

Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination

Achieving Gender Equality, Women's Empowerment and Strengthening Development Cooperation

DIALOGUES AT THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL



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Department of Economic and Social Affairs

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Glossary of Acronyms

AMR	Annual Ministerial Review
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
ART	Antiretroviral Therapy
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BPFA	Beijing Platform For Action
BSR	Business for Social Responsibility
BWIs	Bretton Woods Institutions
CEB	United Nations Chief Executives Board
CECP	Committee Encouraging Corporate Philanthropy
CEDAW	United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CNIE	China NGO Network for International Exchanges
CO2	Carbon dioxide
CONGO	Conference of NGOs
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
DAC	Development Assistance Committee

DCF	Development Cooperation Forum
DDR	Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration
DESA	Department of Economic and Social Affairs
DFID	UK's Department for International Development
DPADM	Division for Public Administration and Development Management
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
EU	European Union
FAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FFD	Financing for Development
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FTAs	Free-Trade Agreements
FTF	Feed the Future
G3ICT	Global Initiative for Inclusive Information and Communication Technologies
G-8	Group of Eight
G-20	Group of Twenty
GA	United Nations General Assembly
GEM	Gender Empowerment Measure
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHI	Global Health Initiative
GLTN	Global Land Tool Network
GNI	Gross National Income
GNP	Gross National Product
GPM	Global Preparatory Meeting
HAART	Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy
HIPC	Heavily Indebted Poor Countries
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
HR	Human Rights
IADGs	Internationally Agreed Development Goals
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IDA	International Development Agency
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFIs	International Financial Institutions
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMVF	Instituto Marquês de Valle Flôr
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPAD	Institute for Development Assistance
IRENE	United Nations Informal Regional Network
IT	Information Technology
ITC	International Trade Centre
IWCA	International Women's Coffee Alliance

LDCs	Least Developed Countries
LLDCs	Landlocked Developing Countries
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MNREGA	Mahatma Gandhi's National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
NAM	Non-Aligned Movement
NCCM	National Council for Childhood and Motherhood
NCGE	National Committee on Gender Equality
NCW	National Council for Women
NDS	National Development Strategy
NPGE	National Programme for Ensuring Gender Equality
NVPs	National Voluntary Presentations
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NOK	Norwegian Krone
NPYEE	National Programme for Youth Economic Empowerment
NY	New York
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
OESC	Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination
OHRLLS	Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
ORIO	Development-related Infrastructure Facility
OSAA	Office of the Special Advisor on Africa
OSAGI	Office of the Special Advisor on Gender Issues
PBSO	Peacebuilding Support Office
PEPFAR	U.S. President's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief
PMTCT	Preventing Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV/AIDS
PNETP	National Plan for the Eradication of Trafficking in Persons
PNPDIM	Promotion and Integral Development of Women
PRS	MDG-based Poverty Reduction Strategies
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
R&D	Research and Development
ROK	Republic of Korea
RTAs	Regional Trade Agreements
SDR	Special Drawing Rights
SEBA	Society for Economic & Basic Advancement
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
S&T	Science and Technology

STDs	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
STI	Science, Technology and Innovation
STP	São Tomé and Príncipe
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Social and Economic Affairs
UNDG	United Nations Development Group
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNGAID	United Nations Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development
UNGIFT	United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking
UNHSP	United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOP	United Nations Office for Partnerships
UNSG	United Nations Secretary-General
WESS	World Economic and Social Survey
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WOCAN	Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management
WTO	World Trade Organization

Preface

In 2010, the High-Level Segment of the Economic and Social Council focused on gender equality and the empowerment of women through its Annual Ministerial Review (AMR). The AMR is an annual meeting at which Member States evaluate progress made towards the implementation of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The AMR discussion centred on progress made on implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well as the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. Participants shared National Voluntary Presentations (NVPs) on country-level case studies, lessons learned and success stories on gender equality and women's empowerment. They also made recommendations on how to address current challenges in these areas.

The Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) is the other major component of the High-Level Segment. The DCF serves to promote dialogue and collaboration among Member States on international development cooperation issues such as aid quantity, quality and allocation as well as accountability mechanisms and development policy coherence.

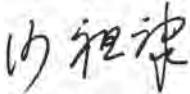
In 2010, the DCF discussions focused on those issues and the impact of the multiple global crises on MDG progress. Participants made action-oriented

recommendations that served as inputs to preparations for the MDG Summit, particularly in the context of the global partnership for development.

They also stressed the need to invest in women – in their education, health, social status and job opportunities. Investment in women is critical to the achievement of the MDGs. In the Ministerial Declaration, which provides policy guidance to Member States, leaders placed gender equality and the empowerment of women at the top of the development agenda.

