



## Economic and Social Council

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### **Substantive session of 2008**

New York, 30 June-25 July 2008

Item 2 (c) of the provisional agenda\*

**Annual ministerial review: implementing the internationally  
agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development**

### **Statement submitted by the United Nations Association of China, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council**

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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\* E/2008/100.



## **Statement**

### **Recommendations made by the Third Conference of UN-NGO-IRENE/ Asia Pacific**

**28-30 April 2008, Beijing**

#### **“Promote sustainable development and build an harmonious world”**

The Third Conference of UN-NGO-IRENE/Asia Pacific was held in Beijing on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April, 2008 on the theme “Sustainable Development and Green Olympics. The Conference, co-sponsored by China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE) and the NGO Section of UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), co-organized with Beijing NGO Association for International Exchanges, was attended by officials from UN DESA and UN Department of Public Information together with over 200 representatives of about 100 non-governmental organizations from India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Bangladesh, Viet Nam, Singapore, Turkey, Brazil, the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, South Africa, Malaysia, the Netherlands and China. Coordinators of UN-NGO-IRENE from Latin America, Eastern Europe, South Asia, East Asia and Africa took the opportunity of this Conference to convene a planning coordination meeting.

- Taking note of the fact that sustainable development is one of the 8 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) set forth by the United Nations and that implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development has been affirmed as the topic for the Annual Ministerial Review of this year’s ECOSOC High-Level Segment;
- Stressing that although the MDGs have become the goals of all efforts in all levels of development, continuous and sustained advocacy is needed to urge all stakeholders, including the United Nations, national and local authorities, the private sector and the civil society, both in the developed and developing countries, to recommit themselves to focusing upon the most vulnerable peoples and environments globally in their collaborative efforts to enhance sustainable development;
- Believing that sustainable development requires not only balance between economic growth and social progress free from threats to safety and security, but also harmony between man and nature, and that to work for sustainable development is the common desire and obligation of the whole international community;
- Acknowledging the concept of Green Olympics advocated and practiced by the organizers of the Beijing Olympic Games, whereby the idea of sustainability is incorporated into the preparation of the Games, as a major contribution to both the MDGs and the Olympic spirit;

- Appreciating all the efforts made by Chinese and participating world NGOs in promoting sustainable development, especially the efforts of UN-NGO-IRENE/Asia-Pacific through the UN DESA and CNIE for holding this conference on such an important topic, which provides an opportunity to bring NGOs in the region together with other regional coordinators, enabling an environment conducive to the development of an effective NGO sector that will be able to take up a larger challenge in implementing the MDGs;
- Congratulating the UN-NGO-IRENE Coordinators for their reports of activities and achievements, and encouraging them to pursue their initiatives for the implementation of their outreach programmes and to evaluate and monitor concrete results;

We, delegates to the Conference, would hereby put forth the following recommendations to this year's High-Level Segment of UN ECOSOC:

- I. A more socially just and environmentally rational international economic order will be an important guarantee for realizing sustainable development. The international community, therefore, should steer economic globalisation towards the direction of shared prosperity, establish an open and fair regime of world trade and promote a rational flow of factors of production around the globe, so as to create necessary conditions for development of all countries.
- II. The United Nations, with its unique advantages and status, should play a greater role in promoting sustainable development by enhancing the awareness and commitment among the international community and bringing all stakeholders closer together for dialogues and cooperation in this respect.
- III. Governments in the world should incorporate sustainable development into their respective national development strategies and adopt relevant policies accordingly. Developed countries should undertake additional actions to help developing countries to build their capacity, allowing for more sustainable development. Meanwhile, developing countries should explore diversified modes of sustainable development in keeping with their own national conditions and levels of development.
- IV. The private sector should develop a greater sense of corporate social responsibility and ensure that while they pursue economic profits, they bring about social and environmental benefits as well. Multi-nationals in particular should take tangible measures and commit themselves to ensuring sustainable development of the world at different stages and in all respects.
- V. The civil society should increase its active participation as partners and important contributors in the drive for sustainable development, whereas its influence in this area should be better appreciated by the international community. While overseeing the performance of inter-governmental organizations, governments in

the world and the private sector in implementing sustainable development strategies, non-governmental organizations need also to build their own capabilities in order to play a better part in this process.

- VI. UN-NGO-IRENEs in different regions should strengthen educational and training programmes within the scope of the UN MDGs and of sustainable development in order to share the best practices to all NGOs worldwide, particularly those in developing countries.
- VII. The United Nations, through the Office of the Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General on Sports, Peace and Development, should take the Beijing Olympiad as an opportunity to launch a publicity and education campaign on sports for sustainable development and foster a green culture to guide the implementation of the MDGs in the long run with emphasis on the role of the youth.

Being convinced that sustainable development has a great deal to do with the well-being of humanity and the harmony of the world, NGOs represented at this Conference will all stand ready to make relentless efforts for the achievement of sustainable development in due time as specified in the MDGs not only in the Asia-Pacific region but in the world at large.