

**DRAFT CLOSING STATEMENT
BY THE PRESIDENT OF ECOSOC
AT THE CONCLUSION OF ECOSOC SUBSTANTIVE SESSION
2002**

Check against delivery

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Congratulations on a job well done!

I wish to thank all of you for a successful ECOSOC session. Each of our five segments have achieved their goals of providing a comprehensive platform for policy deliberations and recommendations, and new initiatives on a broad range of global concerns in economic and social areas.

At the outset, I would like to start with a very special acknowledgement and warm thanks to my four Vice Presidents, Ambassador Rosenthal, Ambassador Rasi, Ambassador Buallay, and Ambassador Kumalo for the excellence and professionalism of their work.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Let me sum up the key outcomes of our session. This session was held at a time when the UN system is gearing up to pursue the internationally agreed development goals including those contained in the Millennium Declaration. It was also held at a crucial juncture in the cycle of major UN conferences, soon after the Monterey Conference, and just before the Johannesburg Summit. The Council thus, had a unique opportunity to help bring all those strands together and contribute to the development of a holistic and comprehensive approach in the follow up to the development agenda emerging from these conferences. I am happy to say that the Council succeeded in doing so in many ways. The impressive roster of participants from Ministers and policy makers, heads of UN agencies, funds and programmes and leaders, to civil society and the business sector in the high-level segment shows that, when the Council takes a lead in discussing current pressing issues, stakeholders at the highest level are eager to come and contribute. More importantly we

have shown that we can capture and generate the same kind of dynamics and energy that characterizes major UN conferences.

The high-level segment made an important contribution to the efforts for achieving the development goals of the Millennium Declaration. The Ministerial Declaration adopted by the Council sends a clear and strong message on the centrality of human development to the goals of sustainable development and poverty eradication. It stresses the importance of a multisectoral approach to human resource development. It makes a strong call for providing more resources for education and health, in particular, for HIV/AIDS and the Global Fund. The Declaration also calls for coordinated action by the UN system for implementing the human resources development goals set in UN summits and conferences.

Our debate with heads of financial and trade institutions showed that, given the uncertainty of recovery in the world economy, further progress in the areas of ODA, debt relief, trade and investment is needed to create an enabling environment for development and to generate resources for health and education services. This will be an important dimension of the follow-up to the Monterrey Consensus and its commitments. ECOSOC has clearly expressed its determination to carry out the role assigned to it in the follow up to Monterrey, working together with the Bretton Woods institutions, the WTO and all other stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector in meeting the new challenges placed before it at Monterrey.

The Johannesburg Summit will test the political will of the international community to build on the momentum created by the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Ministerial Declaration and to make progress towards the implementation of the goals and commitments made at UN conferences and summits including the Millennium Summit. ECOSOC has contributed to this end by providing guidance for policy coherence and coordination of the UN system.

Our unprecedented interactive programme facilitated networking and contacts, and brought key development partners into close contact with governments and organizational decision-makers. Two sets of Ministerial Round Table breakfasts on several topics related to the goals of the Millennium Summit were organized with the participation of several executive heads of the UN system organizations, as well as, a luncheon on the first day.

This year's coordination segment focused on another goal of the Millennium Declaration: the strengthening of ECOSOC. The segment made progress on a number of issues, for example, the follow-up to major UN conferences and summits, ECOSOC's contribution to peace-building, and how to improve the ECOSOC's working methods and the effectiveness and impact of its work.

A clear message of the Agreed conclusions is the importance of ECOSOC in promoting an integrated and coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits. This is a key signal, between Monterrey and Johannesburg, as we all clearly see the need for a well-integrated effort to implement these conferences and earlier ones. There was also agreement that ECOSOC should enhance policy coherence and coordination among its subsidiary bodies and the UN system organizations. You took a number of decisions on how ECOSOC could better discharge its functions in this regard. For instance, you pointed to the Council's role to address themes common to all conferences and new and evolving issues. You agreed to address related themes at ECOSOC's coordination and high-level segments in certain years, so as to look at the policy and coordination dimensions of a particular issue.

