

Statement by

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**OPENING ADDRESS TO THE 2010  
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6. I am happy to inform you that delegations have agreed on this approach and extremely good progress has been made. I would have liked to have had the Ministerial Declaration agreed to by now. However, owing to scheduling difficulties, this has not been possible. I would like to thus urge all delegations to continue to exhibit the same flexibility so that we can conclude the negotiations on the Declaration.

7. The change in the format and content of the Declaration is a key point of the overall change in ECOSOC that I had called for when Malaysia assumed the ECOSOC Presidency in January. I had mentioned that my views of the changes that needed to be made are encapsulated in what I call the five musts :

7.1 Firstly: We must adopt a proactive and constructive agenda. Our actions must be purposeful;

7.2 Secondly: We must adopt shorter, more focused agreements and resolutions. Instead of an avalanche of words which bury us all, we must have a flood of results;

7.3 Thirdly: We must do more to improve the atmospherics surrounding the ECOSOC. We need to promote greater transparency and honest dialogue, so concerns are clearly understood;

7.4 Fourthly: We must move beyond stale arguments;

7.5 Fifthly:  
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8. I am also pleased to note that this message has resonated not only within the UN, but elsewhere too. For example, as a result of the meeting between the ECOSOC, the Bretton Woods Institutions, WTO and UNCTAD there is now a renewed spirit of cooperation, rather than competition, between these institutions. This can only be good for our collective constituencies, namely, the members of a common human family.

Distinguished Delegates,

9. , Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and , is particularly opportune and timely, as women all too often are the poorest and most marginalised. It allows us to strengthen the linkages between -discrimination



18. The Forum has all the potential to become the principal venue for global dialogue and policy review on the effectiveness and coherence of international development cooperation. The strong legislation of the Forum allowing for the inclusion of all relevant development actors provides a unique opportunity to garner a wide range of inputs for a deepened dialogue and understanding of the international development cooperation agenda. These issues are vital to the achievement of the MDGs. However, the potential that the DCF has is constrained by the following:

18.1 Firstly: It is held only once every two years;

18.2 Secondly:

18.3 Thirdly: It is not institutionally linked to any other processes related to development cooperation either within the UN or outside.

19. This is an issue that will need to be addressed during the 65th session of the General Assembly when, as you know, we will review Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council.

Distinguished delegates,

20. I trust that with its strong legislative basis, the enthusiastic involvement of the UN system and the other development partners will enable the Council to move forward with firm commitment and strong political resolve to accelerate progress in the economic, social and cultural spheres worldwide. In that spirit, I look forward to a successful session.

I thank you.