been the root cause of that crisis, and to re-launching the development process. An emergency plan of action had identified the following priorities: restoration of the authority of the State and a fair system of justice; national reconciliation; mobilization of financial resources for infrastructure and basic services; job creation for young people; and consolidation of the rule of law through political and social dialogue and the holding of credible elections.

In order to succeed, his Government would require urgent and effective international assistance, in particular from development partners. To that end, it invited all interested partners to attend a meeting organized in cooperation with the World Bank, to be held the following 23 and 24 July, in Paris, to establish an advisory committee on marshalling the resources necessary for the recovery efforts.

Given the situation in Guinea, his delegation found the theme of the first Annual Ministerial Review most opportune, and he trusted that the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General (E/2007/71) would contribute to making international

development efforts more coherent and effective, in particular with regard to the Millennium Development Goals. Although progress had been made towards the elimination of poverty and suffering and the promotion of peace, security and development, there were numerous, complex obstacles to the achievement of those Goals, and he stressed that there was no reasonable alternative to a concerted international partnership to overcome those obstacles.

His Government remained committed to expanding its domestic efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger. It also called upon international partners to meet their development commitments by increasing official development assistance, forgiving the debt of the poorest countries, creating a favourable environment for trade and the sharing of scientific and technological knowledge, and improving global governance. Finally, he expressed his delegation's support for the draft Ministerial Declaration.

Mr. MOAIYERI (Islamic Republic of Iran), underlining the need to manage global economic performance in an equitable manner and promote sustained and broad-based economic growth, welcomed the quality, vision and scope of the report of the Secretary-General (E/2007/71) and its focus on the human aspect of growth, in particular pro-poor growth. Although the world economy had been performing strongly in recent years, growing disparities within and between countries and regions gave grounds for concern and no one could predict whether further globalization would reduce or exacerbate those disparities.

Growth alone could not remedy the instability caused by the uneven distribution of income and employment in the world. Such disparities would jeopardize the long-term sustainability of growth and have severe social consequences. That was why domestic and international development policies increasingly stressed the importance of promoting synergy between growth and social equity. His Government for example had taken measures at the national level to promote equity and reduce gaps in living standards.

The Millennium Development Goals, in particular the first and eighth goals, established a clear link between a rule-based, non-discriminatory trade and financial system and development and poverty reduction. In that context, he recalled that agriculture in the developing countries represented almost a quarter of GDP and almost 50 per cent of employment, as opposed to 2 per cent of GDP and barely 7 per cent of employment in the developed countries.

Yet the developed countries provided subsidies of nearly 400 billion dollars to their agricultural sectors. The Doha Round negotiations had not resolved that problem and the realization of the Millennium Development Goals had largely become hostage to those negotiations, which fell outside the remit of the United Nations. The global development agenda must therefore be revisited in order to eliminate contradictory policies at the international level and disparities in the distribution of the benefits of economic growth within and amongst countries.

The United Nations, through the Council, its agencies and the regional commissions, must play a leading role in promoting dialogue and cementing cooperation. That effort must be collaborative, avoiding unilateral and restrictive measures. Multilateral mechanisms and strategies must be strengthened and should be used to develop solutions for problems caused by external imbalances and pressures.

Ms. SKORPEN (Norway) said that the issue of fair distribution, both between countries and between groups and individuals within countries, had been largely forgotten in the international development debate in recent decades. Growth without equity was neither morally acceptable nor politically sustainable, and Norway welcomed the opportunity afforded by the current Review to establish the conditions necessary for pro-poor growth.

Pro-poor growth required good governance at all levels, which implied not only the rule of law, democracy and sound management, but also specific policies which were vital to ensuring pro-poor growth and an equitable and stable society. There must be a strong, transparent and non-corrupt State with accountable institutions in which the political elite were willing to tax in order to fund the provision of basic services, in particular health and education for all, regardless of purchasing power. Entrepreneurship, investment and growth, and especially decent work for all, must be promoted; and job creation and protection of workers' rights, including the right to organize and bargain collectively, should be integral parts of economic policy. Finally, good governance must include an explicit and proactive policy to promote the rights and opportunities of women, gender equality being not only a human rights issue but also good economics.

While stressing the importance of good governance at the national level, her Government was the first to acknowledge the role of the international community in promoting pro-poor growth. Norway's official development assistance (ODA) would reach 0.97 per cent of

GDP in 2007, and it was participating in efforts to develop innovative mechanisms to finance development with a view to ensuring predictable funding and facilitating long-term development planning. It also accorded a high priority to promoting better governance, cooperation and coherence among international institutions, and Norway's Prime Minister was currently co-chair of the High-level Panel on United Nations System-wide Coherence. That Panel's conclusions must be implemented in order to ensure a more efficient and relevant United Nations presence at the country level, where increased efficiency directly benefited development.

