

ECOSOC 2006- Coordination segment

7 July

Panel discussion on: “policy approaches to achieve economic growth, poverty reduction and development: lessons learned, challenges and opportunities”

10am-1pm

Background

This year the coordination segment of the Economic and Social Council will focus on the theme “sustained growth for social development, including poverty eradication and hunger”. The theme spurred from the debate in the economic literature on the nature of the relation between economic growth and social development and how that can lead to sustained growth, poverty eradication and development. Although there is consensus on the potential complementarities between greater equity and long-term prosperity, there are still different perceptions of the short-term trade-offs between these two objectives, which has led to different views concerning their prioritization and the sequencing of economic and social policies pursuing them. These different views have been embraced by different development actors and have led to a variety of approaches in development and development cooperation policies. Against this backdrop, the coordination segment of the ECOSOC will focus on the country experience with various policy approaches and the lessons learned for development assistance. The Council will then deliberate on ways to ensure greater policy coherence and coordination within the UN system and its development partners that can facilitate a more integrated approach in the pursuit of sustained growth, poverty eradication and development.

Purpose

The panel discussion on “policy approaches to achieve economic growth, poverty eradication and development: lessons learned, challenges and opportunities” is intended to contribute to the intergovernmental debate on these issues. It will highlight successes and limits of current approaches as they emerged from the country experience and address alternative ways and solutions. The panel will bring together experts and practitioners in this field within and outside the system who will address the panel’s theme from their own perspective and experience. In particular, panelists would highlight:

1. The theoretical debate on policy approaches: pro-poor growth approaches; human development approach; and emerging alternative approaches.
2. Experiences and lessons learned by various development partners: how UN system organizations, including the BWIs have translated the normative and policy work on sustained growth and social development into programmes and activities and how that affected the policy coherence and coordination of development assistance within the system and with other development actors.
3. Experiences, and lessons learned at the national level by developing countries: developing countries’ experiences with policies and approaches to achieve sustained

economic growth and social development and lessons learned for development assistance.

The debate will provide delegations with an opportunity to hear different views and deepen their understanding of the relation between economic growth and social development, their trade-offs and complementarities and their implications for the formulation of more integrated approaches for the achievement of these objectives both at the level of national policies and at the level of development assistance. The interactive debate that will follow the panel discussion would also be an opportunity for delegations to identify areas in which more discussion is needed to enhance coherence and coordination among development actors.