

MEXICO

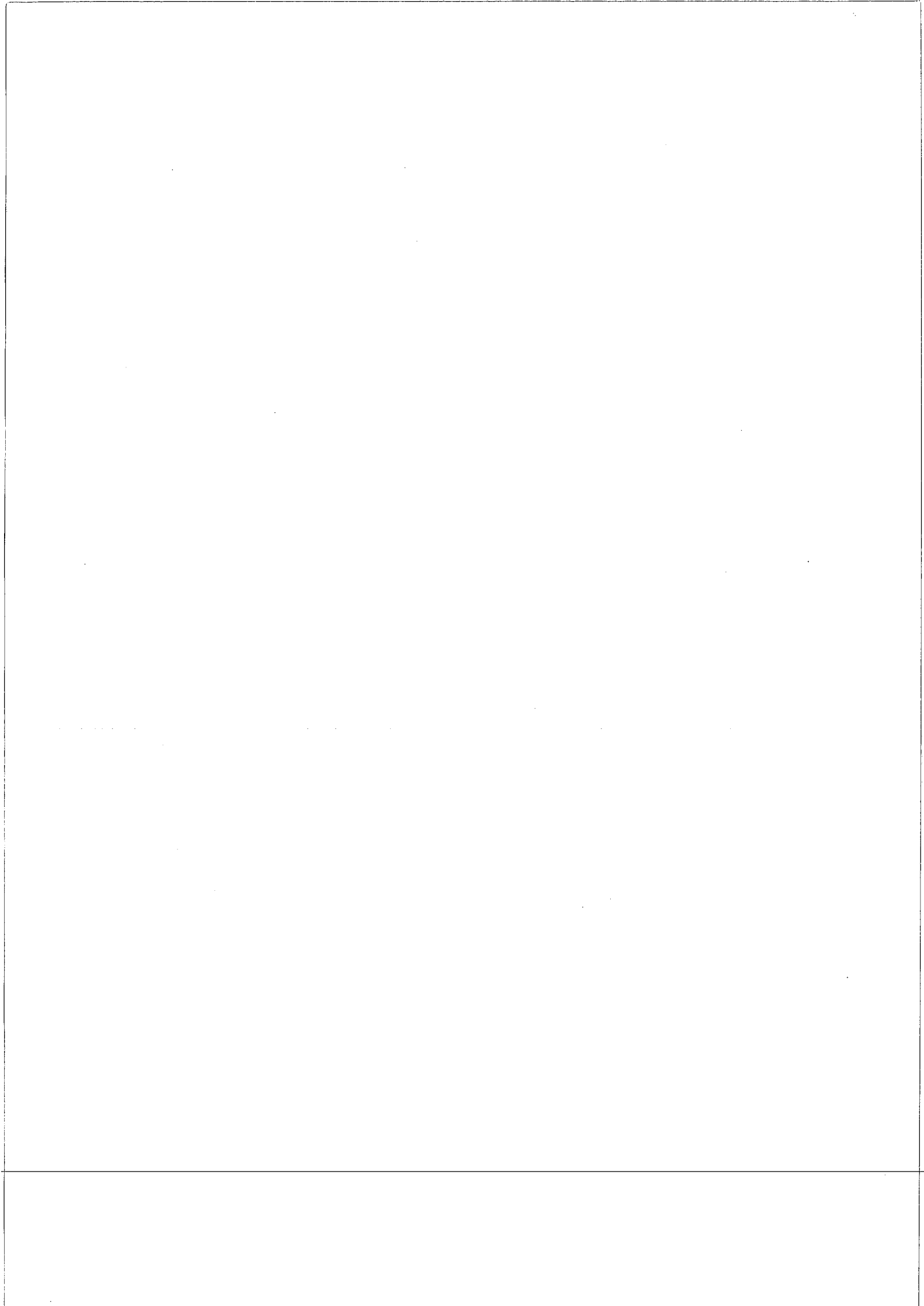
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Statement by Ambassador Claude Heller
Head of the Delegation of Mexico
Permanent Representative to the United Nations

High Level Segment
Substantive Session

United Nations Economic and Social Council
“Strengthening Efforts to Eradicate Poverty and
Hunger, including through the Global Partnership
for Development”

Geneva, July 4th 2007.



Mr. President,

My Delegation welcomes the holding of this first Annual Ministerial Review of the ECOSOC, an important outcome of the Council's reform.

Mexico is strongly committed to the strengthening of the ECOSOC as the main organ in charge of issues related to economic and social development.

In this sense, from the point of view of my delegation, by assessing the progress made in fulfilling the commitments agreed to in the United Nations Conferences and Summits in these spheres, the Annual Ministerial Reviews allow to promote

still to be achieved the full development of our people and, on the other, the

well-being of the planet.

It is important to note that the challenges we face are not only global but also regional.

At the same time, the challenges we face are not only regional but also national.

Therefore, it is essential to have a comprehensive approach to these issues.

It is also important to note that the challenges we face are not only national but also local.

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Mr. President,

Since the end of the nineties, Mexico has undertaken important reforms and has implemented a variety of social programmes as part of an ambitious strategy to combat poverty. Efforts aimed at investing in nutrition and human capital of

such efforts, together with the macroeconomic stability that we have been able to sustain for approximately two decades, have permitted our country to accomplish the first Millennium Development Goal before the established timeframe, and to achieve additional goals in relation to poverty reduction and hunger.

The Mexican strategy for the reduction of poverty includes, amongst its most effective components, the promotion of micro credit programs that facilitate access to financial services for persons of lower income, in order to foster productivity and self-employment and to improve the quality of life of wide sectors of the population, in particular women. In a context of macroeconomic stability, such measures have reverted to a great extent the negative effects of the economic crisis that occurred in the mid 90's, in terms of people living in poverty.

Mexico firmly believes that the actions undertaken by the international community, including multilateral and bilateral partners, should be fully integrated into national strategies. This requires a global and coherent vision on themes such as market access and capacity building, as well as stability and predictability of Official Development Aid (ODA), in the spirit of the internationally agreed commitments, particularly the Monterrey Consensus.

Mr. President,

Mexico, as a middle income country greatly benefits from the work done by the United Nations entities to support our efforts in overcoming the challenges we face in certain areas that still need improvement.

Indeed, for several years now Mexico has been among the countries with highest human development index, and has significantly progressed in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Nevertheless, inequalities by region, ethnicity and gender remain a challenge to which the Government of my country is firmly decided to confront.

Therefore, in the context of its National Development Plan for 2007-2012, Mexico has established the following key objectives:

First, to reduce extreme poverty and ensure equal opportunities and enhanced capacities, so that all Mexicans significantly improve their housing, and a suitable environment for their development.

- Secondly, to significantly reduce social, economic, and cultural gaps that

100 thousand inhabitants, a number lower than the one currently presented by OECD countries

Mexico appreciates and is grateful for the actions of the United Nations agencies in the field, in support of our efforts on diverse matters such as the promotion of equality, the strengthening of democracy and increased competitiveness. This work fosters the sustainable and integral development of my country.

Mr. President,

With regards to development cooperation, Mexico as a middle income country is not an ODA recipient nor a donor. However, my country has become a provider of technical cooperation, particularly in the field of policies aimed at combating poverty.

I would like to highlight Mexico's active collaboration with international

Moreover, Mexico continuously seeks innovative mechanisms for the promotion of south-south cooperation. Allow me to highlight among these a project

and methodological tools to develop public policies for the combat against poverty. The project is being co-financed by Mexico and Chile and will start operating on the second semester of 2007.

With this cooperation, important progress has been made in reducing poverty and hunger

I thank you very much.