

## Note to the Secretary-General

### UN response to the World Summit Outcome in the economic and social area: priorities and programmes, policy and action

#### I. INTRODUCTION

##### **Purpose and scope of the EC-ESA exercise**

1. In his report on implementing the decisions of the 2005 World Summit, the Secretary-General requested that, in order to address the range of important recommendations related to economic and social development, all relevant UN entities review their priorities and programmes in light of the Summit Outcome<sup>1</sup>. He asked the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs (EC-ESA) and the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) to coordinate this exercise<sup>2</sup>. Both Committees responded to this request.
2. EC-ESA adopted a two-pronged approach to respond to the Secretary-General's request. First, its Members came together to develop a common framework to guide the review of the Summit's implications in their respective entities, and the resulting realignment of priorities and programmes. At the same time, they discussed common strategic objectives in supporting the review of mandates, also called for in the Summit Outcome.
3. Second, EC-ESA's 11 task forces, bringing together programme managers in each of the main areas of work covered by the UN development agenda, reviewed the challenges and opportunities emanating from the Summit. In their respective areas, they sought to identify shifts in priorities, ways to deepen programmatic cooperation among EC-ESA entities and new initiatives – particularly joint initiatives – that should be introduced to advance the Summit Outcome.
4. The following sections of this note outline the main conclusions that have emerged from the review, first in relation to EC-ESA as a whole, both in terms of strategic priorities and working methods, and then in relation to the 11 programme sectors covered by the EC-ESA task forces.

---

<sup>1</sup> Secretary-General's report (A/60/430) on the implementation of decisions from the 2005 World Summit Outcome, paragraphs 3 and 9.

<sup>2</sup> Secretary-General's memorandum of 3 October 2005 on the decisions of the joint Management and Policy Committee's meetings.

## II. IMPLICATIONS OF THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR EC-ESA

5. The World Summit reaffirmed the centrality of development as a goal of the UN. It resulted in a wealth of new public commitments on development and unequivocally recommitted world leaders to achieving the MDGs and other internationally agreed development goals of the major United Nations conferences and summits.
6. A renewed resolve to implement this array of commitments is reflected in Member States commitment to adopt, by 2006, comprehensive national strategies to meet the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs. It also shows in the decision to assign new functions to the Economic and Social Council: conducting annual reviews of progress towards agreed development goals; convening the global Development Cooperation Forum; building the Council's capacity to respond rapidly to trends or emergencies that may threaten development progress; and reconceiving its role in fostering global policy dialogue. Each of these new tasks places ECOSOC at the centre of the effort to monitor and advance implementation.
7. The impulse towards implementation likewise guides the Summit's decision to build a more unified and coherent United Nations, more powerfully geared to provide sustained and integrated support to achieving the development goals. It also motivates the Summit's demand that the United Nations strengthen the linkages between its normative work and its operational activities.
8. Thus, the implications of the World Summit for EC-ESA are many. Besides requiring that organizations adjust their priorities and programmes to carry forward the new commitments, the Summit challenges all of the UN economic and social entities to act in concert to maximize overall UN support to the development agenda and to capitalize on the momentum that the Summit has generated. It challenges them collectively to rally behind the unitary system put in place by the Summit to monitor and advance implementation of the conference outcomes that make up that agenda, notably through the new functions of ECOSOC. And it implies a challenge to EC-ESA itself to strengthen its own role to promote coherent policies and actions on economic and social issues throughout the United Nations. The Committee is endeavouring to act on all these fronts.
9. Across development sectors, a number of areas emerged from the review as requiring a renewed joint effort from EC-ESA entities to enable the UN to respond effectively to the thrust and new emphases reflected in the Summit's Outcome Document:

First, a common effort to support progress in implementation of the outcomes of conferences and summits. This will involve undertaking strategic analysis and providing coherent advice to countries and the international community at all levels, both on policy and on measuring and monitoring progress. Both will be particularly important as countries endeavour to develop and implement their national

development strategies. The coherence of these efforts will be fostered by the new functions of ECOSOC.

