

The [54-member Economic and Social Council](#) serves as the central forum for discussing international economic and social issues, and for formulating policy recommendations addressed to Member States and to the United Nations. It makes or initiates studies and reports; makes recommendations on international economic, social, cultural, educational, health and related matters; and promotes respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms. Subsidiary bodies, commissions and committees of ECOSOC carry out its year-round work.

- High-level Segment, 6-9 July..p. 2
- Dialogue with the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions, 10 July..p. 3
- Coordination Segment, 10-14 July..p. 3
- Operational Activities Segment, 15-17 July..p.3
- Humanitarian Affairs Segment, 20-22 July..p.4
- General Segment, 23-30 July..p.4

II - OUTCOME PAST EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

A - ECOSOC

- Global Preparatory Meeting, 31 March ..p.4
- Special Meeting of ECOSOC with the BWIs, WTO and UNCTAD..p.5

AMR Regional Meetings on the theme of Global Public Health

- South Asia Regional Ministerial Meeting on "Financing Strategies for Healthcare", 16-18 March..p. 6
- Asia-Pacific Regional Ministerial Meeting on "Promoting Health Literacy", 29-30 April..p.6
- Western Asia Regional Ministerial Meeting on "Addressing non-communicable diseases and injuries: Major challenges to sustainable development in the 21st century", 10-11 May..p.6
- Latin America and Caribbean Regional Ministerial Meeting on "HIV and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean", 5-6 June..p.6
- Africa Regional Ministerial Meeting on "eHealth - information and communication technology for health", 10-11 June..p.7

B - OTHER ECOSOC MEETINGS

- Commission on the Status of Women, 53rd Session, 2-13 March..p.8
- Commission on Narcotic Drugs, 52nd Session and High-level Segment, 11-20 March..p.9
- Commission on Population Development, 42nd Session, 30 March-3 April and 11 April..p.9
- Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, 18th Session, 16-24 April..p.9
- United Nations Forum on Forests, 8th Session, 20 April-1 May..p.9
- Commission on Sustainable Development, 17th Session, 4-15 May..p.10
- Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 8th Session, 18-29 May..p.10
- Commission on Science and Technology for Development, 12th Session, 25-29 May..p.10

III - ECOSOC PUBLICATION

- Special Event oH.E. Am

bassador Tiina Intelmann (Estonia)

H.E. Ambassador Hamidon Ali (Malaysia)

H.E. Ambassador Somduth Soborun
(Mauritius)

ECOSOC will hold its 2009 Substantive Session



Ø At the [2009 High-level Segment \(6-9 July 2009\)](#), to be held in Geneva, more than 500 participants representing governments, multilateral organizations, aid agencies, civil society, private sector and academia will assess and recommend how the world, in the face of the global financial crisis can maintain and accelerate its commitment to global public health and ensure the MDGs are achieved. An opening plenary session will feature addresses by ECOSOC President Sylvie Lucas, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, and President of Swiss Confederation, Hans-Rudolf Merz. Keynote addresses will be delivered by Jean Asselborn, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg; Urmas Paet, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Estonia, and Princess

Policy Dialogue

Ø Executive heads of the international financial and trade institutions will kick off the afternoon of day one with a [policy dialogue](#) on the state of the world economy and its implications for the achievement of the United Nations Development Agenda. The dialogue, which will be moderated by DESA Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Sha Zukang, features Supachai Panitchpakti, Secretary-General of UNCTAD, Pascal Lamy, Director-General of the World Trade Organization, Murilo Portugal, Deputy Managing Director at the IMF and Joy Phumaphi, Vice President for Human Development at the World Bank.

Annual Ministerial Review

Ø At the [Annual Ministerial Review, from 6 to 8 July](#), eight countries will report on the progress they have made towards the goals and targets of the United Nations Development Agenda. The Ministerial deliberations will address the question of how to ameliorate global public health. Ministers and other high-level officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Development Cooperation, Economic Planning and Health from developing and developed countries are expected to attend. Council President, Sylvie Lucas, and Secretary-General Ban-Ki-moon will open the event. DESA Under-Secretary-General, Sha Zukang, will introduce the main report on global public health.

Thematic Debate

Ø [The Thematic Debate](#) will focus on “Current global and national trends and their impact on social development, including health”. DESA Under-Secretary-General, Sha Zukang, will introduce [the main report](#). The segment will feature two roundtable dialogues. One will focus on “[Social trends and emerging challenges and their impact on public health](#)” and the other on “[Trends in aid and aid effectiveness in the health sector](#)”.

