

**Statement by**

**His Excellency Mr. Oh Joon
President of the Economic and Social Council**

Introduction of the 2015 Economic and Social Council report to the General Assembly

**United Nations Headquarters, New York
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Mr. President of the General Assembly,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to introduce the report for the 2015 session of the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly.

This has been a highly productive and significant year for the work of ECOSOC, laying a solid foundation for the 2016 session of the Council.

Before I highlight some of the key results and messages from the 2015 session, I wish to congratulate the President of the GA, on the outstanding success of the Development Summit held last month, and the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Our intergovernmental bodies and forums, particularly the General Assembly, the ECOSOC system, and the High-level Political Forum held under the auspices of both ECOSOC and the GA, will need to work closely together to support the implementation of the new agenda.

One important requirement of the SDGs is the need for Member States to formulate integrated policies that foster balanced consideration of economic, social and environmental issues, ensuring synergies across multiple sectors.

ECOSOC is committed to supporting Member States in this policy integration effort, and in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. I can assure you that the entire ECOSOC system, including the functional and regional commissions, committees, and expert bodies, is mobilized towards this end.

Excellencies,

In our 2015 session, the Council continued to support the transition to the 2030 development agenda through the main theme of “Managing the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals: What it will take”.

We drew upon the experience of implementing the Millennium Development Goals, which showed that development goals translate into results most effectively when they are supported by comprehensive and integrated policies.

Integrated and inclusive approaches to achieving our ambitious agenda will require strong institutions, broad-based partnerships, robust implementation plans, and thorough follow-up and review.

In this vein, I would like to highlight four key messages of the 2015 session of ECOSOC.

First, increasingly complex development challenges call for coordinated and integrated policy responses. This not only requires deepening of cooperation at country, regional and global levels, but also strengthened integration across the three dimensions of sustainable development.

Second, strong, adaptable and inclusive institutions at all levels are necessary for such improved coordination and integration.

Third, realizing the global partnership for sustainable development is critical to meeting the demands of the new agenda. This global partnership must be built on a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities of all partners - national and international, as well as public and private.

Finally, an effective and inclusive follow-up process to ensure full implementation will be vital to the success of the 2030 Agenda. Empirical evidence and the use of data must support the follow-up and review.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Through its 2015 cycle, the Council was diligently executed its reform measures arising from the General Assembly's strengthening of ECOSOC, addressed a broad range of themes, and brought together different development actors by:

- convening a forward-looking dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the UN development system and the readiness of its operational activities;
- applying the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development to employment creation and decent work;

- advancing Financing for Development;
- strengthening the coordination of the humanitarian assistance of the United Nations;
- conducting a review of its main theme, including through national voluntary presentations, on what it will take to manage the transition to the Sustainable Development Goals;
- considering the role and features of multi-stakeholder partnerships in implementing a 2030 Agenda; and
- incorporating youth perspectives in the international dialogue on development;

I am particularly pleased our work culminated in the 2015 High-level Segment of ECOSOC, which included the three-day Ministerial meeting of the HLPF. This meeting made significant contributions to our collective efforts to transition to the new 2030 Agenda.

The second meeting of the HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC cemented the Forum as a platform for dialogue and political guidance, and its discussions advanced our vision for the Forum beyond 2015.

I would also like to recognize the invaluable contribution of the whole ECOSOC system. The high level engagement of the Council in helping to shape the contours of the new agenda was possible because of growing coordination among its constituent parts, namely, the functional and regional commissions, committees and expert bodies.

The new 2016 session will be crucial for ECOSOC as we lead in the global implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda.

The ECOSOC forum on financing for development follow-up and review, mandated by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, will be convened for the first time during this session. It will include the special high-level meeting of the Council with the World Bank, the IMF, WTO and UNCTAD.

Distinguished delegates,

The 2016 annual theme “*Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Moving from commitments to results*” reflects the Council’s commitment in tackling the challenging task ahead of us. We stand ready to align our substantive and organizational support for sustainable development.

The Council will ensure that the High Level Political Forum, and all Segments and meetings of the 2016 Session bring together valuable contributions to support this task. The whole ECOSOC system will serve as a harmonized, coherent and effective platform for delivering concrete results for people and the planet.

On behalf of the ECOSOC Bureau, I would like to express my gratitude for the strong collaboration and support of Member States and the UN development system. We look forward to continued collaboration and engagement in the 2016 session.

Thank you.

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