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THE PRESIDENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL  
H.E. AMBASSADOR MARTIN SAJDIK

DRAFT WELCOMING REMARKS  
JOINT GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND ECOCOC THEMATIC DEBATE/FORUM ON  
PARTNERSHIPS  
TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL CHAMBER  
UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK, 9 AND 10 APRIL 2014

Your Excellency, Mr. John Ashe, President of the General Assembly,  
Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour to convene this debate and forum jointly with the President of the General Assembly. I would also like to extend my personal welcome to all of you who have joined us here today to discuss the important role partnerships will play in the implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

The Economic and Social Council has, for several years now, brought together leaders of the private sector, philanthropic organizations, civil society and other representatives, to discuss ways in which partnerships can leverage the implementation of international development goals, including the MDGs. Today, for the first time, ECOSOC is joining hands with all 193 member states of the United Nations to search for action-oriented solutions for moving the development agenda forward. We are all quite aware of the importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration. What is needed now is to determine how to best maximize their potential as we begin to chart the way to a post-2015 development agenda.

Distinguished participants,

We are at a critical juncture in the reshaping of the development agenda. As we approach 2015, we must properly assess progress made in the MDG process, and make sure that we build on the strengths of the MDGs, and address the challenges of today in the post 2015 development agenda. The challenging international environment and the constraints we all - governments and civil society alike -are currently facing today require us to work together more efficiently to deliver on our commitments.

Building on its success in reviewing progress on the MDGs through its Annual Ministerial Review (AMR), ECOSOC will play a major role in the preparation and implementation of a post-2015 development agenda. The ECOSOC strengthening process and the new role of the Council in the balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development should also bolster the Council's role as an effective monitoring platform in the post-2015 era. In addition, dialogue is being initiated through the Council's Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) on the possible features of a renewed global partnership for development.

Today's deliberations will examine ways in which the transformative post-2015 development agenda can best be supported by multi-stakeholder partnerships that respond to a sustainable development agenda and complement intergovernmental efforts in crafting a renewed global partnership for development. A robust framework for poverty eradication and sustainable development should ensure a rights-based approach encompassing all human rights. The next two days will hopefully generate ideas and concrete solutions for addressing development challenges as well as proposals for scaling up existing initiatives. It will also look at a key priority area for not just the Council but for all partners in the post-2015 phase: to put in place an

effective framework for monitoring and mutual accountability of the contribution of all the different partnerships.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We must mobilize together our joint efforts so as to utilize the full potential of a partnership approach. These partnerships should be formed at all levels, from grassroots, to national, regional and global. Our collaborative efforts should specifically focus on the needs of vulnerable countries, including in the groups of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), the Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), the Small Island Developing States (SIDS), as well as African countries and countries emerging from conflict, that are far behind in the achievement of the MDGs. The Post-2015 Development Agenda must therefore lay a special emphasis on their needs. We must create new partnerships and scale up existing ones, in order to meet the challenges faced by these countries head on.

Another critical issue to bear in mind is that for an effective development agenda beyond 2015, a robust framework for sustainable development finance will be required, including from both private and public funding sources. We need to create and maintain an environment conducive to business so as to create favourable flows of capital to be channelled in support of the future development agenda. Domestic revenues are central to this, and all countries need to put these revenues to good use. To this end, an enabling environment, based on good governance and the rule of law, is essential.

Official development assistance will remain a crucial and catalytic element in the overall financing available for developing countries, in particular to those most in need..In addition to delivering on past commitments, it will be important for all development partners to scale up

support in line with their evolving capacities and to enhance development cooperation, including through the principles and actions set out in the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation. The Development Cooperation Forum could have an important role in the international framework for monitoring progress and for promoting mutual accountability.

As the United Nations system becomes more actively engaged in multistakeholder partnerships to promote the implementation of the post-2015 Development Agenda, consistent with its mandate on coordination, the Council can also take a more role in reviewing these partnerships, particularly with the private sector, while at the same time facilitating the exchange of experiences among the agencies, funds and programmes. In this way, the Council can help to strengthen these partnerships while promoting accountability for results.

Distinguished participants,

Today's joint event is indeed a very special occasion. We have here, in this Chamber, a unique gathering of member states, representatives of the private sector, foundations, and civil society representatives, all with a shared vision of finding innovative solutions to the many development challenges facing us all. Here, at the United Nations, we have been long convinced of the need to leverage the contribution of many ideas to achieve the common goals we all share. We are keen to hear your views and it is my hope that our meeting today will yield many novel suggestions for collaboration as we move forward with implementing the post-2015 MDG development agenda.

Thank you.