

The role of the United Nations system in implementing the ministerial declaration on the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development adopted at the high-level segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in 2008

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration¹ and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,²

Recalling also the ministerial declaration adopted at the high-level segment of its 2008 substantive session,³

Recalling further its resolutions 2008/28 and 2008/29 of 24 July 2008, adopted at its 2008 coordination segment, as well as other relevant resolutions,

Reaffirming that effective sustainable development strategies need to pursue an integrated approach to economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, in line with the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development⁴ and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development⁵ and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,⁶ and other relevant outcomes of the United Nations conferences and summits,

Expressing concern regarding the number of people living in poverty and the fact that the current economic and food insecurity crises and unpredictable energy prices may pose significant challenges for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and, in this context, highlighting the importance of improved coordination of United Nations system activities in support of achieving sustainable development,

Recalling that the Economic and Social Council should further increase its role in overseeing system-wide coordination and the balanced integration of economic, social and environmental aspects of United Nations policies and programmes aimed at achieving sustainable development, and reaffirming that the Commission on Sustainable Development should continue to act as the high-level body on sustainable development within the United Nations system and serve as a forum for consideration of issues related to integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development,

1. *Reiterates* that sustainable development in its economic, social and environmental aspects is a key element of the overarching framework for United Nations activities, and reaffirms the continuing need to ensure a balance among economic development, social development and environmental

¹ See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

² See General Assembly resolution 60/1.

³ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/63/3/Rev.1), chap. IV, sect. F, para. 119.

⁴ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

⁵ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

⁶ *Ibid.*, resolution 2, annex.

protection as interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development;

2. *Requests* all member organizations of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination to further mainstream, at all levels, the sustainable development agenda, including recommendations of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and to align and coordinate, as well as promote coherence among, their policies, programmes, initiatives and activities, as appropriate;

3. *Requests* the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system, as appropriate within their mandates, to continue to provide and further strengthen their support to developing countries in:

(a) Building their capacity to formulate effective sustainable development strategies;

(b) Mobilizing adequate and sustained levels of financial resources for meeting the priority objectives of sustainable development;

(c) Enhancing access to external resources as well as to key technologies for sustainable development;

4. *Notes* the progress made by UN-Energy in enhancing United Nations system cooperation and coordination with respect to following up the energy agenda of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and calls on it to further promote system-wide policy coherence in relation to, inter alia, energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies;

5. *Invites* the United Nations system to further strengthen a coordinated and coherent system-wide approach to addressing the adverse impacts of climate change, particularly in developing countries;

6. *Encourages* the United Nations system to support and participate in, as appropriate, the activities being envisaged for the observance of 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity, including those organized under the auspices of the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity;⁷

7. *Invites* the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system, as appropriate within their mandates, to support, in a coordinated manner, initiatives directed towards implementing green initiatives in developing countries, encompassing, inter alia, the preparation of strategies for achieving a green economy in the context of sustainable development, including through capacity-building and the transfer and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how, in particular to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, while taking note of the coordination work of UN-Energy in this regard;

8. *Also invites* the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system, as appropriate within their mandates, to integrate their work on water issues at the regional and local levels into United Nations country-level efforts to support national sustainable development strategies and to promote the implementation of the priorities agreed in the framework of the Commission on Sustainable Development, while taking note, inter alia, of the coordination work of UN-Water in this regard;

9. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to support efforts to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, including through the

⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

Marrakech Process, with developed countries taking the lead, and with all countries benefiting from the process, while taking into account the principles contained in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,¹³³ including, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities;

10. *Requests* the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system, as appropriate within their mandates, to mainstream, in a coordinated manner, sustainable urbanization, urban poverty reduction and slums upgrading in their efforts to assist developing countries, in accordance with national strategies and programmes, in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and notes the efforts of the United Nations Development Group in facilitating the inclusion of these concerns in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework guidelines;

11. *Encourages* the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system, as appropriate within their mandates, to continue integrating social justice and equity concerns in their programmes and activities conducted to support national sustainable development strategies and to promote a greater understanding of the social impact of current crises;

12. *Requests* the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system, as appropriate within their mandates, to continue to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, as well as multi-stakeholder approaches involving local authorities, civil society and the private sector, in their efforts to ensure the achievement of sustainable development.

*45th plenary meeting
31 July 2009*