

H.E. AMBASSADOR ZINA ANDRIANARIVELO  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MADAGASCAR  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT AT THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF ECOSOC

4 JULY 2007

Thank you Mr. President,

Mr. President, First of all I wish to add the congratulations of my delegation on your election to be the President of the Council in 2007, and to confirm our alignment with the statement made this morning by the Group of 77 and China.

We have seen that the report of the Secretary-General for the Annual Ministerial Review focuses on eradication of poverty, and promotion of partnerships. These are naturally interlinked. Similarly pro-poor growth and achievement of the MDGs are naturally interlinked. The success of the Ministerial Review currently underway may well be measured by the extent to which these linkages are recognized, promoted and accomplished.

To deal effectively with the challenges of poverty requires action and interaction by all – governments, business, academia, non-governmental organizations and United Nations entities. We must see government, civil society and the private sector as partners.

It is therefore very significant that three major meetings are taking place in and around the UN in Geneva within the span of a week – the ECOSOC High-level Segment, the Civil Society Development Forum, and the UN Global Compact Leaders Summit. Each of these gatherings, and the outcome of these, needs to be taken into account by the others.

We know that growth is essential for poverty reduction, but the relation is not automatic. The challenge is to encourage growth and ensure that everyone benefits. We also have learned that the MDGs are interactive. To make progress in one you have to take action for all. You have to focus on the bottom of the pyramid, and you have to take a multi-stakeholder approach.

As the Secretary-General has said, “The UN can only do its job properly with partners --- civil society groups, foundations, academic institutions, the media, labour unions, and the private sector. Each has unique contributions to make.”

In this context I wish to bring to your attention the Public-Private Alliance Foundation, which has been recently launched as a further manifestation of the growing recognition of the importance multi-stakeholder cooperation. The Foundation emphasizes a pro-poor business approach to sustainable development. A joint letter on this subject -- from the Permanent Missions of Madagascar and the Dominican Republic to the President of the Council -- is before you in document E/2007/81.

The Foundation is a non-profit organization that puts into action the aims of the UN Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development, which is an ad hoc initiative of ECOSOC with Madagascar and the Dominican Republic as pilot countries. A report of the Secretary-General on that will be considered under agenda item 13 (a) of this session of the Council.

The Foundation is a participant in the UN Global Compact. It was a co-sponsor of the recent Seventh Global Forum on Reinventing Government, held in Vienna. It took part in the recent Civil Society Development Forum, including the discussions on pro-poor growth and on the Helsinki Process. The Foundation encourages South-South and triangular cooperation. It collaborates with the Financing for Development Office of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the UN Division for Public Administration and Development Management, and with the UN Institute for Training and Research on Women, which is head-quartered in the Dominican Republic. It works with investors, commercial interests and community groups.

The Public-Private Alliance Foundation aims to be a dynamic organization dedicated to the positive role business can play in promoting development. Madagascar and the Dominican Republic are the two initial focus countries. Two ambassadors are vice-chairs and others in leadership roles come from the private sector, chambers of commerce, and the UN.

The Foundation is building relations with many stakeholders. An important part of this is establishment of a Board of United Nations Ambassadors, which is now taking shape. Current Foundation initiatives aim to promote information technology, water, health, agribusiness including fish-farming, ethanol and cocoa production; and microfinance and women's entrepreneurship.

We ask for and welcome the involvement and support of all as partners against poverty. We are of the firm belief that public-private alliances, and the work of this Foundation, can indeed make a difference.

Thank you, Mr. President.