

Resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2007 that are of relevance to UNICEF: oral report

Background note

The **high-level segment** issued a *Ministerial Declaration*, held the first session of the *Annual Ministerial Review*, and launched the *Development Cooperation Forum*, all of which treated issues of concern to UNICEF:

- The thematic discussion of the high-level segment focused on *Strengthening efforts at all levels to promote proper sustained economic growth, including through equitable macroeconomic policies*;
- The first Annual Ministerial Review focused on *Strengthening efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, including through the global partnership for development*. The presentations made by Ministers and senior officials of six developing countries were most useful in raising the themes under consideration from the individual perspectives of these countries;
- The launch of the Development Cooperation Forum, which will be held biennially within the framework of the Council's substantive session beginning in 2008, held roundtables and a forum on three issues, all of which are of concern to UNICEF:
 - Promoting greater coherence among development activities of different development partners;
 - Review of trends in international development cooperation – South-South and triangular cooperation;
 - Ways in which the Development Cooperation Forum can promote enhanced oversight of aid commitments and aid effectiveness for the Internationally Agreed Development Goals;
- Issues of particular importance treated in the Ministerial Declaration included:

* E/ICEF/2007/13 and Corr.1.

- the eradication of poverty, hunger and malnutrition, particularly as they affect children, as crucial for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- Including full and productive employment and decent work for all, including for women and young people, as a central objective in policy making;
- Promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women;
- Universal access to HIV prevention programmes, treatment and care;
- The continuation of efforts to reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, and strengthening health-care systems;
- The critical role of both formal and informal education in the achievement of poverty eradication;
- The need to respond to climate change in an integrated way with social and economic development;
- The recognition that poverty and inequality are a concern for all countries;
- The need to implement the global partnership for development and to enhance the momentum to put into operation the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits;
- The role of public-private partnerships in the eradication of poverty and hunger, and the need to ensure that these activities conform with the principles of national ownership, accountability and transparency;

The **coordination segment** dealt with *the role of the United Nations system in promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all*. UNICEF, along with the other funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system, will follow up on the following issues:

- Continuing to mainstream the goals of full and productive employment and decent work;
- Collaboration in using, adapting and evaluating the Toolkit for Mainstreaming Employment and Decent Work, developed by the ILO and endorsed by the CEB;
- Development of mechanisms to share its expertise on these issues;
- Assessing and adopting the approach presented in the report of the Secretary-General;
- Promoting awareness and implementation of the decent work agenda;

- To coordinate within the United Nations system and with other partners in these matters.

At the **operational activities segment**, the Council reviewed to what extent and in what ways the United Nations development system provides efficient and effective support to developing countries to realize their national development priorities and achieve the Internationally Agreed Development Goals including the Millennium Development Goals.

The **humanitarian affairs segment** provided an important forum for discussing activities and issues related to strengthening the coordination of the humanitarian system of the United Nations. UNICEF contributed to the panel on *Needs-Based Humanitarian Financing, Including the CERF*, which explored the functions and comparative advantages of humanitarian financing mechanisms from the points of view of governments, the United Nations and NGOs. Issues of particular importance to UNICEF in the resolution on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations include:

- A recognition of the importance of involving as appropriate, NGOs and community-based organizations;
- A request to the United Nations to continue to engage systematically with relevant authorities at the regional and national levels;
- The need for United Nations organizations to coordinate and strengthen needs assessments, in consultation with Member States.

Other resolutions with particular relevance to the work of UNICEF include those on:

- Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
- The need to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems
- Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes
- Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development
- Role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major UN conferences and summits
- Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for Decade 2001-2010