You also stressed that the Boards of the funds and programmes should ensure that policy guidance from the General Assembly and the Council, including on the follow-up to conferences and summits is translated into operational guidelines and programmes.

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At the opening of the substantive session, I mentioned that the success of ECOSOC should be measured not by the number of resolutions that is adopts, but by the impact that is has on the lives of real people. With the establishment of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on African Countries Emerging from Conflict, the Council took a concrete step to contribute to an integrated approach to peace building and development. I can inform you that this morning I received the official request of Guinea Bissau for ECOSOC to establish an advisory group on this country. We will be reviewing this request and hopefully we will begin to deliver without delay.

Turning to the segment on operational activities for development, particular attention was devoted to the need to increase the funding for the regular or core development work of the funds and programmes UN system support on capacity building, on simplification and harmonization of rules and procedures on operational activities, and on the assessment of the overall effectiveness of operational activities for development of the UN system. The segment included a first round of policy exchange with the executive heads of the Funds and Programmes to be continued later following the Johannesburg Summit and a presentation by UN country teams. I trust that the segment provided useful guidance to the system.

As to the humanitarian affairs segment, it reaffirmed the important role of ECOSOC in providing guidance to the United Nations on the coordination of humanitarian assistance. It recognized the valuable activities of the United Nations in the field of humanitarian assistance in the past years and urged increased support for these activities while maintaining the needed focus on development funding.

The general segment confirmed the continued, important role of the Council to review and guide different elements of the work of the system from an overall perspective, maintain the focus on the follow-up to the Millennium Declaration and conferences, and to reflect on cross-cutting policy issues emerging from its subsidiary machinery. Extensive informal consultations held on the sidelines of the formal session, enabled delegations to go through the many proposals emanating from the Council's subsidiary machinery and to reach agreement on a number of resolutions.

As has often been recognized, there is a dire need to ensure that the rather large array of disjointed issues on this segment's agenda should be given more focus and direction. At the same time, the segment addressed major issues such as the follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development, coordinated conference follow-up, and engaged in new items such as the Plan of Action on LDCs and mainstreaming a gender perspective in all the policies and programmes of the United Nations. It is worthwhile mentioning that, during the segment, for the first time ever the bureau of ECOSOC met with chairpersons of the functional commissions to ensure better coordination and synergic effects. It has become clear that the Council is increasingly committed to ensuring that the segment's guidance is effectively implemented by the United Nations system at large. Some of the issues we will continue to address immediately after Johannesburg and before our first resumed session in mid October.

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In closing, one word more on all of your contributions to the accomplishments of this substantive session of the Council 2002. There was a positive atmosphere, atmosphere of optimism, that working together we can make a real difference. This session reflects the spirit of cooperation and constructive dialogue, which has taken place here in the Council by all of the participants during these past four weeks. The untiring work and commitment by the Secretariat, including the dedicated support of Mr. Civili, Mr. Khan and their team, was instrumental in helping us to reach a consensus on the complex and difficult issues addressed by the Council. I would like to extend to all of you my gratitude and thanks for your help in making this substantive session a success. I would also like to express our appreciation and thanks to the Secretary of the Council, Ms. Kelley and her team who play such an indispensable role in making everything work under very trying and difficult circumstances. One of them, a very excellent member, Ms. Kate Starr-Newell, unfortunately will not be with us for the next substantive session of ECOSOC because of her retirement. I would like to thank her for everything that she has done for the work of ECOSOC and the UN. The conference officers, the interpreters, and all those who worked to make our session a success, deserve our gratitude as well. Last, but not least, I would like to thank my own ECOSOC team from the Croatian Mission for all their support in making me look better than I really was.

Excellencies,
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The message that this substantive session of ECOSOC has sent to Johannesburg and beyond is loud and clear. I trust that the international community will respond with equal commitment and energy. These dynamics can make it possible to fulfil our pledges to reduce poverty and reach our Millennium Development Goals.

Thank you once again, congratulations, have a good vacation, and see you in Johannesburg next month where we will continue our cooperation for another success!