Second, a commitment across all EC-ESA entities to maximize the quality and coherence of secretariat support to the new functions entrusted to ECOSOC.

Third, joint advocacy and more concerted analytical work and policy advice in support of the global partnership entered into at Monterrey, and reinforced by the Outcome Document.

Fourth, a renewed effort to advance South-South cooperation, through analytical and development work in many sectors.

Fifth, a concerted response to further consensus and actions in areas especially highlighted in the Outcome Document, including the developmental aspects of WTO negotiations; international migration; the promotion of full and productive employment and decent work; bridging the technological divide; water, climate change, energy and their interconnection; and a clear commitment to greater coordination in gender mainstreaming.

Sixth, a determination to ensure that actions in peacebuilding and actions in development are mutually reinforcing.

### III. PRIORITIES FOR THE WORK OF EC-ESA

#### 1. Supporting the new functions of ECOSOC

10. EC-ESA entities share a common strategic priority to support ECOSOC in its new functions, and to maximize EC-ESA's collective contribution to those functions.
11. EC-ESA is uniquely positioned to support the enhanced role that ECOSOC has been called to perform by the Summit. This is due to its members' rich multi-sectoral capacity. It is also due to the responsibilities of EC-ESA entities to provide substantive support to the bodies comprising the ECOSOC system (i.e. the functional and regional commissions and expert bodies), the development work of the General Assembly, and the Trade and Development Board. EC-ESA should aim to ensure that these bodies operate as one system geared to advancing the integrated implementation of the international development agenda. While EC-ESA will decide on the details of its contribution to ECOSOC upon completion of political negotiations on the Summit follow-up, the broad thrust is already clear.
12. The Council's capacity to build on the work of regional and functional commissions and other international bodies is an important condition for effectively conducting the new **Annual Ministerial Reviews of progress in the implementation of conference**

**outcomes.** As an immediate step, EC-ESA entities will help the Council's subsidiary bodies organize their work so as to maximize their contribution to the Council's effective exercise of this function. EC-ESA will then contribute to the consideration by ECOSOC of specific themes (through joint analysis, reports, regional implementation meetings or expert meetings). EC-ESA's contribution will be enriched by UNCTAD's integrated treatment of trade and development and of related issues. It will also benefit from regional commissions' knowledge of the situation in their areas, their links with regional organizations and development banks, and their best practices in monitoring the MDGs. In addition, EC-ESA is also supporting DESA in the development and refining of data bases to track progress towards international development goals.

13. EC-ESA entities can likewise clearly play a major role in supporting the **Development Cooperation Forum**. Both as actors in development and as entities closely collaborating with UNDG, they are uniquely positioned to identify obstacles to coherent implementation of development strategies, and the resulting challenges to development cooperation and the realization of the goals of the Monterrey Consensus. With DESA coordinating the Forum's preparations, other EC-ESA entities can contribute their own analyses of gaps in development cooperation, aid effectiveness, and new trends emerging, such as in relation to South-South cooperation. They can also help engage key actors in the Forum and establish linkages with regional forums dealing with development cooperation.
14. EC-ESA members, individually as well as collectively through the Committee, have also an important role to play in feeding new ideas and approaches into the Council's **policy dialogue** at ECOSOC's high-level segment and at its meeting with financial and trade institutions, building on policy analyses at the global and regional levels. DESA, with the support of EC-ESA members, will also help to sharpen the contribution that the Committee for Development Policy, as a standing advisory body to ECOSOC, can make to signal new issues for the development agenda which ECOSOC should address.
15. With regard to the Council's new role for **anticipating and responding to emergencies** that could impede or undermine progress towards the development goals, EC-ESA members are well placed to identify emerging threats which should be brought to the attention of the Council. EC-ESA may also channel regional commissions' analyses of responses to emergencies in their regions, particularly from the point of view of development.
16. Regarding countries emerging from conflict, EC-ESA will make a special effort to contribute to ECOSOC's substantive interface with the **Peacebuilding Commission**. Regional commissions also have a unique role to address transboundary disruptions generated by conflicts, their economic and social impact on affected neighboring countries, and steps required to relaunch regional or subregional interaction after conflicts.

