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## STATEMENT

**by Deputy Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations  
Mr. NIKOLAI V. CHULKOV  
at the coordination segment of the 2005 ECOSOC substantive session on agenda item 4  
“Towards achieving internationally agreed development goals,  
including those contained in the Millennium Declaration”**

6 July 2005

Mr. President,

We thank the Secretary General for a high quality report, which creates a good basis to focus the work of the segment on the issues of coordination of the UN system work in the field of development in the context of the forthcoming September Summit.

We support the notion of the interlinked nature of the goals, core challenges, and key instruments of the UN development agenda as presented in the Secretary-General's report. Their implementation undoubtedly requires a complex and coordinated approach. At the same time the distinct identity of each conference follow-up process should be fully maintained.

The achievement of the development goals requires integration and full alignment of UN system organizations policies and programmes with national priorities and strategies of Governments, international commitments, the agreed goals and targets embodied in the UN development agenda as well as a coherent, coordinated and integrated intergovernmental oversight and monitoring of the implementation of the development agenda.

The Economic and Social Council as the key coordination mechanism in the field of development within the UN system bears particular responsibility for fulfillment of these tasks. We support further strengthening of ECOSOC. As we have already stated on numerous occasions, the main direction of the ECOSOC reform should be enhancing efficiency of the integrated implementation of the decisions taken at global UN socio-economic conferences, strengthening links between the normative and operational work of the UN system, building Council's capacity in addressing socio-economic problems of post-conflict peace building and development.

As it is correctly stressed in the Secretary-General's report, ECOSOC, because of the breadth of its mandate and its convening capacity, is especially well placed to serve as a platform for systematic and comprehensive monitoring of overall progress in implementing the UN development agenda, as well as for holding continuous dialogue on implementation policies, strategies and actions and for generating new ideas on the most conducive national and international environment for development, including financing.

We therefore view positively the proposals on holding periodically within ECOSOC substantive sessions a high-level Development Cooperation Forum and holding annual ministerial

level assessments of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals on the basis of the ECOSOC as mechanisms that will enable the Council to keep progress in implementing the UN development agenda under constant review.

The Development Cooperation Forum should serve as a basis for bringing together member states, international organizations, in particular, the Breton woods institutions, WTO, UNCTAD and Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), private sector and civil society to discuss at high level global economic problems and assess emerging challenges and threats in the economic, social, environmental and humanitarian fields and promote response to them. We are convinced that the high-level segment of the substantive session of the ECOSOC is the optimal platform for this work, whereas the focus of the operational activities segment is too narrow to match this task.

As for the annual ministerial level meetings to review and assess the implementation of the outcomes of major UN conferences and the Millennium Development Goals, we disagree with the idea of holding “peer reviews” since the “peer nature” of such reviews can hardly be ensured.

We also support the idea of convening timely meetings to mount coordinated responses to natural disasters and other threats to development, and to provide timely inputs or address developments in other forums that have major implications for achieving the development goals.

We are convinced that realization of these initiatives does not require a radical revision of the structure and timing of ECOSOC sessions. We believe that disintegration of the current segment configuration of the ECOSOC substantive sessions will have most negative consequences for its political role and efficiency of its work.

We see the ECOSOC functional commissions as a key mechanism of the follow-up to the major conferences and summits, which contributes to an integrated and coordinated approach to conference follow-up by ECOSOC from a thematic perspective. Within their mandates functional commissions bear principal responsibility for reviewing and assessing the progress in the implementation of the conferences outcomes.

We support the necessity to weave the thematic coherence of the work of the ECOSOC and its functional commissions, as well as its co-ordination around the broad themes that together comprise the elements of the UN development agenda.

We see the role for the functional commissions to play not only in terms of reporting, but also in terms of increasing their analytical and policy contribution towards effective implementation.

Within the context of these tasks we share the importance of optimizing working methods of the commissions, although we do not deem it expedient to apply a uniform approach, as every functional commission has its own specifics. We support the efforts aimed at the effective use in the ECOSOC work of the Consolidated Report on the work of the commissions.

We positively assess the work of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination in terms of putting the MDGs at the head of the priorities, orienting the work of the system. We follow closely the efforts of the UN Development Group Office aimed at increasing coherence and co-ordination of the work of the UN system at country level. We will present our more detailed assessment of the work of the UN operational agencies at the country level during the operational activities segment of the Session.

We support the process of strengthening and enhancing the interaction between the ECOSOC and the international financial and trade institutions, particularly the annual high-level meetings of ECOSOC with the BWIs, WTO and UNCTAD.

Mr. President,

The High-level Segment of the current Session, that has been recently completed, became, in our opinion, a very important phase in preparation of the forthcoming September Summit. Despite the fact that the member-states did not reach agreement on the draft Ministerial Declaration, we believe that the negotiations turned out to be very productive, since they allowed to give careful

consideration to the wide spectrum of the issues of the social and economic agenda of the Summit, demonstrate the positions of the member-states, including on the most sensitive issues, as well as to agree upon many elements. Thereby the key role of the ECOSOC as the central UN body for discussing development issues has been reaffirmed once again.

At the same time we would like to stress that due to the unique circumstances of the current year relating to the Summit due this September the non-adoption of the Ministerial Declaration can not constitute a precedent for the years to come.

Thank you.