



CHAPTER FIVE

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC)

Members of the Economic and Social Council:

Algeria	Guyana	Philippines
Angola	Haiti	Poland
Austria	Iceland	Portugal
Barbados	Indonesia	Republic of Korea
Belarus	Iraq	Republic of
Benin	Japan	Moldova
Bolivia	Kazakhstan	Romania
Brazil	Liechtenstein	Russian
Cameroon	Luxembourg	Federation
Canada	Madagascar	Saint Lucia
Cape Verde	Malawi	Saudi Arabia
China	Malaysia	Somalia
Congo	Mauritania	Sri Lanka
Cuba	Mozambique	Sudan
Czech Republic	Netherlands	Sweden
El Salvador	New Zealand	United Kingdom
France	Niger	United States of
Greece	Pakistan	America
Guinea-Bissau	Paraguay	Uruguay

The Purview of the Simulation: The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is the principal UN organ responsible for coordinating economic, social and related works of 14 specialized agencies, 9 functional commissions and five regional commissions. ECOSOC accepts reports and recommendations from other UN bodies, including the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) and the Economic and Social Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). Along with its coordinating role, ECOSOC gathers information and advises Member States on economic, social, humanitarian and human rights programs. ECOSOC also coordinates and collaborates with autonomous specialized agencies that work closely with the United Nations. These include multilateral financial and trade institutions, such as the World Bank and the World Trade Organization.

Website: www.un.org/docs/ecosoc/

SUPPORT TO NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

At its inception, the United Nations took on responsibility for the lingering colonial possessions of many states. More than 80 former colonies have since reached independent status. The UN Charter compels all administering powers to take into account the economic, social and political needs of the former colonies, now termed Non-Self-Governing Territories (Territories), and assist in the creation of proper forms of self-governance. The administering powers are also obliged to report conditions and progress in the Territories to the United Nations. The sixteen remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories are: Western Sahara, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands (Malvinas), Montserrat, St. Helena, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands, Gibraltar, American Samoa, Guam, New Caledonia, Pitcairn, and Tokelau.

The General Assembly passed the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and People in 1960. In the Declaration the UN declared that Non-Self-Governing Territories are entitled to self-determination and independence. To support this Declaration, the General Assembly created the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (also known as the Committee of 24) which reviews the status of each of the Territories and reports to the General Assembly on a regular basis.

In 2005, the General Assembly requested that the agencies and organizations of the United Nations, as well as international and regional organizations, examine and review conditions in each Non-Self-Governing Territory and take the appropriate action to promote social and economic progress in the Territories. The same resolution also commends the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for its debate on the subject, and requests it to consider the best means of coordination of the specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly. The 2006 report from responding organizations indicates the areas in which the United Nations programs and other organizations are making progress in the Territories.

The United Nations specialized agencies, along with other UN organizations and regional organizations were asked to review the state of affairs in each of the remaining Territories in order to develop action plans that would accelerate economic and social development in the Territories. The specialized agencies were also asked to increase measures already in place that support the Territories. The specialized agencies were also asked to provide information to the United Nations on environmental problems facing the Territories; measures to reduce the impact of natural disasters; measures to fight drug trafficking, money laundering and other criminal activities; and the illegal exploitation of marine resources in efforts to provide support to the Territories. Because of the limited natural resources and fragile economies, the Territories have limited internal resources to address these issues without assistance from the UN.

Specialized agencies that have had active roles in fostering development in the Territories include the International Labour Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the United

Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). UNDP has provided technical assistance and policy advice on macroeconomics, financial and fiscal management, and production and management of economic statistics to the Territories.

With continued support from the United Nations and its specialized agencies, the goal of self-determination and independence for the Non-Self Governing Territories is attainable. ECOSOC remains committed to fostering and promoting engagement by the specialized agencies of the United Nations in order to promote economic and social development of the Territories.

Questions to consider from your government's perspective on this issue include:

- What is the role the administrative powers in facilitating assistance for the Territories from the specialized UN agencies?
- What level of involvement should the UN specialized agencies have in the decolonization process? How can the specialized UN agencies best work to assist in the decolonization process?
- What are the unique needs of the Non-Self-Governing Territories with regards to social and economic development?

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Additional Web Resources:

- www.un.org/depts/dpi/decolonization/main.htm - The United Nations and Decolonization
- www.un.org/depts/dpi/decolonization/special_committee_main.htm
-- Special Committee of 24 on Decolonization

UNITED NATIONS PUBLIC-PRIVATE ALLIANCE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Rural development is an essential component of the United Nations sustainable development agenda; nearly three-quarters of the world's population live in rural areas and are dependent on agriculture activities for their livelihood. Current economic estimates suggest that by 2025 the majority of the global population will live in urban settings, but that 60% of persons living in poverty will still be in rural areas. In order to meet targets set by the Millennium Development Goals for poverty reduction and sustainable development the UN must promote and support efforts to enhance rural development.