## 2. Stepping up cooperation in the analytical area

17. EC-ESA will work to **strengthen coherence in the UN's analytical and normative work**. It will articulate common UN positions on policies to advance implementation of the UN development agenda in specific areas or on issues addressed by UN intergovernmental bodies (be it the General Assembly or ECOSOC and its functional and regional commissions). This will be done through the work of the thematic networks, under the lead of their coordinators, and through the preparations of joint policy papers. Such joint papers may serve as the main basis for reports of the Secretary-General; and for dialogue with UNDG, specialized agencies or the CEB; or for supporting the work of the Policy Committee.
18. EC-ESA will also contribute consistently to the **follow-up and monitoring of international development goals**. Its 11 thematic clusters will cooperate on a regular basis around a few strategic objectives, defined in consultation with EC-ESA. They will also identify gaps and overlaps in activities, leading to the adjustment of programmes of work on a regular basis. EC-ESA will also ensure consistency and synergies among its entities' initiatives to monitor international development goals.
19. The Committee will make full use of the centres of excellence in its various member entities through knowledge sharing and exchange of best practices. It will engage Research Institutes, particularly UN system institutes such as UNU, UNRISD and INSTRAW, more strategically in its work, so that they help develop novel policy approaches. It will also engage relevant entities of the UN system, including the Bretton Woods Institutions, the ILO and other agencies, in the reflection on specific themes.
20. An important challenge for the future is to engage in a more systematic dialogue on the analytical work of each EC-ESA entity, including UNDP. Given the emphasis on building a coherent UN, and bearing in mind the importance of building linkages among the various dimensions of the UN development agenda, it is essential to ensure that research and publications, notably flagship reports in macroeconomics and other areas do not overlap, but reinforce and complement each other.
21. This analytical work should be disseminated through an improved Website/information system enabling knowledge sharing among EC-ESA entities.

## 3. Strengthening the link between analytical and operational work

22. EC-ESA will also, as one of its functions, undertake to **foster linkages between policy and normative work and operational activities**. It will accordingly work **more closely with UNDG and its Executive Committee**. Such closer cooperation may also help bring an implementation and operational focus into the work of the Council and its regional and functional commissions.

23. First, EC-ESA and UNDG should urgently join forces to help countries keep the commitment they made at the World Summit to prepare comprehensive national development strategies by the end of the year.
24. To support this process, they could jointly develop tool-kits to help translate conference policy guidance into concrete policies or programmes, in such areas as macroeconomic and financial policies, trade policies, social policies, or public sector reform. Such tool-kits could have a quick but significant impact. They can be a strong demonstration of how, by joining forces, UN entities can maximize the concrete support they provide to countries in their development efforts. A number of such tool kits already exist and a first step will be to bring these resources together in a complete inventory.
25. A second important area for cooperation would be to build networks across UNDG and EC-ESA members. These would serve a dual purpose: to foster policy dialogue between those involved in operational activities at the field level and non-resident practitioners; and to enable resident coordinators and other field staff to be aware of expertise available in different UN entities that can be tapped for advice and technical support to countries in their development strategies.
26. Once the format of the ECOSOC's Development Cooperation Forum is defined through the on-going political negotiations, EC-ESA and UNDG will consult on how to best support it. UNDG will need to contribute to the analysis of development cooperation policies, based on its member organizations' experiences, and to help mobilize key players.

