



# Economic and Social Council

Provisional

31 December 2012

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## Substantive session of 2012

### High-level segment

#### Provisional summary record of the 20th meeting (Chamber A)

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 6 July 2012, at 3 p.m.

*President:* Mr. Koterec. . . . . (Slovakia)

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Development Cooperation Forum (*continued*)

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

**Development Cooperation Forum** (*continued*) (E/2012/11, E/2012/15 and Adds. 1 and 2, E/2012/50, E/2012/78 and E/2012/83)

1. *A panel discussion on the topic “Gearing global development cooperation towards sustainable development: Where do we go from Rio”, chaired by Mr. Koterec (Slovakia), President of the Council, and moderated by Mr. Luis-Alfonso de Alba (Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations), was held. The Chair made a statement and introduced the panellists: Mr. Sha Zukang (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs); Mr. Jean-Baptiste Mattei (Director-General for Globalization, Development and Partnerships, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, France); Mr. Roberto Bissio (Coordinator, Social Watch); and Mr. Juan Somavía (Director-General, International Labour Organization). An interactive discussion, in which the representative of Belarus and the observer for the Trade Union Development Cooperation Network, affiliated through the International Trade Union Confederation, participated, ensued. The moderator made concluding remarks.*

2. *A second panel discussion on the topic “Forging ahead: Partnering for the future of development”, chaired by Mr. Koterec (Slovakia), President of the Council, and moderated by Mr. Bruce Jones ( Director, Center on International Cooperation, New York University), was held. The moderator made a statement and introduced the panellists: Mr. Kim Bong-hyun (Deputy Minister of Multilateral and Global Affairs, Republic of Korea); Mr. Rogelio Granguillhome (Executive Director, Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation); Mr. Katsuji Imata (Acting Secretary General, CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation); and Mr. Talaat Abdel Malek ( Co-Chair, Development Assistance Committee, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD/DAC) Working Party on Aid Effectiveness; Economic Adviser to the Minister of International Cooperation, Egypt). An interactive discussion, in which the representatives of Nicaragua and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); the observer for Uganda; and a representative of Messeh International participated, ensued. The moderator made concluding remarks.*

3. **Mr. Eliasson** (Deputy Secretary-General), in his first public statement in a United Nations body since

taking up his duties as Deputy Secretary-General, congratulated the Council, on behalf of the Secretary-General, for convening a successful third Development Cooperation Forum. There were ongoing economic, food and fuel crises; social upheavals had reshaped the world and the policy agenda; there had been many serious natural disasters and humanitarian crises; and several countries were in political transitions or special situations that required support in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance, human rights and peacekeeping.

4. It was urgent to accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and to ensure that the global financial crisis did not undermine development cooperation efforts. At the same time, many current trends were potentially beneficial. Developing countries were aligning the aid that they received with their national development plans and strategies with greater involvement of stakeholders, they had stronger economic ties among themselves and they had recently experienced economic growth. There had been progress in poverty reduction in all regions; several countries in Asia, Latin America and Africa were now providing resources of their own and a geo-economic realignment was taking place, including with the emergence of influential groupings such as the Group of 20 and powerful actors in civil society and the business community. The United Nations was responding actively to that new environment and was striving to tap the potential of the dynamic economies that had emerged. It was working to make development cooperation more responsive, results-oriented, participatory and accountable in order to make global economic governance more inclusive and more effective.

5. Three and a half years remained before the 2015 target for achievement of the MDGs. The outcome document of the recent United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) provided a foundation for a sustainable future, including an agreement to establish a set of sustainable development goals as part of the development agenda beyond 2015. Experience with the MDGs had brought some successes and equally important lessons. Any new global development framework should build on that progress and fill any remaining gaps and should provide a long-term strategy that integrated complex and overlapping challenges, from energy, hunger and population to urbanization, infrastructure, agriculture,

health and climate change. The task was a daunting one and the remaining development challenges would require strong, far-reaching mutual efforts. He looked forward to working with the Council to help build a future of shared prosperity for all in a healthy and peaceful world.

6. **Mr. Sha Zukang** (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) said that on multiple occasions and in many corners of the world, he had witnessed an unusual degree of enthusiasm, engagement and fresh thinking around the Development Cooperation Forum. Practitioners and policy-makers alike had reiterated that discussions in the Forum could have a significant impact on country-level policies, capacity development, innovation and partnerships in response to inter-linked development challenges. The Forum was much more than a “talk shop”; it delivered concrete policy recommendations and guidelines for development work on the ground, tailored to respond to specific challenges and shaped by multi-stakeholder deliberations. He encouraged the Council to ensure that the Forum continued to address critical gaps in the international debate on development cooperation.

7. As Secretary-General of Rio+20, he was pleased that the Conference had renewed political commitment for sustainable development and that its outcome document and the development agenda beyond 2015 were likely to have important implications for the future role of development cooperation. In that context, the Forum could help focus the attention of the international community on the role of development cooperation and was well placed to foster a constructive dialogue among all concerned actors that did not shy away from sensitive issues. He called on the Council to make even better use of that unique mechanism in the years to come.

8. **The President** summarized the discussions during the 2012 Development Cooperation Forum and said that the Forum and its preparatory meetings had provided a platform for Governments, civil society, the private sector, parliamentarians and decentralized actors to develop best-practice standards on key issues that could be adapted and applied to national circumstances, particularly in the areas of mutual accountability and results for women. The participants had suggested that for its next phase, the Forum should focus on how development cooperation should adapt to the sustainable development agenda beyond 2015

within the changing global landscape; catalyse other sources of finance for sustainable development in order to reduce long-term aid dependence; capitalize on comparative advantages and learn from the results of cooperation provided by all types of providers; accelerate progress towards more accountable, transparent and results-oriented development partnerships; and enhance the impact of those efforts at the national level. He urged all stakeholders to accelerate progress towards the MDGs and sustainable development and jointly to shape the development agenda beyond 2015.

*The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.*