The promotion of rural development and sustainable agriculture is addressed in Chapter 14 of Agenda 21, which was the outcome of United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (also known as the Earth Summit), held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. Later in 1995, the Commission on Sustainable Development addressed rural development, noting that while some success had been made, progress in promoting development in rural areas in many countries was slow. Rural development was again addressed at the five-year review of Agenda 21 in 1997. In 2000, the United Nations set specific targets for decreasing poverty and promoting development in the Millennium Development Goals. At its 2008/2009 session the Commission on Sustainable Development will also address rural development.

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) decided to take up "Promoting an integrated approach to rural development in developing countries for poverty eradication and sustainable development" as its 2003 High Level Segment. At the end of the session, ECOSOC adopted a Ministerial Declaration on promoting an integrated approach to rural development in developing countries for poverty eradication and sustainable development.

In the Declaration, ECOSOC stated that rural development should be an integral part of national and international development policies and that "Rural development should be pursued through an integrated approach, encompassing the economic, social and environmental dimensions, taking into account the gender perspective and consisting of mutually reinforcing policies and programmes." A key element stressed in the Declaration was the role of partnerships and alliances from across a broad range of sectors in order to promote an integrated approach to rural development. ECOSOC pledged to "facilitate and nurture alliances of governments, donors, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector for promoting integrated rural development." The Secretary-General also emphasized the recognition of the essential role partnerships play in promoting rural development.

To that end, the United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development (UNPPA) was created by ECOSOC with the goal of identifying and promoting successful business policies and practices that encourage economic and social progress in rural areas. The major

goals of the Alliance are to (a) work as a catalyst and facilitator for the creation of partnerships; (b) provide a platform for collaboration; and (c) bring the results of these efforts to the attention of the international community through the Council.

ECOSOC selected Madagascar and the Dominican Republic to serve as the first two pilot countries for the project. Two national mechanisms, Alliance Madagascar and the Presidential Commission, were created to support the Alliance's work in the respective countries. The first assessment of the two pilot programs has been completed and the results were presented to ECOSOC at the 2007 session. The major findings of the assessment are that there is still a need to enhance the skill base for partnership development and that both national mechanisms should cultivate closer ties with development partners to increase support for the project and this limited skill base is the greatest barrier to successful public-private partnerships.

The assessment also concluded that both human and institutional capacity for partnership development needs to be strengthened and the UN system has an opportunity to assist by supporting capacity building that is linked to objectives in both countries. To that end, ECOSOC has invited Madagascar and the Dominican Republic to conduct assessments of their own capacity and mechanisms for developing and promoting public-private partnerships. The assessment also recommended. Additionally, support for global information dissemination can be further strengthened. Partnership offices across the United Nations systems should assist in partnership development in their respective programmatic areas as it relates to rural development. Also Angola and Ethiopia have agreed to serve as the third and fourth pilot countries.

Meeting UN Millennium Development Goals for sustainable development will require a focused effort toward rural development. The collaborative approach with multi-sector alliances taken by UNPPA enhances the opportunities and resources available for sustainable rural development programs. The Alliance's strength lies in its ability to pull together existing networks and programmes that can promote development. Moreover, the Alliance allows ECOSOC the opportunity to respond directly to the challenge of meeting the Millennium Development Goals. Looking forward, ECOSOC will need to consider how best to support and promote the work of the Alliance so that opportunities for rural development are fully realized.

Questions to consider from your government's perspective on this issue include:

- What steps can the international community take to assist counties in promoting rural development?
- What other opportunities for partnerships with the private sector exist for promoting rural development?
- What can be learned from the successes and failures of the pilot nations? How can these lessons be used to improve future partnerships?
- What are the successful models that can be used in other countries?

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- www.ifad.org - International Fund for Agricultural Development
- www.un.org/esa/coordination/desc.htm - Office for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination
- www.un.org/esa/coordination/Alliance/MADAGASCAR%20ACTION%20PLAN.htm – Madagascar Action Plan
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ANNUAL MINISTERIAL REVIEW: IMPLEMENTING THE INTERNATIONALLY AGREED GOALS AND COMMITMENTS IN REGARD TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

During the 2005 World Summit, governments and heads of state established the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) as a mandated reassessment of UN Conferences and summits related to UN Development Goals. As a part of the mandate, substantive annual ministerial-level reviews occur to measure progress, gauge efficiency of programs intended to forward the strategy and objectives of the UN Development Goals, and identify promising practices, techniques and methods that have been successful in meeting these development goals. The major focus of the AMR is achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), as well as the United Nations Development Agenda (UNDA), which is comprised of targets and goals established over the last 15 years by UN Conferences and summits. The AMR is intended as a tool to strengthen ECOSOC prerogatives and ensure effective implementation of UNDA programs.