#### **IV. REALIGNMENT OF SUBSTANTIVE PRIORITIES AND PROGRAMMES WITHIN SUBSTANTIVE PROGRAMME AREAS**

27. Reform and realignments of priorities and programmes have been an on-going process in the economic and social area. But the World Summit sparked a new effort by United Nations organizations to refocus their work around its outcome's key priorities. Most organizations have now completed this exercise. These are being reported individually to the Secretary-General.
28. EC-ESA entities also conducted a joint review of their priorities and programmes across the board. From the Outcome Document, 11 thematic programme managers' networks identified shifts in priorities and a number of strategic objectives around which organizations will increase cooperation or launch new initiatives.

#### **1. Trade:**

29. An important outcome of the World Summit was its strong message that development must remain at the centre of the Doha Round of trade negotiations and of trade concerns

generally. This will guide and give new impetus to the work of the UN on trade and development.

30. As a new initiative to carry forward this momentum, UNCTAD and the regional commissions are planning to prepare a **joint annual report** analyzing trends, issues and policies relating to trade, starting in 2006.
31. EC-ESA's organizations will also team up around selected strategic priorities emanating from the Summit. The first such priority is **ensuring convergence and complementarity of multilateral trade negotiations and regional integration initiatives, while safeguarding policy space for developing countries**. This will involve, among others, work on trade facilitation. There exist a number of initiatives in this area. But more work is needed to understand gains that developing countries and landlocked countries will derive from trade facilitation. Organizations also need to deepen their contributions to the Doha round of negotiations on this topic.
32. The second priority is to **ensure that trade plays its full part in supporting growth, employment and development for all**. This will be pursued through activities to support the formulation of development-oriented trade policies and to help integrate trade into National Development Strategies. Related activities include **capacity-building for trade negotiators and trade officials**, and strengthening trade-related analytical and research capacities in developing and transition economies to advance the development dimension of the Doha Work Programme.
33. As a fourth priority, UN partners will work more closely together to support **South-South cooperation**. The on-going third round of negotiations of the Generalized System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries, under the aegis of UNCTAD, is to be welcomed. EC-ESA will also work together to support subregional, regional and interregional trade agreements and jointly prepare the report on the dynamics of regional integration.
34. A fifth priority is **building productive capacities and strengthening trade-related infrastructures in developing and transition economies, including through the integrated framework for trade-related assistance to LDCs**. Many activities of EC-ESA contribute to this goal. UNCTAD and the regional commissions will pool their expertise to provide technical cooperation in this area, to LDCs in particular. EC-ESA will also engage in closer cooperation to support export diversification.
35. A last, cross-cutting priority is **trade and sustainable development**. This is an area where UNCTAD, UNEP and the regional commissions will deepen their cooperation. A greater focus will be placed on the relationship between regional or bilateral trade agreements and the environment.

## 2. Macroeconomics and finance:

36. The World Summit outcome made it clear that financing for development must remain at the centre of work in the development area. The priorities of the macroeconomics and finance cluster will continue to be guided by the Monterrey Consensus.
37. **Supporting national development strategies to achieve internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs**, will provide a new priority focus in the area of macroeconomics and finance. To this end, DESA, regional commissions, UNDP and the World Bank are embarking in an initiative on "socially inclusive macroeconomic policies", involving the creation of tool-kits to help developing countries formulate such policies.
38. The report on the *World Economic Situation and Prospects* (WESP) has become a true UN-wide publication, with DESA, UNCTAD and the regional commissions all contributing directly to it. This is part of the effort to ensure that the United Nations projects a **unified view on the world economic outlook and on the macroeconomic policy implications**. A new emphasis will be placed on identifying and analyzing emerging issues in this report, to support ECOSOC in its revamped policy dialogue function. DESA, UNCTAD and the regional commissions also plan to coordinate fully their respective economic forecasts.
39. The macroeconomic project "LINK" is a unique vehicle for this strengthened cooperation among EC-ESA entities. This project integrates national econometric models into a global econometric model, aimed at studying international economic transmission mechanisms and the effects of policies and disturbances on the world economic outlook. A plan to overhaul the LINK system is being implemented to bring the system up to date to more adequately study global linkages and the **gains from better international macroeconomic coordination**. The revamping aims also to make LINK more user-friendly so that policy makers, from developing countries in particular, can use the system directly to analyze the implications of alternative global economic scenarios for their economies.
40. Besides these new areas, EC-ESA will come together to deepen and coordinate work on **monitoring different forms of development cooperation and aid effectiveness**, which will become one of the priorities of the new Development Cooperation Forum.
41. In the period ahead, attention will be given to improving the division of labour in the area of finance.
42. More systematic ways are also being sought to ensure that global entities build on and fully tap relevant regional-level capacities and resources. As part of this effort, DESA will increasingly rely on regional commissions' expertise and monitoring of the economic situation of their Member countries. The programmatic reforms being introduced by the ECE have, however, implications in this respect that will require examination.