Greater coherence must also be developed between the Organization and other international organizations, including financial institutions and the World Trade Organization (WTO), and she therefore welcomed recent initiatives in that regard, in particular closer collaboration between the International Labour Organization (ILO) and WTO on the link between trade and employment, which should serve as a model for greater coherence in the governance of the world economy.

In an era of global interdependence, the Council should play a more active role in facilitating and coordinating coherence amongst relevant international organizations and help to ensure that those efforts effectively impacted on policies at the national level. Her delegation therefore fully supported the recommendations in the report of the Secretary-General (E/2007/68) that the Council should promote refinement of the concept of "pro-poor growth" and the identification and implementation of measures to promote such growth in a sustained manner and also facilitate the sharing of experiences at the national level and within the United Nations system. In so doing the Council would make an active contribution to fair distribution and thus to sustainable growth and development.

Ms. FORERO UCROS (Colombia), associating herself with the statement made by the representative of Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, welcomed the holding of the first Annual Ministerial Review and the launch of the Development Cooperation Forum. She wondered what links might be established between the Forum and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation with a view to ensuring the integration of South-South and triangular cooperation into the operational activities of the United Nations system. She also welcomed the report of the Secretary-General (E/2007/71) and, with regard to the multiple dimensions of development described therein,

underscored that factors such as globalization and global institutional arrangements had a clear impact on national development. It was therefore important that systemic problems in global economic governance be addressed.

Observing that poverty eradication was the most important development challenge, she stressed that progress towards equitable development should benefit all countries. She noted that 41 per cent of the world's population living on less than two dollars a day were to be found in the middle-income countries. Unless a cooperation system based on an integrated approach capable of assisting those countries in their development efforts was put in place, their ability to continue contributing to the provision of global public resources in the fight against poverty, including financial stability and environmental sustainability, might be compromised. The middle-income countries also shared the difficulties of the least developed countries in gaining entry into financial markets and accessing debt forgiveness initiatives. That was even more significant given that assistance provided to the middle-income countries was to a large extent conditional on their ability to mobilize national resources or attract international funding.

Her delegation supported efforts to increase the influence and participation of the developing countries in international economic decision-making institutions, including the Bretton Woods institutions. With regard to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), her country took the view that increasing the voting rights of certain countries should not affect others' rights. Furthermore, reform of the Fund should not modify the objectives for which it was created: ensuring financial stability; and guaranteeing access to short-term financing for countries requiring it.

In April of the current year, her Government had completed an initial document on progress towards the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, entitled "Towards an Equitable and Inclusive Colombia", which set out systematically many of the concerns she had expressed. The document had contributed to the elaboration of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2008-2011 for Colombia, which was based on national priorities and policies defined during the triennial review of operational activities for development.

She hoped, finally, that the current Ministerial Review would help to strengthen ECOSOC and would evince a firm political resolve to fortify the development agenda.

Ms. ASARI-NDELEMANI (Malawi), associating herself with the statement made by the representative of Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, stressed her Government's commitment to the eradication of poverty and hunger among its people. The Malawi Growth and Development Strategy had identified priority areas for accelerating socio-economic growth: agriculture and food security; irrigation and water supply; transport and communications infrastructure; rural development; and prevention and management of HIV/AIDS.

A farm input and fertilizer subsidy programme had increased grain production to beyond national needs, raising maize production by 23 per cent, and the production of other food crops had been encouraged to promote dietary diversification. Efforts to develop the road network and promote both internal and external trade and movement of goods and services were continuing and her Government intended to open up access to the existing Shire-Zambezi Waterway between Malawi and the Indian Ocean. The Integrated Rural Development Programme was aimed at eradicating rural poverty through the promotion of rural growth centres. With the support of international partners, her Government had promoted awareness of HIV/AIDS, increased the supply of anti-retroviral drugs and the rate of voluntary testing, opened more counselling centres and reduced mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS.

Her Government also continued to promote zero tolerance of corruption, free primary education with a focus on girls, the empowerment of women and gender equality, health, water and sanitation, and services for specific groups such as the elderly, the disabled, orphans and vulnerable children.

Thanks to the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Debt Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI), Malawi's external debt had fallen from US\$ 3 billion to US\$ 480 million and would be further reduced through negotiations with bilateral creditors. That macroeconomic stability would contribute greatly to economic recovery and sustainable development based on prudent management of the economy.

She welcomed the reaffirmation by the G-8 countries at their June 2007 Summit of their commitment to realization of the Millennium Development Goals in Africa and expressed her delegation's thanks to its development partners for their support. In that context, she looked forward to the meeting on follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Doha in 2008, and urged development partners to meet the commitments made at that Conference.

The discussion covered in this summary record ended at 6.15 p.m.