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**Opening statement by H.E. Mr. Léo Mérorès (Haiti), President of the Economic and Social Council, at the Special high-level meeting of the Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development**

**New York, 14 April 2008**

Excellencies,  
Mr. Secretary-General,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to welcome all of you to this Special high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

I wish to extend my special welcome to H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, and all Ministers, high-level representatives and senior officials from Member States, development, financial and trade institutions, as well as civil society and private sector participants.

This annual meeting of ECOSOC with the international financial and trade institutions has become a major forum to enhance coherence, coordination and cooperation in the context of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus of the 2002 International Conference on Fi

- New initiatives on financing for development;
- Supporting development efforts and enhancing the role of middle-income countries, including in the area of trade;
- Supporting development efforts of the least developed countries, including through trade capacity-building;
- Building and sustaining solid financial markets: challenges for international cooperation; and
- Financing of climate change adaptation and mitigation.

**New initiatives on financing for development** can play a crucial role in increasing and complementing, on a more stable and predictable basis, existing ODA commitments. Recent initiatives, including the International Drug Purchase Facility – UNITAID, the International Finance Facility for Immunization and a pilot project within the Advance Market Commitment Initiative, have already contributed to the mobilization of new resources for health-related expenditures in developing countries. In a true partnership for development, developed and developing countries have come together to explore further innovative ways of financing for development. The Council can play an important role in strengthening international cooperation in this area.

The international community should maintain its support for development efforts of **middle-income countries**, including in the area of trade. A total of 93 middle-income countries accounts for 60 per cent of all developing countries and about 41 per cent of the world's poorest people living on less than two dollars a day. Despite the progress already achieved, many middle-income countries continue to fa Tw s-co2 -1.1ma,eitm ut011 g (cou

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