

Draft welcoming address by President of ECOSOC
Economic and Social Council and the Economic and Financial Committee (Second
Committee) of the General Assembly
*Special Joint Meeting on “Finding solutions for addressing sustainable
development challenges and accelerating the achievement of the MDGs”*

Wednesday, 6 November 2013

**Ambassador Diallo,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**A warm welcome to all of you to this special joint
ECOSOC/Second Committee meeting to discuss ways for pursuing
sustainable development and accelerating the achievement of the MDGs.
As mentioned by my co-chair, the sustainable development challenges
we are facing today are numerous and of paramount importance.
Finding effective solutions to tackle these challenges has become an
urgent necessity and I believe this can only be done through building
strong and multi-stakeholder partnerships.**

**Partnerships are essential, not only for accelerating the
achievement of the MDGs, but also in the perspective of successfully
framing a post-2015 development agenda. The collaboration of
governments with private sector, civil society and other key
stakeholders is vital for achieving economic and social progress.
Today’s challenges require all of us to work closely together to ensure
synergies and enhance the impact of our work.**

The process of defining solutions to address sustainable development challenges provides an excellent opportunity to engage the private sector with the UN's work. As governments are given tremendous responsibilities in implementing national policies to achieve the MDGs, support from the private sector has become even more crucial. Indeed, it is clear that both governments and the international community can benefit greatly from the expertise, resources and capacities provided by the private sector.

ECOSOC for its part places great emphasis on partnerships for supporting the international development agenda. The Council has, since 2008, convened an annual Partnerships Forum which has brought together large numbers of senior private sector and foundation representatives to discuss with governments ways in which partnerships could be strengthened in support of the MDGs. The Council is looking for ways to offer a platform for partners in order to facilitate a systematic dialogue and knowledge exchange with the private sector. I would encourage your active participation with this important body, particularly in their policy dialogues. The Council members will benefit from your perspective of how businesses can help address market failures, deliver public goods and services and facilitate skill and technology transfer so central now to achieving sustainable development in the poorest countries.