### 3. Sustainable Development and human settlements:

43. Sustainable Development is an area where the Summit undertook very important, specific detailed commitments. These range from changing unsustainable consumption and production patterns, continued efforts in the area of biodiversity and biosafety, and promoting sustainable management of forests, water and other natural resources to the establishment of a worldwide early warning system for all natural hazards, assisting countries prone to natural disasters, and addressing links between environment and poverty. EC-ESA entities will combine forces to advance these decisions in the framework of the agreements reached at Johannesburg, the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements and earlier conferences on sustainable development.
44. Particularly important as well is the Summit's call to act with resolve and urgency to tackle **climate change** and meet the commitments under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. It is noteworthy that, in this same context, the Summit emphasized the commitment to take further action to promote clean energy and to meet energy needs.
45. **Energy**, including energy and human settlements, will be a strategic priority for EC-ESA. In this regard, the Energy flagship report, prepared by UN-Energy (in which EC-ESA entities participate together with other organizations) will help disseminate information on clean energy technologies and on measures to meet the growing needs for energy services – thus mirroring the Summit's emphasis on innovation, clean and renewable energy and energy efficiency and conservation.
46. The 2006-2007 cycle of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) will meanwhile provide the opportunity to bring greater policy coherence in the links between energy, industrial development and climate change.
47. Another strategic priority reinforced by the Summit relates to **water and sanitation**. UN entities will work closely together to help developing countries prepare integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans, and to broaden access to safe drinking water and sanitation. This will be one of the main challenges tackled by UN-Water when it reviews the work programme for the Decade for Action: "Water for Life" 2005-2015. Continued attention will be paid to improving the division of labour among the many actors involved in the area of water within the UN and the UN system.
48. The upgrading of **slums** and prevention of new slums formation will also be high on the EC-ESA agenda on the follow-up to the Summit and of the Habitat Agenda. UN-Habitat, regional commissions and other UN organizations will formulate specific plans to encourage Member States to scale up provision of low-income housing in order to prevent formation of new slums. Emphasis will be placed on promoting sustainable urbanization, including access to land and security of tenure, and ensuring women's equal right to own and inherit property.

49. Continuing attention will be given to promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns, an area where UNEP, DESA and regional commissions will work closely together.

#### 4. Social Development and social integration:

50. **Employment** creation was given renewed priority at the World Summit. UN entities should help develop analyses relevant to policies in both developed and developing countries. They will accordingly place a greater focus on underemployment and the informal sector (particularly important for developing countries); social protection; youth employment (making use of the Youth Employment Network); the role of employment in poverty eradication; and gender-dimensions of employment. This summer's ECOSOC high-level segment will provide an opportunity to advance policy development in these areas.
51. The Outcome Document (in its section on human rights) devotes particular attention to **building inclusive societies**. The aspiration to **greater social equity** and ensuring a fairer distribution of income underlie several of its provisions and earlier agreements. It will be a key focus of EC-ESA's work.
52. Emphasis will also be placed on implementing international agreements and instruments on ageing, youth and indigenous issues, as well as on completing and subsequently implementing the Convention on Persons with Disabilities. Close cooperation will be pursued between the OHCHR and other organizations on these issues, so that social integration policies reflect a mix between the human rights perspective and a socio-economic approach.
53. To concretely support implementation, "tool-kits" have been developed on **youth** and "frameworks" are being developed to support the review of progress in implementing commitments on ageing. Similar kits will be developed in other areas in cooperation between DESA, the regional commissions and other entities. EC-ESA will also work with UNDG so that vulnerability issues become part and parcel of Common Country Assessments (CCA) and UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAF), as is now the case for indigenous issues.