ECOSOC made women a focus throughout the year. In March, the Beijing Platform for Action was reviewed at the Commission on the Status of Women, on the occasion of the 15th Anniversary of its adoption; and in July, the Council focused its discussions on gender equality and women's empowerment – just as the General Assembly adopted a resolution establishing UN Women. This is a welcome development and I urge all stakeholders to work closely with UN Women so that its impact can be maximized.

This book provides an overview of the proceedings of the 2010 Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) High-level Segment. It contains keynote speeches, issue papers, roundtable summaries, National Voluntary Presentations, transcriptions of other dialogues and discussions, including a video of the United Nations television debate “Face to Face” (Watch video at <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/tvdebate/>). These materials could serve as reference tools for stakeholders in implementing the Council's recommendations.



Sha ZUKANG

Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations

Introduction

The Annual Ministerial Review has made a strong contribution in making 2010 a watershed year for women. First, it coincided with the final stages of negotiations on the establishment of the United Nations entity for gender equality and the empowerment of women (UN Women). Second, the session also took place during a critical stage in the negotiations of the outcome document of the High-level Plenary meeting on the MDGs, when the Council had to address and, in some instances, agree on positions on a broad range of issues that were being considered in the context of the negotiations linked to the Plenary Meeting.

In this context, I am pleased to say that the Council has lived up to the expectations placed on it. The 2010 Ministerial Declaration served as a useful source for agreement on the MDG outcome document on issues related to gender equality and the empowerment of women, as did the 2009 Declaration on global public health, including the parts related to women and girls' health. The 2010 Declaration not only highlighted progress, challenges and implementation gaps but also provided a roadmap to strategies to effectively implement international commitments on gender equality and to scale up and accelerate action in this area. It emphasized the move from commitment to action in several key areas by promoting novel forms of collaborative actions, partnerships and engagement of new and diverse stakeholders.

Another key aspect of the High-level segment was the National Voluntary Presentations (NVPs) made by a record number of both developed and developing countries. These presentations by Ministers and senior Government officials, supported in some instances by national civil society representatives and development partners, represented a rich review and assessment of how countries with different challenges and strategies have addressed the MDGs, in general, and the question of gender equality and women's empowerment, in particular. The process of identifying success stories, lessons learned and gaps that remain to be filled in national development policies can greatly benefit others. Through the NVP process, the Council continued to assert its role as a useful policy forum that connects the global development agenda to national development policy efforts.

The review of progress in achieving gender equality and women's empowerment also required a focus on the role of women in countries in special situations, particularly in crisis and post-crisis situations. Towards this end, the Council held a policy dialogue on this issue, during which the extreme vulnerability of women and their marginalization in crisis situations were addressed. Participants made a strong call for promoting women's participation at all stages, from emergency relief to recovery and from peacekeeping to peace-building. The establishment of specific mechanisms and institutional arrangements to promote the empowerment of women, with appropriate funding, was considered essential to bring about sustainable solutions to crises. The Council could play a useful role in following up on these recommendations in the future.

The current economic and financial downturn has created much concern over its effect on the achievement of development goals. This concern was an underlying theme of the discussions of the Council during its 2010 sessions. A high-level policy dialogue was held with representatives of the Bretton Woods Institutions, the World Trade Organization and UNCTAD, during which a commitment to multilateral action was expressed. This dialogue also stressed that major development problems cannot be solved without improved global economic governance, an issue that the Council should continue to address.

The second Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) was an opportunity to address the question of how to strengthen and make development cooperation more effective in light of the current difficult economic context. The Council asserted that official development assistance and other development financing remain essential in ensuring progress towards achieving the development goals, an important principle which was reaffirmed at the MDG

High-level Plenary Meeting. By addressing key principles and mechanisms for development cooperation, including the issues of policy coherence and aid effectiveness, the Council has successfully established itself as one of the primary arenas for global dialogue and policy review in this field.

Finally, the success of the Annual Ministerial Review would not have been possible without the active involvement of entities of the United Nations system and non-governmental stakeholders, who, through their expertise and dynamism, during formal meetings or at side events, created opportunities for substantive discussions on a wide range of cross-cutting themes. Together, these activities served as the Council's hub for promoting and catalyzing tangible, multi-stakeholder partnerships for implementing the United Nations Development Agenda. Together, they have embodied the spirit of ECOSOC and its added value within the United Nations family. I trust that this invaluable spirit will stand out in this publication and I thank all those who have contributed to this successful session.



H.E. Mr. Hamidon ALI

President of the Economic and Social Council

Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations

Chapter 1

Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality

Overview

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) organized its fourth Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) on the theme “Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to women’s empowerment and gender equality” during the High-level Segment in 2010.

