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statement by

His Excellency Mr. Adrian Neritani

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Albania
to the United Nations

at the

Annual Ministerial Review

"Strengthening efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, including
through the global partnership for development"

Geneva, 4 July 2006

- Check against delivery -

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the outset I would like to express my country's full recognition for the AMR which, along with the DCF represent the two new functions given to ECOSOC which will serve as tools to implement and increase the efforts in national and international level to meet the MDGs by 2015. I also avail myself of this opportunity to express our thanks and appreciation to the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report on this matter.

Albania aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished delegate of Portugal on behalf of EU, therefore I would limit myself on few remarks.

While welcoming the positive signal that comes from the report of the SG on the fact that the absolute poverty continues to decline in the global level, we remain very concerned for the low expectations in the sub-Saharan Africa. This part of the world should not stop being considered as a priority for the concerted efforts.

We also believe that poverty and hunger have multidimensional root causes and symptoms and efforts to eradicate require simultaneous progress in all the combined areas with measurable goals and indicators. This assumption is compatible with the theme of this AMR because only through concerted efforts in a global level with responsible and accountable national governments, we could achieve the eradication of poverty and hunger and the MDGs on time.

We have considered the global partnership and cooperation as an interlinked process where the donor countries and agencies work complementarily with the recipient countries. My country is one of the best examples of that. The Albanian government in close cooperation with international donors and financing agencies has been addressing many crucial problems in areas of education, health, rural development, financial reforms, agriculture etc, under the framework of an Integrated Planning System (IPS). This is a combination of a global agenda (MDG), a regional one (EU and NATO integration) and national development agenda strategy. An example would be the concrete action taken to reduce *urban poverty*. Establishing of slums and extralegal settlements in the surroundings of the big cities was a new phenomenon and the scale was too enormous to be handled by a country in transition. It is encouraging to observe that how this extralegality was gradually transformed into a process of real urbanization and development. Albanian government in cooperation with donors has designed strategies for integrating this population. This is a process of recognition of the magnitude, of a political will and courage to do that, despite the short term multiple cost, of establishing reliable bridges of incorporation and inclusion, and determination to implement and enforce strategies that may produce relatively minimal social effects. This is not simply a matter of law and order, but of economics and business, human rights and democracy through empowerment. The remedy has to start with the recognition of shortcomings in a forward looking approach, where all can and have to contribute and be responsible citizens of their own country.

Albania shares the premise that the primary responsibility for development lies with the country itself, even going the extra mile. However, in building a more effective global partnership for development the voices of all stakeholders can and have to be heard in global dialogue and policy making to contribute and be responsible for the destiny of our common world.

Mr. President,

After a decade of intensive attention paid to most pressing developmental problems, Albanian government has done impressive progress in direction of good governance at all levels by increasing managerial integrity w/n administration, creating a reliable, predictable and fair enforcement of rule of law, and strengthen service delivery voice and quality and quantity of human capital. The fight against corruption, and equal social development are few other areas. Furthermore, Albanian government has been seriously engaged in designing national action plans to reduce environmental degradation. This issue thanks to the global attention is turning also in an icon which best illustrates the need for global partnership, as the 'warming' is not national but 'Global'. In this regard we believe that preventive actions in international and regional level should be accelerated as part not only of a long term strategy but also as part of a short term action-plans to combat climate change.

In this regard, the global partnership for Albania has been translated into closer ties of cooperation such as the signing of the Stabilization and Association Agreement with EU that is a very serious undertaking of the government with a very strong support from all the possible national corners. Albania has offered to be among the first to implement the One UN pilot project. This is an implementation of recognized principles into an effective and efficient delivery outcome as an accountable and responsible undertaking of all stakeholders in concerted efforts to test the ability for reform and to be part of this concerted process that belong to all of us.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate once again the serious commitment of my country to continue with the fulfillment of its obligations while fully engaging in a constructive global partnership to meet the MDG's not only in the national but also in the regional and international level.

Thank you