Side Events

Ø A number of side-events are being organized for the High-level Segment. These include:

Eight [Ministerial Roundtable Breakfasts](#) which are being organized by number of agencies/organizations/offices in the mornings of 7, 8 and 9 July, focusing on various aspects of global public health and development, including on maternal and child health, digital health, Non communicable Diseases, AIDS vaccines, migration and health, Ageing and Health to name a

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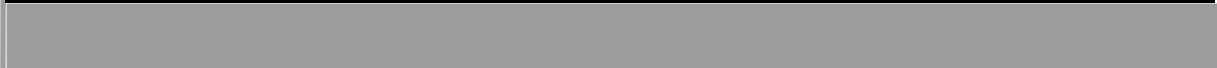
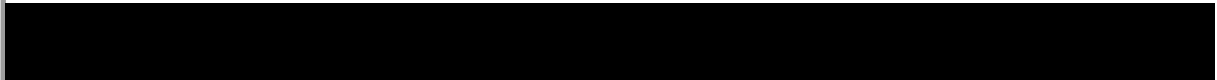
Ø The

Ø During the [Coordination Segment \(10 to 14 July 2009\)](#), the Council will focus on the follow up to the 2008 Ministerial Declaration on “implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development” and what role the UN system can play in the implementation of these goals. The segment will also review progress made by the Council in promoting the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the major UN Conferences and Summits.

Four panel discussions on various dimensions and challenges of sustainable development will complement the work for the coordination segment. In particular, panels will focus on the impact of the financial crisis, climate change, and other emerging threats and challenges, on sustainable development; on the role of the intergovernmental process to promote the CEB initiative to develop a system-wide action plan on climate change; and on the national experience with effective sustainable development strategies.

Ø The [Operational Activities Segment \(15 to 17 July 2009\)](#) will be an important opportunity for Member States to provide further guidance to the UN development system for implementing the 2007 Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities of the General Assembly. The programme of this year’s Segment gives special importance to the role of UN operational activities in helping governments respond to the impact of the global crises (the convergence of the financial and economic and food and energy crises, as well as climate challenges) and health-related issues particularly at national, subregional and regional levels. Two dedicated panels will be organized around these substantive themes. The General Assembly has also identified other overall themes which ECOSOC should look at, including funding, the UN human resources and harmonization of rules and procedures. Member States will also focus on these issues during two thematic dialogue sessions, followed by general debates based on six SG

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Ø The [Global Preparatory Meeting](#) held on 31 March 2009 in New York helped to identify key issues which require urgent action by Ministers during the July Annual Ministerial Review (AMR). It provided an opportunity to (1) Assess the state of implementation of the United Nations Development Agenda in the area of global public health; (2) Consider the impact of the world financial crisis on health systems, and (3) Explore the challenge of providing health care in a post-conflict environment.

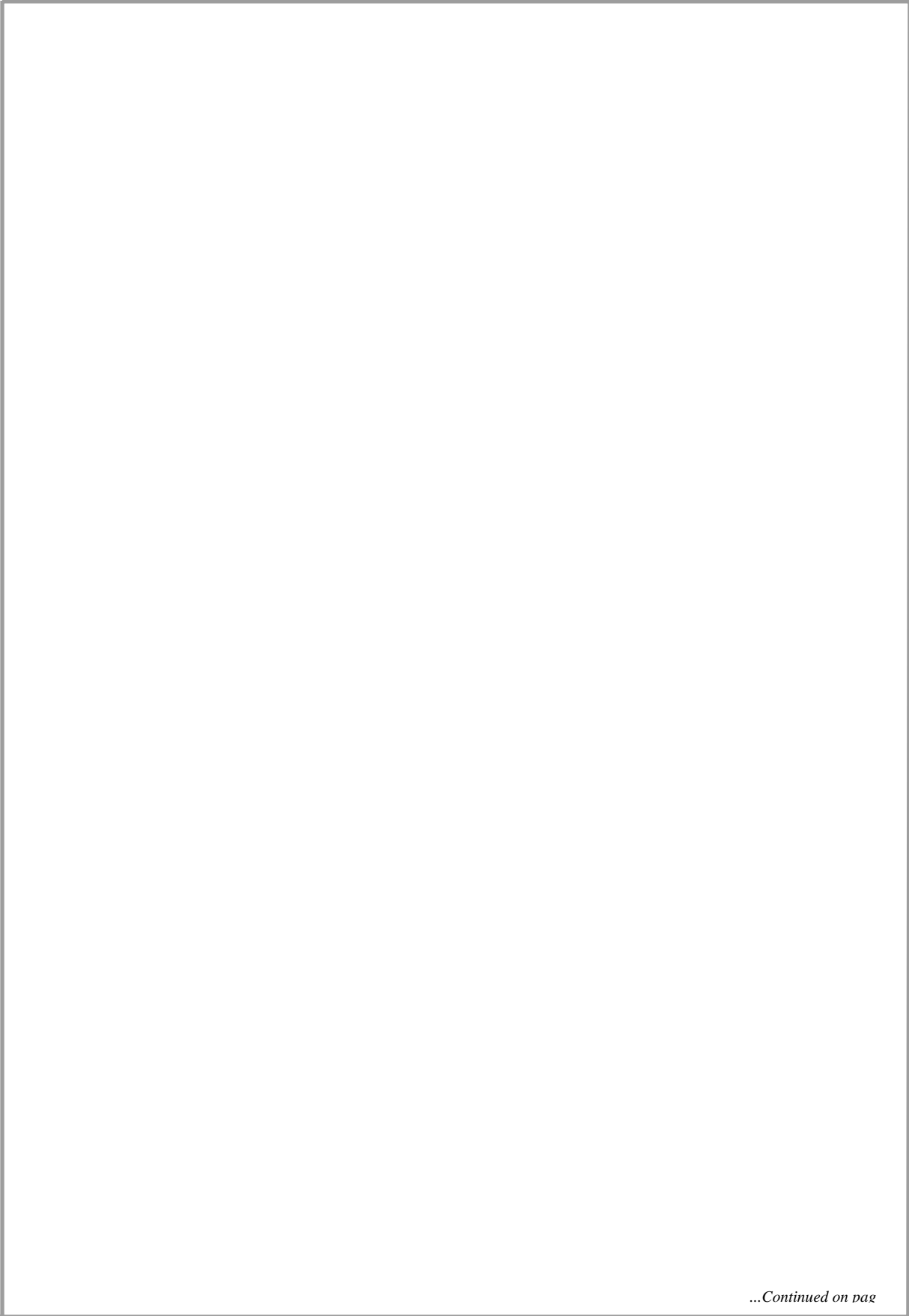
During the first morning session, the Council took stock on where we stood on achieving the international health goals. It was highlighted that the use of new medicine and technologies has allowed developing countries to decrease their child mortality rates, while low income countries