The 2010 AMR established a forum for the international community to: (1) assess the state of implementation of the United Nations Development Agenda, with a focus on its gender-related goals and objectives; (2) explore key challenges in achieving the international goals and commitments in the area of gender equality and the empowerment of women; and (3) consider recommendations and new initiatives to accelerate gender-related objectives. A majority of keynote and guest speakers drew attention to the cross-cutting nature of women’s empowerment and gender equality, asserting that it is a vital component towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). A number of speakers also emphasized the direct correlation between women’s rights and human rights and, subsequently, called upon the strengthening of this linkage. Many speakers also called for increased collaboration efforts and strengthened commitments, especially in the area of maternal health, which

has been cited as the area with least progress. While there was a unanimous recognition that great strides have been made in ensuring women's right and empowering women, many speakers agreed that such progress is uneven across countries.

The following is a synopsis of the contributions outlined in this chapter.

- **H.E. Mr. Hamidon Ali**, President of the Economic and Social Council, called upon all delegations to formulate and commit on an action-oriented Ministerial Declaration on the issue of women's empowerment and gender equality that will then translate to a concrete agenda. This stems from the belief that promoting the rights of women and girls will not only help achieve MDG 3 but also all the other MDGs. He also stressed the importance of women in playing active roles in reducing poverty and hunger and called upon the delegates to strengthen commitments to empower rural women. He warned that current aid commitments are still below those pledged at the United Nations and G8 Summits. In conclusion, he urged all Member States to accelerate the advancement of women's rights and gender equality, underscoring that these achievements will positively contribute to the fulfillment of the other MDGs.
- **Mr. Ban Ki-moon**, Secretary-General of the United Nations, in referring to the 2010 Millennium Development Goal Report, indicated that, while significant progress has been made in all the MDGs, overall progress is uneven. He asserted that the goals were achievable but some are likely be missed if efforts are not made to strengthen commitments and realize them through action. He highlighted three priority areas for urgent attention: jobs; food security; and investing in women. He expressed the view that the lack of attention to achieving gender equality and women's empowerment, including maternal health, may put peace, security, and sustainable development in jeopardy. He was optimistic that the creation of UN Women would expedite progress and the realization of the international community's commitment to women's empowerment and gender equality.
- **Ms. Michelle Bachelet**, former President of Chile, stressed that gender equality is an essential expression of human rights and that women's rights are human rights. She called upon the international community to turn the principles established in the Beijing Declaration into visible results on the ground. She noted that, while progress has been made in this area, it remains unbalanced and uneven. She cited examples of progress that her past administration achieved to address gender disparities and social

injustices against women and girls. She concluded that women's rights should be strongly attached to the notion of human rights and that the progress of men and women are inextricably bound to each other.

- **Mr. Andrew Mitchell**, Secretary of State for International Development of the United Kingdom, emphasized that women and girls play a salient role in ensuring peace, security, sustainable development and to the overall achievement of the MDGs. He asserted that the issue of reproductive and maternal health is one that faces the greatest challenges for the international community, particularly in fragile and conflict-affected settings. He expressed support for the "Delivering as One" approach as an attempt to better coordinate efforts and increase effectiveness of service delivery related to social and economic development. In addition to urging Member States to take action, he called on the private sector to join the efforts of the international community to ensure gender equality.
- **H.E. Mrs. Moushira Khattab**, Minister of State for Family and Population Affairs of Egypt noted the progress that has been made in empowering women and ensuring gender equality and reaffirmed the United Nations as the multilateral forum to achieve further progress. She highlighted Egypt's efforts to mainstream gender equality in its national policies. She noted with deep concern the potential ramifications that the global economic crisis will play in undermining the recent progress and called upon the international community to ensure gender equity and to make treaty bodies a more integral part of the effort to empower women.
- **Ms. Frances Stewart**, Chair of the Committee for Development Policy, declared that, while progress has been made in the areas of women's empowerment and gender equality, important gaps remain. She identified the global economic crisis and climate change as barriers to the achievement of gender equity. She noted that education, access to resources, employment opportunities, and representation in decision-making levels are key areas that can transform the lives of women worldwide and contribute to the achievement of the MDGs.

Translating words to deeds: Achieving gender equality and development for all¹

By H.E. MR. HAMIDON ALI

Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations
President of the Economic and Social Council
United Nations

The 2010 High-level Segment is an occasion to focus on some of the most pressing issues in development, now made more challenging by the subdued pace of economic recovery. Recent experience proves that this is particularly true for gender equality and the empowerment of women.

At the same time, the High-level Segment, in particular, and the substantive session, in general, are the most important and high-profile events in the ECOSOC's calendar. They, therefore, play an important role in our continuous efforts to revitalize ECOSOC and, in so doing, ensure the continued relevance of the United Nations in the areas of development, social and cultural affairs. In a results-based era, the United Nations – and the Economic and Social Council – must not only bring to the global governance debate the legitimacy it possesses, given its representative nature, but also a capacity to galvanize and implement effectively international action to overcome collective challenges.