#### 5. Advancement of Women:

54. An important message of the World Summit was that **gender mainstreaming** is essential for implementing the internationally agreed development goals.
55. EC-ESA entities will thus seek to enhance their work in this area. An immediate priority will be to identify ways to ensure that gender perspectives are taken into account in the preparation of the national development strategies called for by the Summit which will also be the focus of a specific round table at the upcoming Commission on the Status of

Women. Strengthening national capacities in the areas of gender statistics can make an important contribution to this effort.

56. A greater focus will also be placed on integrating gender perspectives into CCAs, UNDAFs, Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and reporting on the MDGs.
57. More generally, EC-ESA organizations will launch a new effort to share and disseminate approaches, methodologies and tools on gender mainstreaming. They also plan new joint activities to help national institutions for the advancement of women to develop their capacity to use ICT to achieve their goals, including gender mainstreaming.
58. Besides its focus on gender mainstreaming, the World Summit strengthened commitments in the area of **violence against women and of women, peace and security**. The Secretary-General is to prepare an in-depth study on violence against women for the 61<sup>st</sup> session of the General Assembly. This will provide an opportunity to enhance the work of the UN in this area and its impact on the situation at the national level. On Women, Peace and Security, emphasis will be placed on peacebuilding and contributing to the work of the Peacebuilding Commission.
59. Another set of enhanced commitments relates to **women's human rights**. EC-ESA entities will strengthen their work to ensure the incorporation of gender perspectives in human rights work at the country and international levels. They will work to enhance the implementation of CEDAW at national level, by ensuring that the recommendations from the Committee inform the work of UN organizations and of UN country teams.

#### 6. Countries in special situations:

60. EC-ESA entities will join forces to see to it that the Summit's attention to countries in special situations creates a momentum that will result in real gains for these countries.
61. UN organizations will work together to help carry forward the **Doha Development Agenda** for these countries, in such areas as aid for trade, WTO accession and best means to manage their special vulnerabilities.
62. On Least Developed Countries specifically, the **mid-term review of the Brussels Programme of Action** in 2006 provides an occasion to accelerate progress to reach the targets set for the end of this decade. EC-ESA entities are committed to bringing to the review proposals for concrete measures to accelerate implementation, fully engaging in this effort other UN system organizations, the Bretton Woods institutions, regional and national institutions, and civil society.
63. Regarding SIDS, an Inter-Agency Consultative Group (comprising UN bodies) is developing a new matrix of activities to operationalize the **Mauritius strategy** and assure coordinated implementation.

64. On LLDCs, the roadmap for implementing the **Almaty Programme of Action**, and subsequent inter-organization meetings, provide a basis for concerted UN system action. EC-ESA member organizations will continue their efforts to develop indicators to measure progress in establishing efficient transit transport systems.
65. Based on a more concerted effort to identify the priority needs of LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS in various areas of development, EC-ESA will work together to facilitate the **development of improved negotiating platforms** among these countries. Special attention will also be given to the needs of countries emerging from conflict.
66. Finally, a concerted effort will be made to encourage UN system organizations to mainstream into their work international commitments relating to countries in special situations. Improving coordination within the UN on issues linked to LDCs and African countries will also contribute to that effort.