The three central elements of the AMR are a worldwide review of the UNDA, a thematic review, and national presentations that are done on a voluntary basis, relating to their own national development targets and goals. Eight countries volunteered to present to present at the 2008 ministerial review. They were Belgium, Chile, Finland, Kazakhstan, Luxembourg, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the United Kingdom, and the United Republic of Tanzania. The 2008 AMR will take place 2-3 July 2008, during the high-level segment of the ECOSOC Substantive Session, at the UN Headquarters in New York. The Economic and Social Council is expected to adopt a ministerial declaration at the end of the high-level segment. The major UN commitments on sustainable development include Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and Millennium Development Goal 7. The AMR will examine the status of the implementation of both the Johannesburg Programme of Implementation and Agenda 21 and examine ways in which to incorporate Millennium Development Goal 7 into the implementation of the other MDGs. The AMR will also discuss the challenges in generating support for sustainable development at the national level.

In preparation for the AMR, an e-discussion on achieving sustainable development was jointly organized by the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and its global development network and the United Nations Development Plan (UNDP). It took place from 4 February to 14 March 2008. The e-discussion served as a means to engage experts, practitioners, and policy-makers from various regions and stakeholder groups in a global dialog on specific aspects of the implementation of the internationally agreed upon goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development.

Following the e-discussion, a preparatory meeting was held on 6 March 2008. The sessions at the meeting focused on the role of the AMR in implementation of, and the role ECOSOC has in, meeting sustainable development goals. One of the policy initiatives discussed at the meeting was the creation of employment to stimulate economic growth and civil stability as an essential step toward sustainable poverty reduction.

Discussion at the Review focused on the three main components of sustainable development – economic growth, social development and environmental protection. During the session developing countries agreed to commonly pursue the theme of poverty eradication through economically, socially, and environmentally sound strategies. The global community acknowledged the current major challenges to achieving sustainable development that include financial instability and uncertainty, slow economic growth, raising food and fuel prices and the detrimental impacts of environmental degradation and climate change. Discussion at the Review emphasized the need for states to develop integrated policy frameworks to address sustainable development in a coordinated manner.

While sustainable development is primarily addressed at the national level, the international community plays an important role in supporting these goals. In particular, the global community has a responsibility to expand development opportunities for developing countries and can support national efforts by strengthening indicators that integrate all three components of sustainable development. The Economic and Social Council was asked to continue its review of the progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and other international commitments towards sustainable development.

In order to meet the collective sustainable development goals both individual and collective action will need to be coordinated across a range of stakeholders to ensure progress is maintained. The AMR is a tool for ECOSOC to better assess the successes and roadblocks developing nations face in achieving sustainability. The review gives the global community an opportunity to reaffirm their international commitments to sustainable development including the Millennium Development Goals. The ultimate goal is twofold; to give developing nations a greater voice in international affairs and to better implement the international development agenda. The AMR is a unique intergovernmental, multi-stakeholder platform for the assessment of sustainable development goals with the ultimate goal of providing a direct link between policy and action.

Questions to consider from your government's perspective on this issue include:

- In what ways can the international community facilitate access to resources for developing countries to achieve sustainable goals?
- What role does the United Nations have in developing solutions to the challenges of sustainability, such as financial instability and uncertainty, slow economic growth, raising food and fuel prices?
- What initiatives might be considered to improve the effectiveness of lagging progress in meeting AMR goals related to MDGs?
- How can international and national coordination and focus be better achieved and maintained in regard to AMRs?

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www.un.org/esa/sustdev - UN Division for Sustainable Development
www.un.org/ecosoc/newfunct/amr2008.shtml - 2008 Annual Ministerial Review homepage

REPORTS OF THE COMMISSION ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND THE ECONOMICAL (CCPCJ) AND SOCIAL COMMISSION ON LATIN AMERICAN AND THE CARIBBEAN (ECLAC)

In addition to the three main topics on ECOSOC’s agenda, the Council will also receive reports on the final day from the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Economical (CCPCJ) and Social Commission on Latin American and the Caribbean (ECLAC). As functional and regional commission established by ECOSOC, the CCPCJ and ECLAC are required to make annual reports on their activities to the members of ECOSOC. While these reports are generally accepted pro forma, ECOSOC may also choose to take some action on the recommendations contained in the report. These bodies may also present their recommendations in resolution format, allowing ECOSOC the chance to review and formally pass the proposals.

To facilitate this process, the final day will culminate in a joint session at which the reports and recommendations will be made to ECOSOC. Following each presentation, it will be up to the joint session to take further action. Please be aware that, as commissions of ECOSOC, these bodies have been given significant responsibilities to study, review, debate and decide on recommended actions within specific topical areas that ECOSOC felt should be dealt with in greater detail than could be addressed by the main body. It is recommended that all Representatives assigned to ECOSOC also review the background section on the CCPCJ (Chapter VI) and ECLAC (Chapter VII), and possibly choose to do some additional research into these topics.