



UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

Keynote Address by

**His Excellency Mr. Martin Sajdik,
President of the Economic and Social Council**

President of the General Assembly's High-level Stocktaking Event

**"Post-2015 development agenda:
contributions to the Secretary-General's synthesis report"**

**Trusteeship Council Chamber
United Nations Headquarters, New York, 11-12 September 2014**

His Excellency Mr. John Ashe, President of the General Assembly,
H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary-General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me begin by thanking President Ashe for his initiative in organizing and hosting this Event, but also the thematic debates throughout his term in office.

Today's High-level Stock Taking Event comes on the heels of the yesterday's important decision by the General Assembly, paving the way for us to agree the development agenda between now and 2030.

Let me concentrate my remarks on four aspects:

- First: Accountability
- Second: Partnerships
- Third: Implementation on National Level and
- Fourth: Participation of future generations.

Sometime between today and the end of that agenda in 2030, the 8 billionth citizen of our planet will be born somewhere on planet.

We do not need reminding of the scale of the challenges that humanity faces. Indeed, scale is reflected in the Outcome Document of the Open Working Group: 17 Goals, 169 targets, 193 Member States and 15 years.

If anyone, who has a smartphone in their pockets cared to multiply those numbers you would find that we would have 32,617 reports to file. Annually! Over the period of 15 years we would arrive at humble 489,255. Give or take.

This would be an enormous and unprecedented task. There will be a temptation to create an agenda and monitoring system that is a box ticking exercise. We must avoid this. We need smart ways of measuring and reporting, and we need innovative thinking when it comes to the scope of these reports. The success of the entire agenda will depend upon it.

Merely recognising the ambition and scale of the new agenda is the first step along a long road. This journey will involve a complete re-think of accountability.

Many questions undoubtedly arise.

If we are to truly create such a people-centred agenda, accountability must begin with political engagement at the highest level.

The recently launched High-level Political Forum, convened under the auspices of the ECOSOC, could provide just that high-level leadership on sustainable development.

I have had the honour to guide the shaping of the High-Level Political Forum last July as we emerged from a period of transition for both the ECOSOC and the United Nations system as a whole. I have made it a personal priority of mine to shape the HLPF into a body that facilitates engagement whilst clearly setting out a political vision for a *future we all want*.

The question is – do we want the HLP to function as the stock-taking body for 489,255 annual reports that unites the accountants of the Post 2015-Agenda or as THE forum that – as foreseen in Rio + 20 – brings together the political leadership of our world to give political guidance throughout this unique process?

We have to facilitate lasting engagement of our political leadership in and for the Post 2015 Agenda to both bring and guarantee the success of our vision.

Accountants don't bring accountability. But we simply cannot achieve our ambitious development goals alone. To achieve, we need strong and stable partnerships.

Those who attended the wonderful SIDS conference in Samoa, witnessed the central role partnerships played during that outstanding event. The official conference website lists 12 pages of new partnership initiatives, 300 in total, a truly remarkable achievement!

Samoa has once again proven the weight partnerships have when forging a successful Post 2015 Agenda. I am therefore delighted to inform you of my intention to capitalise on the Samoa momentum and convene an action-oriented event early next year that will focus on the involvement of partners in a Post 2015 context. We all know too well – without the business sector, the civil society, academia and philanthropy, regional governments, parliaments etc. we will not achieve.

This, I also learnt in Samoa, once again.

By the way – I plan an ECOSOC Samoa stock-taking event with a discussion on the way forward in early October after the High Level Week of the General Assembly.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is of critical importance that the impact of what we do is felt on the ground. National level implementation of the development agenda must be at the front and centre of our minds. Ultimately, our efforts here must be matched by Parliaments and national level institutions, such as Supreme Audit Institutions and Local Government.

Confidence building will be a crucial facet of national action and review. This will involve the United Nations system, strengthening its role in fostering good governance and the rule of law.

UN Country Teams and Specialized Agencies, but also the Regional Economic Commissions will have to work directly with governments on the ground. And we must commit to strengthening international frameworks such as the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review so that the impact of implementation is forceful and immediate.

ECOSOC is the body to coordinate these activities throughout the year. The more whole UN-membership takes advantage of its role, the better the coordination, the better the final results.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At this year's Youth Forum hosted by ECOSOC, I was struck by the passion and energy in the room. The forum gathered bright and ambitious young women and men from all corners of the world, and each shared a common purpose for creating a better future.

There was one presenter from West Africa who gave an impassioned plea that has stuck in my mind. I was taken aback when she stated:

"We Want a World That Wants Us"

The Post 2015 Agenda is developed by our generations but we don't primarily do it for us. This is why I call for your support in making Youth the critical partners for the post-2015 development agenda. We must find ways to engage them in ways defined by them, and where appropriate, giving it a leadership role. The alternative is to risk alienating Youth from the process altogether.

Without wanting to sound pathetic – throughout the process we should always keep in mind that what we are doing now has to be eventually owned by the eight billion citizens of our globe.

I thank you.