

	<p><b>ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT</b></p> <p><b>Thematic Debate</b></p> <p><i>“The contribution of the Economic and Social Council to the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda”</i></p> <p><b>Thursday, 4 July 2013</b> <b>10:00 am – 1:00 pm and 3:00 – 5:30 pm</b></p>
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### Concept Note

#### Background

The United Nations system is in the process of elaborating the post-2015 UN development agenda. To this end, a number of initiatives are taking place. Some of these efforts include the establishment by the UN Secretary General of the High-level Panel on the Post-2015 development agenda, creation of a UN System-wide Task Team and the convening of numerous national and thematic consultations. The President of the 68<sup>th</sup> General Assembly has been mandated to convene a General Assembly special event (25 September 2013) to assess progress on the MDGs and consider the direction of a post-2015 framework.

Several other simultaneous processes are taking place. Pursuant to the mandates of the Rio+20 outcome document, the General Assembly is working to establish the High-level Political Forum and to elaborate a set of sustainable development goals (SDGs). Efforts will be made to integrate the legislative tracks of the SDGs with the post-2015 UN development agenda.

At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), Heads of State and Government reaffirmed ECOSOC as a principal body for policy review, dialogue and recommendations on issues of economic, social and environmental development. They also reaffirmed ECOSOC’s role in coordination, coherence and oversight, and recognized its responsibility for achieving the balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development.

#### The Thematic Debate

The thematic debate will focus on ECOSOC’s contribution to shaping the post-2015 development agenda and its follow up. ECOSOC has accumulated extensive experience in the substantive monitoring and review of the MDGs and in the integrated and coordinated follow up to the major global summits and conferences, putting it in a unique position to contribute to the definition of a post-2015 development agenda.

The Council's role as a global policymaking, dialogue and accountability platform has been greatly enhanced by the AMR and DCF, arising from the 2005 Summit. Since then, it has effectively tracked progress in achieving the MDGs and has provided policy guidance aimed at overcoming crucial obstacles to such efforts.

In the post-2015 framework, the Council could contribute as a key platform for global monitoring of and accountability for the implementation of the UN development agenda. It could also continue to bring the dialogue on development to a wide range of stakeholders. This year's Thematic Debate at the High-level Segment of ECOSOC provides the Council and the entire ECOSOC system the opportunity to present ideas and recommendations on the substantive content of the post-2015 development agenda and how it should be monitored.

The theme selected for the 2013 thematic report is "*The contribution of the Economic and Social Council to the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda as a principal body for policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on issues of economic and social development and for the follow up to the Millennium Development Goals.*" The Report of the Secretary-General on the theme will be introduced at the ECOSOC High-level Segment during the afternoon of Tuesday, 2 July 2013.

The thematic debate will consist of two roundtable discussions during the morning and afternoon sessions of Thursday, 4 July 2013. High-level representatives from various relevant sectors, including government, academia, and the UN system, will be invited to contribute to the discussion.

## **Objectives**

The main objective of the thematic roundtable discussions is to bring together a cross-section of high-level policymakers and experts to deliberate on ECOSOC's role and contribution to shaping and monitoring the post-2015 development framework.

Specific objectives are to:

1. Promote dialogue and provide concrete ideas for informing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015, particularly with respect to integrating sustainable development into a unified framework; and
2. Elicit recommendations on how the entire ECOSOC system could be better mobilized in the coordinated follow up, implementation and monitoring of the new development agenda.

In pursuing these objectives, the roundtable deliberations will address issues of promoting inclusiveness and reducing inequalities, strengthening global governance frameworks, bringing about a renewed global partnership for development and engaging new and emerging actors, among other topics. As the consultation process for fashioning the new development agenda is premised on multi-stakeholder participation and mutual

global accountability, presentations and discussions in each roundtable will seek to highlight the potential of ECOSOC as a platform for collective action.

**Panel I: Shaping the post-2015 development agenda (10 am – 1 pm)**

*Moderator:* Mr. David Steven, Senior Fellow and Associate Director, Center for International Cooperation, New York University, USA

*Lead Presenters:*

Co-Chairs of the United Nations Task Team on the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda:

- Mr. Wu Hongbo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations
- Ms. Helen Clark, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme

*Panellists:*

- Mr. Anthony Mothae Maruping, Commissioner for Economic Affairs, African Union
- Hon. François-Xavier De Donnea, Inter-Parliamentary Union/Chamber of Representatives, Belgium
- Ms. Amina Mohammed, Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Post-2015 Development Planning

*Discussants:*

- H.E. Mr. Michael Anderson, Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Post-2015 UN Development, United Kingdom
- Dr. Ann Aerts, Head of the Novartis Foundation for Sustainable Development.

