

Summary of Discussion

The Chairperson, Mr. Thomas Stelzer, ASG of DESA, thanked participants for joining the ECESA Meeting of Deputies and introduced the two agenda items: (i) collaborative ECESA action on youth issues, and (ii) identifying major trends and emerging issues in the area of development.

1. Collaborative ECESA action on Youth issues

Mr. Stelzer provided background on the UN and youth issues as well as on emerging issues relevant to youth development. Over the last decade or so, recognition had grown that youth hold a key to advancing development, as well as building peaceful and vibrant societies. They should be encouraged and enabled to participate in all aspects of society. To this end, the General Assembly had developed and adopted a comprehensive World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY), which identified 15 priority areas for action.

The global financial and economic crisis had exacerbated already high rates of youth unemployment and informal labour. Young people living in poverty without access to basic education and health services were also more exposed to the risks of violent crimes. Yet, the potential of young people to bring about a positive change within and with other societies is also increasingly recognized.

The Assembly adopted a resolution to proclaiming the International Year of Youth. The intent of the resolution's sponsors and supporters was to catalyze the scaling up of the youth-focused activities. On International Youth Day (12 August), the UN would launch the International Year of Youth, with the theme "Dialogue and Mutual Understanding". As a highlight of the Year, Member States had also decided to hold a UN conference, with the aim of generating a more action-oriented framework for advancing the youth agenda, building on the existing programme (WPAY).

Mr. Stelzer reported that, while Member States were engaged in ongoing consultations on the

to produce studies on youth-related development challenges, particularly in the fields of employment and youth political and civil participation.

Principals had also asked the Deputies to explore launching joint initiatives on Youth. With the new tranche of funding available soon through the Development Account, ECESA members could consider seizing the opportunity to implement joint programming on key issues related to youth development. Data collection remained a major challenge in addressing youth issues. Deputies could explore possibilities for joint work in improving data collection: what kind of joint initiatives can be launched; and how to fund such initiatives.

UNHABITAT discussed the importance it places on youth development and that it considers youth as both key beneficiaries and key stakeholders. Through its Youth Empowerment Programme, UNHABITAT aimed to empower youth by providing vocational skills training. It also operated a Trust Fund for youth-led development and had recently launched its publication, "State of the World's Urban Youth: Leveling the playing field". UNHABITAT stated that it was very active in the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development and acknowledged the important work of the UN Programme on Youth (UNPY/DESA) in chairing the Network. Recognizing that more could be done to support country-level efforts, UNHABITAT proposed the development of guidelines on how to engage youth, perhaps to be produced by UNDG, as in the cases of indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities.

UNEP mentioned its global programme on youth called TUNZA, which engaged youth around the world. This programme could be a tool to be used throughout the International Year of Youth; perhaps through activities related to the environment, as most of the programme's work related to environmental protection. TUNZA had created a roadmap for the Year under 5 key areas of engagement: (i) promote youth interactions through the Unite for Climate website; (ii) identify 6 key days during the Year for advocacy purposes; (iii)

DESA informed Deputies of its work on global data on young migrants. Much had been done since the adoption of the WPAY: for example, work to disaggregate data on migration by age (available on DESA website) and also within refugee populations by age (available on UNHCR website). Since the WPAY, the UN had also undertaken surveys of both destination countries and countries of origin on the matter of remittances. UNICEF was partly supporting this work and the Population Division would welcome additional funding, such as through the Development Account.

ESCWA stated that data collection was a key point in the region. Youth with special needs, such as IDPs, were of particular importance and should be considered in ECESA's deliberations on youth.

DESA mentioned that it is preparing for the Rio+20 Conference in the context of the Commission for Sustainable Development. The Commission had consistently had a high rate of participation of youth, a Major Group, and the same was expected in the Rio+20 process. There were likely to be many opportunities to link with the International Year of Youth and these should be addressed.