#### 7. Governance and institution building:

67. The World Summit reaffirmed the commitment to the rule of law and democracy and the importance for development of strengthening governance and of sound economic management. EC-ESA entities will intensify collaboration in four priority areas.
68. The first is **building capacities in the area of governance and public sector reform**. DESA, ECA and UNDP will work together in organizing an African Governance Forum, which will bring together stakeholders in the African Peer Review Mechanism in Kigali in 2006. DESA, the regional commissions, UNDP and UN-Habitat will also jointly organize regional fora on Reinventing Government and the Global Forum on Reinventing Government in 2007.
69. A particular priority in this area is to **support the reconstruction of Governance and Public Administration Systems in countries emerging from conflict**. EC-ESA entities' activities range from policy advice, technical assistance and training to supporting dialogue processes, public information strategies and the dissemination of good practices and lessons learned.
70. The second priority is supporting participatory governance and the building of partnerships among the public sector, civil society and the private sector. EC-ESA entities will support the sharing of information and knowledge and the development of capacities in this area. They will place a particular focus on enhancing training tools, for instance, to support participatory budgeting. DESA will also work closely with regional commissions and UNDP in preparing the 2007 World Public Sector Report on "participatory governance".
71. The third priority is the need to adopt policies and measures that emphasize accountability, integrity and transparency in the public sector. EC-ESA entities will cooperate in the UN response to the challenges posed by the adoption of the UN

Convention Against Corruption. This will involve assisting in the development of auditing and public property management capacities, as well as supporting the development of Codes of Conduct for the Civil Service.

72. As a fourth priority, EC-ESA entities will focus on strengthening governments' capacity to use ICT for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of their performance and better serving their citizens (E-Government). They will draw from the annual e-government benchmarking report produced by DESA and use its methodology as a tool for technical assistance.

## 8. Science and technology:

73. The World Summit Outcome Document gave renewed importance to science and technology. Together with the World Summit on the Information Society, it firmly reaffirmed the role of science and technology in development and the responsibility of the United Nations to help close the technological gap between developing and developed countries.
74. **Monitoring and advancing progress towards the implementation of the outcomes of the two Summits** will be a major priority for EC-ESA. Organizations will join forces to support the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, so that it can play the key role expected from it in the follow-up to the two Summits. The EC-ESA network on Science and Technology for Development will focus on reviewing Summit implementation and sharing national and regional experiences, and lessons learned. A major innovation will be the preparation of a new annual World Technology Report that will keep track of significant developments on science and technology and development.
75. In response to the Summit, EC-ESA organizations will, as a second priority, support the **integration of science and technology into national development policies** and scale up their work to **build developing countries' capacities** to use science and technology for achieving development goals. To that end, they will launch a network of centres of excellence on science and technology. This network will pool resources to encourage the transfer of technology.
76. A second strategic priority for EC-ESA is **supporting access to, and effective use of, information and communication technologies (ICTs)**. As a new initiative, UNCTAD, other UN organizations and ITU will develop indicators to benchmark progress in bridging the digital divide and using ICT for development. They will also work more closely together to help developing countries design, implement and review ICT policies and strategies, building on the successful ground-work done by the "Partnership for Measuring ICT for development" in which the regional commissions, UNCTAD and other entities participate.

77. This will help develop common approaches for supporting access to the Information Society. EC-ESA entities intend to explore alternative ways to create inclusive information societies in developing countries – such as public and shared access and creating specific key access locations with increased social value. They will also address the gap between men and women in access to ICT.

## 9. Human rights

78. The World Summit Outcome Document gave political impetus and support for further **mainstreaming human rights into all programmes and activities** of the United Nations. EC-ESA entities will accordingly accelerate the integration of human rights dimensions in their work as a horizontal policy theme.
79. As this process unfolds, it is important to assure a dialogue between organizations and bodies working on development and those working on human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development. This was recognized by the World Summit, which called for closer cooperation between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and all relevant United Nations bodies. This dialogue will help define the steps needed to mainstream human rights into the economic and social work of EC-ESA entities.
80. It is equally essential to ensure that the work of the UN system on economic, social and cultural rights builds upon the policy discussions on these issues in the General Assembly, ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies. Such a dialogue is becoming even more important to help strengthen an equal focus on all human rights, including the right to development, following the establishment of the Human Rights Council.
81. EC-ESA entities will develop further their collaboration in the areas of human rights of women, children, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities as well as migrants, migrant workers, and members of their families. This might include aligning work plans and collaborative arrangements among EC-ESA entities building on the progress achieved in some of these areas.

