



# Economic and Social Council

Provisional

7 October 2010  
English  
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## Substantive session of 2009

High-level segment

### Provisional summary record of the 16th meeting

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Thursday, 9 July 2009, at 5.50 p.m.

*President:* Ms. Lucas ..... (Luxembourg)

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High-level debate (*continued*)

Annual Ministerial Review: “Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health” (*continued*)

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*The meeting was called to order at 8.50 p.m.*

### **High-level debate** *(continued)*

#### **Annual Ministerial Review: “Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health”** *(continued)*

*Adoption of the ministerial declaration (E/2009/L.12)*

**The President** invited the Council to take action on the draft ministerial declaration of the 2009 high-level segment, entitled “Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health”.

*The ministerial declaration (E/2009/L.12) was adopted.*

**Mr. Kitajima** (Japan), while welcoming the adoption of the ministerial declaration, expressed his regret that it contained no references to human security, a concept that sought to promote the protection of people against extreme and multifaceted threats, the development of the human person and the strengthening of initiatives that focused on the human factor. Human security played a significant role in the context of global health, to which Japan attached particular importance, and his delegation hoped that the fact of not including it in the ministerial declaration would not create a precedent allowing for such omissions in texts subsequently adopted by the United Nations.

**Mr. Sammis** (United States of America) welcomed the flexibility shown by all delegations in the adoption of the ministerial declaration, especially the Group of 77, the European Union and Japan. He regretted the marked opposition to the inclusion of the principle of human security, which included many of the social determinants of health discussed in the text adopted and which was so important for Japan, a major donor in the field of development and health. He encouraged member States of the Council to work together with Japan for a consensus on the physical realization of human security.

**Ms. Aitimova** (Kazakhstan) described the text adopted as historic, especially given the economic crisis raging in all countries. Solidarity and mutual assistance were especially important in times of crisis, and she supported the establishment of a trust fund for human security.

**Mr. Mohamad** (Sudan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, hoped that the consensus reached in the Council in adopting the ministerial declaration would serve as significant proof of the determination of all its members to promote global public health.

**Mr. Dahlgren** (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the commitments in the ministerial declaration were significant and responsible, but their implementation would perhaps achieve even greater importance. Addressing the issue of human security, he said that the European Union was in no way opposed to the concept and recalled in that regard that at the 2005 Summit on the follow-up to the Millennium Declaration leaders had pledged to discuss the concept and establish a definition.

#### *Closure of the high-level debate*

**Mr. Sha Zukang** (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) said that the high-level session had been unique in the degree of participation and the range of issues that had been debated in a constructive and fruitful manner, and he reviewed the most significant messages generated by the session. Maternal mortality and its causes, namely, poverty and the lack of primary health care, prenatal and postnatal care, education and information, had taken centre stage in the discussions. Given the strong correlation between child health and the health of the mother, it was essential to take urgent and decisive action in that regard. In terms of primary health care, developing countries faced an exodus of health personnel to developed countries and a lack of financial resources, which prevented them from setting up sustainable health systems.

New challenges in health had also figured prominently in the discussions. The epidemic of the H1N1 influenza virus had been added to the food, energy, climate and financial crises. Meanwhile, developing countries had drawn attention to the tropical diseases, which had been neglected so far, and to non-communicable diseases and accidents, which were devastating the population. International financial and trade institutions that had participated in the high-level debate had shown caution with regard to developments in the global economic situation and had expressed concern about the plight of the developing world in that connection, fearing in particular that the least developed and landlocked developing countries

and small island developing States would suffer the greatest setbacks.

On a more positive note, the national presentations of the highest quality made by several countries would surely be useful to all members of the Council and also provided valuable lessons for the future work of the Council. The broad participation of all partners had been very encouraging, indicating clearly that, in seeking solutions to common problems, the international community must show solidarity and demonstrate resolve.

He said, in conclusion, that the ministerial declaration would, like all other controversial instruments, form a lasting impression, and recalled that consideration of the implementation of the declaration would take place at the 2010 session of the Council in New York, which would serve as a true test of the work of the Council.

**The President** said, in her concluding remarks, that the ministerial declaration emphasized the centrality of public health in the development process and the importance of a comprehensive, horizontal and multi-sectoral approach to policies in that field. The text stressed the importance of a country-specific approach, while recognizing the important contribution of partnerships and collaboration among the various actors. The issue of resources, their sustainability and predictability figured prominently in such considerations, as well as innovative sources of financing. The document that had been adopted formed a whole, reflecting the Council's efforts to help achieve development goals, particularly those relating to global public health.

*The meeting rose at 9.20 p.m.*