DESA recently participated in a counter-terrorism task force meeting where members acknowledged the importance of including a development perspective in their work, without making causal links between, for example, poverty or under-development and terrorism. The task force was convinced that addressing youth was a key strategy and were open to learning more from the vast knowledge available from ECESA members. Regarding the Development Account, the DESA confirmed that the 8th tranche of fundNoO1I54--F'-'NnO1I5"2"l2NnO1I54-'F2NdO1I5F

2. Identifying major trends and emerging issues in the area of development

Mr. Stelzer briefed Deputies on the proposal by DESA to initiate a broad process of consultations and brainstorming for identifying major trends and emerging issues in the area of development. There were two main objectives: (i) helping to define strategic priorities for the work of the UN in the coming year; and (ii) scanning the environment and scouting for issues that may gain urgency or prominence in the next 2-3 years. The exercise would provide ECESA with the necessary knowledge to advise the Secretary-General about his priorities and also to flag issues for Member States through our analytical work and the various intergovernmental processes ECESA entities support.

He suggested that all members of EC-ESA should engage in the exercise. It could be held every year via email and web-based discussions, and/or video links, from September through October. The final recommendations could be submitted to Principals for their consideration and approval. The discussions should not focus on forthcoming summits/conferences, as those were priorities already defined by Member States. The aim was to create a shared space and momentum for focusing on emerging issues, not events.

DESA pointed to three factors: (1) limits on economic growth, in terms of climate change, bio-diversity and natural resources; (2) past periods of rapid growth in developing countries; and (3) the fissuring of the international cooperation needed to reconcile these two trends. The three could be subsumed together under the “political economy of global sustainable development” as a key emerging issue.

DESA added that, in terms of achieving a fairer and more sustainable global development as the key challenge of the next two to three decades, this would require profound economic and social transformations. Failure to bring about such transformations would only create further stresses (e.g. by affecting migration patterns and putting further strain on natural resources). It was noted that HLCP was thinking along the same lines: on how to move beyond the nine joint crisis initiatives to identify steps in the next decades to unify the UN’s work and influence national policy-making and action. This also linked to thinking about the post-2015 development framework.

UNHABITAT agreed on the need to move beyond business as usual and the sectoral approach. This was even more evident at the country level, where the UN was at risk of becoming less relevant than the various other development actors. Bold action was needed to address the new challenges, such as through innovative financing approaches and other efforts to engage the private sector in new business models, going beyond corporate social responsibility.

OHCHR strongly welcomed the initiative and underscored the contribution of a human rights perspective to the analysis of challenges and the promotion of sustainable approaches to development. It recommended putting in place a proc

issues), transparency or verification. Perhaps a global policy community could be established around the issue to raise awareness of the contributions of information approaches to development so far and explore how to build on them.

OSAA underscored the opportunity for ECESA in the next several years to help advance the empowerment of women as a crucial issue cutting across the entire development and MDG agendas, by devising strategies and programmes to move from rhetoric to action.

UNDP looked forward to engaging in the process and identified two key issues: (1) energy and development, with different implications for women and men; and (2) the role of science and technology in achieving the MDGs. Existing research by the UN system on the first issue was disparate and not sufficiently focused on the long-term challenges of energy sovereignty and security over the next 10-20 years.

DESA informed that the 2011 World Economic and Social Survey (WESS) would focus on what it takes to 'green' an economy, and would include attention to requirements in terms of science and technology, as well as human resource capacity and education. It would build on the 2009 WESS, which focused an investment-led approach in renewable energy as a way to pursue a low-carbon high-growth development path.

UNHABITAT noted the ambiguity of the 'green economy' concept and suggested a role for ECESA in better defining it.

OHRLLS agreed with the emphasis by UNDP on energy and development and how energy access would affect development strategies and paths, particularly for countries with special

multiple crises had highlighted the need for new ways to develop and to create productive capacity. The best chance for developing countries

generating inputs for a study to be launched in Sep