## 10. Statistics:

82. **The development of statistical norms and standards** under the guidance of the Statistical Commission, as well as **the application of these standards and norms**, will continue to be an important priority for the work and cooperation of EC-ESA entities. The current focus of the methodological cooperation is in the areas of updating of the 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA – planned for 2008), preparation of the 2010 census round and development of a basic ICT indicator system.

83. **Indicators** play a crucial role in the overall monitoring of development goals. A key priority for the statistical community of the UN family will therefore continue to be supporting the monitoring process through its Interagency Expert Group in MDG Indicators. As a new initiative, the DESA and other UN entities plan to develop the UN-Common data base into a full UN Development Indicator Portal.
84. As a closely related priority, EC-ESA entities will intensify their cooperation to **strengthen statistical capacity in countries**, in order to allow for informed policy decision-making, both at the national and at the international level. The Statistical Commission is expected to make concrete recommendations on "country capacity to produce MDG indicators" in 2006. Taking advantage of the international attention currently given to measurement issues, additional resources may be mobilized to assist countries to strengthen their capacity. Specific joint activities and workshops are planned for 2006/7.

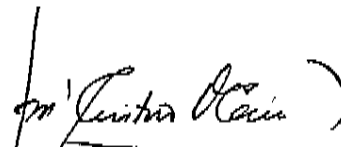
## 11. Population:

85. The World Summit recognized the importance of the upcoming high-level dialogue of the General Assembly on **international migration and development** (14-15 September 2006) as an opportunity to maximize the development benefits of international migration while minimizing its negative impacts. Since then, the General Assembly called for relevant EC-ESA entities to cooperate in the preparation of the dialogue. Cooperation in international migration and development is emerging, as a series of joint meetings are being convened by DESA, regional commissions and other entities for preparing the high-level dialogue.
86. The World Summit also gave new energy to UN work on **HIV/AIDS and reproductive health**. UN partners will translate this emphasis into new joint collaborative effort in these areas.
87. Another priority area is **population ageing and its consequences**. Although it was not specifically emphasized by the Summit, it is highly relevant to advancing many of the goals of Copenhagen reaffirmed by the World Summit. DESA will cooperate with ECLAC and ECE to prepare research papers and expert meetings on this issue.
88. Lastly, the revision of the **UN official estimates and projections** will remain a major activity led by DESA and involving close collaboration from the regional commissions.

## V. CONCLUSION

89. The 2005 World Summit brought to the fore the urgent need for the UN to support Member States in achieving the internationally agreed development goals. It also pointed to the need to bring closer together the various arms of the UN – and seek synergies in the Organization's operational, normative and analytical work.

90. This new reform agenda is driving the work of EC-ESA. As a result of the review of priorities and programmes, EC-ESA entities started 2006 with a clear set of priorities to advance international development goals, derived from the World Summit and earlier conferences. EC-ESA is also positioning itself as the hub for integrated support to ECOSOC and its subsidiary machinery in conducting a unified review of the implementation of the UN development agenda.
91. To advance these priorities, EC-ESA will strive to build stronger strategic and policy cooperation among its members. This will include consolidating activities between entities. And EC-ESA will also work more closely together with UNDP and UNDG, to respond to the Summit's call to further strengthen the link between normative and operational work. These new approaches will be supported by a sustained effort by the Executive Committee to improve its working methods and by a strengthened secretariat.
92. EC-ESA entities are committed individually and collectively to contributing fully to the effort to equip the UN to respond in an effective and cohesive way to the major challenges that the Summit has posed for the United Nations and the international community.



José Antonio Ocampo

Convenor

Executive Committee  
on Economic and Social Affairs