**Questions:**

- What should the United Nations do to ensure that the post-2015 development agenda successfully integrates the sustainable development agenda into a unified development framework? [Mr. Wu Hongbo]
- How can the post-2015 development agenda be shaped to bring about more inclusive social and economic development that eradicates poverty and reduces growing inequalities in the world? [Ms. Helen Clark]

- What actions could ECOSOC and the United Nations undertake to address the specific needs of countries in Africa, including post-conflict countries, in the context of the post-2015 development agenda? [Mr. Anthony Mothae Maruping]
- What could be the roles of parliaments, as well as national and local governments, in the post-2015 development agenda? What can the United Nations and ECOSOC do to foster these roles? [Hon. François-Xavier De Donnea]
- What steps need to be taken to ensure full and effective financing of a post-2015 development agenda? How might sustainable development financing be extended beyond other aspects of development financing? [Ms. Amina Mohammed]

**Panel II: Follow up to the post-2015 development agenda (3 – 5:30 pm)**

*Moderator:* Mr. David Steven, Senior Fellow and Associate Director, Center for International Cooperation, New York University, USA

*Lead Presenters:*

- H.E. Mr. Minelik Alemu Getahun, Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations, Geneva
- H.E. Mr. Martin Dahinden, Director, Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation

*Panellists:*

- Mr. John McArthur, Senior Fellow at Fung Global Institute, United Nations Foundation and Brookings Institution
- Ms. Bernadette Fischler, Policy Analyst on post-MDGs, CAFOD, The official Catholic aid agency for England and Wales

*Discussants:*

- H.E. Ms. Faeqa Saeed Alsaleh, Assistant Secretary-General, League of Arab States
- Mr. Klaus Rudischhauser, Deputy Director General, EuropeAid, European Commission

## Questions:

- What are the constructs of a more effective and renewed global partnership for development? How can new and emerging development partners be better engaged in this global partnership? [H.E. Mr. Ahmed Shide]
- How could accountability and the measurement and tracking of progress be improved in the post-2015 framework at the global, regional and national levels? How could the ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review and Development Cooperation Forum mechanisms contribute to strengthening accountability? [H.E. Mr. Martin Dahinden]
- What can be done to bring about a stronger and more inclusive global governance, strengthen development coherence and create an enabling international environment for development in support of the post-2015 development agenda? [Mr. John McArthur]
- What would be the roles of the private sector, academia, and NGOs, in the post-2015 development agenda? How can ECOSOC foster these roles? [Ms. Bernadette Fischler]

## Format

The deliberations will be chaired by the President of ECOSOC. Each session will consist of an open, free-flowing roundtable discussion, with no formal statements or presentations. The deliberations will be led by a moderator, who will initiate discussion by addressing specific questions to each lead presenter and panellist. The moderator will guide interactive exchanges among lead presenters and panellists.

The moderator will pose the first question to the first lead presenter, who will have five to seven (5-7) minutes to respond, giving her/his perspectives on the issue. The remaining lead presenter and panellists will then be given two (2) minutes each to share any additional perspectives and to engage in discussion on the question. The moderator will then give a brief (one-minute) summary and proceed to the next question, posing it to the next lead presenter or panellist. The process will be repeated for all the questions.

After all the questions have been addressed, the moderator will invite the discussant(s) for each panel to give a brief perspective (seven minutes) tying together the themes addressed by each of the lead presenters and panellists and providing their own perspective on the questions.

The moderator will then open the floor, inviting audience participants to ask questions and make comments on the range of issues raised. The moderator will be responsible for channelling questions and managing this interactive process. Audience participants are asked

to engage in an open, free-flowing interactive discussion, with no formal statements or presentations.

At the end of the question and answer session, the moderator will conclude the discussions with a brief synthesis of the main points raised. The Chair will then close the session.

### **Outcome**

The outcome of the discussion will be a summary by the President of ECOSOC. The summary will provide concrete perspectives on ways in which ECOSOC could contribute to the post-2015 development framework and to its follow up, monitoring, and implementation. The summary will be transmitted by the President of ECOSOC to the President of the General Assembly in preparation for the 25 September 2013 General Assembly special event on the MDGs and the post-2015 development agenda.