

Priorities of the 58th Session of the General Assembly

Development

(A) Addressing challenges to sustainable development:

HIV/AIDS

Globalisation and trade liberalisation - issues including commodities trading and corporate accountability

Reducing and mitigating the impact of natural disasters

Conflict and development

(B) Garnering international support for the SIDS + 10 conference and its outcomes and other related issues

(C) Advancing mechanisms for the integrated and co-ordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of major UN conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, including the development goals of the Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus and the World Summit on Sustainable Development

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What have we accomplished in light of the priorities set out by this year's Presidency?

"Given the challenges we faced at the beginning and throughout the session, what we have been able to achieve together, and the ambitious agenda we have set ourselves for the remainder of the session," President Julian Hunte said, "it is safe to say that this session has thus far been nothing short of extraordinary".

One important priority was addressing the **challenges to sustainable development**.

On 22 September, the General Assembly convened a High-level plenary meeting on HIV/AIDS, to assess the worldwide fight against HIV/AIDS, two years after Member States agreed to a time-bound set of targets to roll back the disease. One hundred thirty-six speakers, among them nineteen heads of state participated in the one-day high-level plenary. The President of the Assembly then urged interventions that go hand in hand with policies that address poverty, socio-economic development, human welfare and social cohesion.

On the same Development priorities, he chaired on 21 October 2003, a Panel Discussion on International Cooperation in Tax Matters as taxation is one of the major instruments of domestic resource mobilization.

On 27 October 2003, in the same perspective, President Julian Hunte also chaired an Open-ended Panel on commodities. More than one quarter of the United Nations 191 member states rely on commodity exports for more than fifty per cent of their export earnings.

On 29 October, the Assembly opened a two-day high level dialogue on Implementation of Financing for Development Commitments. The aim of the Dialogue was to re-energize the global community's focus on issues relating to trade, aid, debt, investment and the international financial architecture

President Hunte feels that the priorities on Globalization and trade liberalization issues including commodities trading and corporate accountability were properly put in focus during these meetings.