The High-level Segment must, therefore, not only be a forum for the exchange of views and experiences, but must also produce tangible results, be they in terms of policy guidance or the promotion of coherence. Results, which are understood by not only those of us in this room but also by the public at large. In the end, all of us are judged in the court of public opinion.

It is for this reason that I have challenged all delegations, including my own, as facilitator, to formulate and agree on a Ministerial Declaration that is not only short and action-oriented, but also one which is understood by the

¹ From the 2010 ECOSOC High-level Segment, 28 June 2010.

man-in-the-street as a collective expression of the international community on this ECOSOC theme. This means that we have to move away from long and ambiguous statements of yesteryears.

I am happy to inform you that delegations have agreed on this approach and extremely good progress has been made. I would have liked to have had the Ministerial Declaration agreed to by now. However, owing to scheduling difficulties, this has not been possible. I would like to thus urge all delegations to continue to exhibit the same flexibility so that we can conclude the negotiations on the Declaration.

The change in the format and content of the Declaration is a key point of the overall change in ECOSOC that I had called for when Malaysia assumed the ECOSOC Presidency in January. I had mentioned that my views of the changes that needed to be made are encapsulated in what I call the five “musts”:

- **Firstly:** We must adopt a proactive and constructive agenda. Our actions must be purposeful;
- **Secondly:** We must adopt shorter, more focused agreements and resolutions. Instead of an avalanche of words which bury us all, we must have a flood of results;
- **Thirdly:** We must do more to improve the atmospherics surrounding the ECOSOC. We need to promote greater transparency and honest dialogue, so concerns are clearly understood;
- **Fourthly:** We must move beyond stale arguments; and
- **Lastly:** We must do justice to the ECOSOC's role in the operational aspects of the work of the United Nations.

I am also pleased to note that this message has resonated not only within the United Nation but elsewhere too. For example, as a result of the meeting between the ECOSOC, the Bretton Woods Institutions, WTO and UNCTAD, there is now a renewed spirit of cooperation, rather than competition, between these institutions. This can only be good for our collective constituencies, namely, the world's poorest and most marginalized, to whom we are all accountable as members of a common human family.

The theme of this year's Annual Ministerial Review, “Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women”, is particularly opportune and timely, as women all too often are the poorest and most marginalized. It allows us to strengthen the linkages between gender equality, women's human rights and

non-discrimination as a basis for progress in development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

Yet, despite this increasing awareness everywhere, women and girls today face gender-based discrimination. While MDG-3 relates directly to the empowerment of women, all MDGs are dependant upon women having a greater say in their own development. Malaysia's own experience is testament to this. Nowhere else is the mutual interdependence between development, human rights and development stronger than in the issue of gender.

Since the last substantive session, we have engaged in a broad preparatory process for the Annual Ministerial Review to explore key challenges in achieving gender equality and to consider recommendations and proposals for action across critical areas.

ECOSOC had also addressed innovative partnerships and sources of funding through a Special Event on Philanthropy. Representatives of various stakeholders discussed modalities of cooperation to end violence against women and girls and promote women's economic empowerment.

The Global Preparatory Meeting, on the other hand, sent a clear message: rural women are a critical force in reducing poverty and hunger and, therefore, in sustainable development. If countries are to achieve their development goals, concerted and targeted action is needed to empower rural women.

We are fortunate this year to have had 13 countries volunteering to make national voluntary presentations. These reports offer an inside look into national efforts to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women.

All these activities prove the importance of addressing this year's theme and also of ECOSOC's role in these efforts.

The second Development Cooperation Forum taking place this year is an opportunity for us to accelerate progress in strengthening the global partnership for development.

This year, the state of development cooperation is reviewed against the backdrop of competing demands on development policies and aid flows, as the world is still recovering from the devastating economic and financial crisis. Despite steady levels of aid, we are below the commitments made at the United Nations and G8 Summits.

The Forum has all the potential to become the principal venue for global dialogue and policy review on the effectiveness and coherence of international development cooperation. The strong legislation of the Forum allowing for the inclusion of all relevant development actors provides a unique opportunity

to garner a wide range of inputs for a deepened dialogue and understanding of the international development cooperation agenda. These issues are vital to the achievement of the MDGs. However, the potential that the DCF has is constrained by the following:

- **Firstly:** It is held once every two years;
- **Secondly:** It only produces a Chair's summary; and
- **Thirdly:** It is not institutionally linked to any other processes related to development cooperation either within the United Nations or outside.

This is an issue that will need to be addressed during the Sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly when, as you know, we will review Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council.

I trust that with its strong legislative basis, the enthusiastic involvement of the United Nations system and the other development partners will enable the Council to move forward with firm commitment and strong political resolve to accelerate progress in the economic, social and cultural spheres worldwide.