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ECOSOC News

Jamaica. The event was hosted by the Government of Jamaica and drew together 103 delegates from ministers and high-level representatives from the health, education, labour and economic planning sectors. Governments, as well as international organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector were represented. Participants took stock of the progress made in controlling HIV in the region; analyzed the main obstacles in achieving further successes; and discussed ways of making further advances in the prevention, treatment, care and support of HIV, towards the achievement of the HIV-related MDGs.

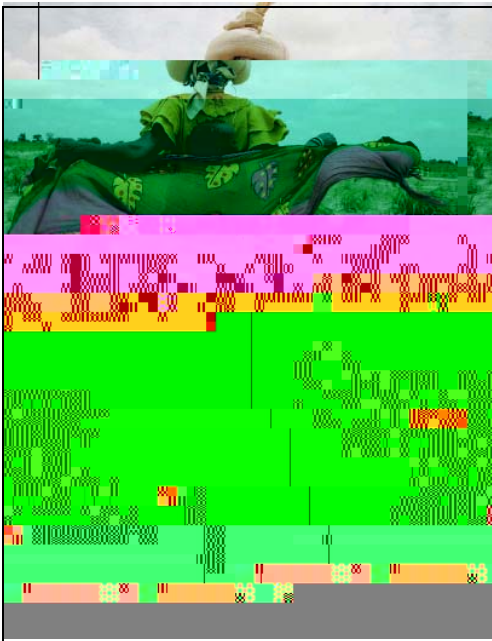
A number of key messages emerged from the presentations and discussions. Firstly, addressing HIV is central to public health, socio-economic development and human security. Secondly, current investments in HIV must be maintained and/or increased, with a focus on integrated development approaches. Thirdly, prevention of HIV infection is a critical component in reversing the HIV epidemic. Significant increases will be required in prevention coverage, particularly in health education, especially among most-at-risk population and youth. Fourthly



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Ø The twelfth session of the [Commission on Science and Technology for Development \(CSTD\)](#) took place 25-29 May 2009 in Geneva. The Commission reviewed the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). In addition, it considered two priority themes, “Development-oriented policies for a socio-economically inclusive information society, including policies relating to access, infrastructure and an enabling environment” and “Science, technology and engineering for innovation and capacity-building in education and research”. As a contribution to ECOSOC's Annual Ministerial Review theme for 2009 on "implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health", a special panel discussion was devoted to “Delivering innovation in global p

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Ø This [book](#) presents the key debates that took place during the Special Event on Philanthropy and the Global Public Health Agenda, at which top executives and philanthropy leaders discussed with ECOSOC Members and other partners ways to strengthen partnerships towards achieving the health Millennium Goals (MDGs) in the areas of maternal and girls' health and neglected tropical diseases.