

SPEECH BY H.E. AMBASSADOR AHMET ÜZÜMCÜ
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Mr. President,

This session of ECOSOC is of particular significance as we conduct the first Annual Ministerial Review.

My Delegation shares the widely held view that, as a global high-level forum with broad-based participation, the AMR has the potential to serve as a powerful new tool in advancing the implementation of the UN development agenda. We, too, believe that it provides a forum for an exchange of lessons learned and successful approaches and practices.

Mr. President,

The theme of the substantive discussions this year is especially well chosen. Although we all agree that, absolute poverty continues to decline, the rate of improvement is insufficient to achieve the goals outlined in the Millennium Declaration. That is why *strengthening* ongoing efforts at all levels to promote pro-poor sustained economic growth, and *strengthening* efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger ought to be our priority tasks.

The challenges are immense. Eight million people, most of whom live in Asia and Africa die every year due to malnutrition and poverty. Approximately 800 million people in the developing world are chronically undernourished.

Mr. President these are not simple figures. Human beings no different than any one of us are in question. Their suffering is morally unacceptable. Poverty and hunger are also economically wrong and politically dangerous. Development and the eruption of conflicts are closely interrelated. Our success in defeating world poverty will no doubt contribute to our collective security and to the establishment of a more stable and peaceful international order.

Mr. President,

The Secretary-General's report prepared for the theme of AMR notes that "many of the initiatives and actions highlighted in the United Nations global conferences and elsewhere are yielding positive results". We welcome this information. Indeed, according to latest figures, the percentage of the developing world that is living in extreme poverty has fallen from 28% in 1990s to 18.4% in 2004. The percentage of people living in chronic hunger has also significantly dropped. Employment in developing countries as well as the primary gross employment rate has steadily risen from 2000 onwards. Nevertheless, there remains an enormous backlog of deprivation and international solidarity is still short of need. We have a long way to go before our deeds match our words.

Mr. President

On the implementation side, attaining the Millennium Development Goals requires a comprehensive, balanced, interdisciplinary and coordinated approach.

Developed countries must fulfil their commitment to a genuine and mutually beneficial global partnership for development. International cooperation and greater policy coordination at global scale is crucial. At the same time, this

cooperation should be geared towards supporting countries in their efforts to develop national development policies.

Mr. President, now I would like to give a brief summary of Turkey's activities in South-South and triangular cooperation.

Turkey attaches utmost importance to strengthening its bilateral, multilateral, technical and economic cooperation with developing countries in order to increase the effectiveness of its development assistance as well as to reinforce its emerging donor country status at regional and global levels.

In support of international development efforts, Turkey has provided an estimated 700 million US dollars in 2006, as Official Development Assistance (ODA). The Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA), established in 1992, is the lead agency in coordinating the flow of Turkish ODA. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs remains the official channel of communication and has the overall responsibility of coordinating multilateral and bilateral technical cooperation activities.

Turkey also shares with partner countries its experience and know-how in areas where it has been successful. Having transformed from an agriculture-based economy to one of trade and industry, Turkey has much to share with countries that are going through a similar process while facing the challenges of globalization. This transfer of experience and know-how, initially focused on Central Asia, the Caucasus and other neighbouring regions. In recent years, however, Turkey has expanded the geographical scope of its ODA by assisting African countries in their struggle against poverty. In order to coordinate these activities, TIKA has opened 3 regional field offices in Ethiopia, Sudan and Senegal.

A total of ninety countries benefited from 931 TİKA projects and activities in 2006. This represents a 66 percent increase in comparison to 2005. Half of these projects were implemented in the Caucasus and Central Asia, 30 percent in the Balkans and Eastern Europe, and 15 percent in Africa and the Middle East.

While developing and implementing these projects and activities, TİKA cooperates with other bilateral as well as multilateral donors. Turkey's partners in this regard along with some donor countries are mainly OECD, UNDP, UNIDO, FAO, ITC and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB).

Mr. President,

Turkey has been identified as a "pivotal country" in Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) mechanism. A TCDC umbrella project co-funded by the UNDP and the Turkish Government is underway. 200 TCDC arrangements have been put into practice in the fields of group training, study tours, job training consultancy services and project implementation.

On a different but related note, and in line with our policy of placing emphasis on development issues within the UN framework, Turkey is hosting a Ministerial Conference entitled "Making Globalisation Work for the Least Developed Countries", which will be held next week in Istanbul.

This Conference seeks to address global imbalances, which exacerbate poverty in LDCs and prevent them from fully and effectively implementing the Programme of Action of the Least Developed Countries for the decade 2001-2010, as well as their beneficial integration in the world economy. The Conference is organised in collaboration with the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least

Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) and the UNDP.

Mr. President,

Eradication of poverty is neither an unattainable aspiration nor an unreachable goal. However, words must not be left afloat or confined to the annals of history. It is of paramount importance to ensure full implementation and a proper follow-up to the outcomes and commitments of major UN conferences on development, if they are to make any difference. In this regard, my Delegation is of the view that the UN has a crucial role to play. It is essential for the UN to support a more comprehensive and coherent development agenda, to ensure greater coordination of the activities of its specialized agencies, Funds and Programmes. In this respect, significant progress has been achieved though much remains to be done. Member states should fully support all efforts and initiatives to that effect.

Turkey is committed to playing her part in addressing the needs of the Least Developed Countries and assisting them in their efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Confident that many of these points will be adequately addressed under your able stewardship during this substantive session, I thank you, Mr. President.

