



**STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. OH JOON**

**PRESIDENT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**High-Level Meeting on: “Strengthening cooperation on migration and  
refugee movements in the perspective of the new development agenda  
”**

**30 September 2015  
3-5.30 p.m.  
Conference Room 4**

Excellencies,  
Mr. President of the General Assembly,  
Mr. Secretary-General,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Economic and Social Council, I wish to thank the Secretary-General for organizing this timely event.

As he underscored in his opening remarks, the world is experiencing an unprecedented increase in people who are forced to leave their homes in order to survive. This growing crisis has deprived many people of development opportunities and basic human security.

Migration often has positive outcomes, not least when migrants are fully integrated into host countries. However, the images of migrants and refugees desperately seeking to reach

foreign shores present a harsh reality.

In many countries migration remains the only option for people, particularly youth, to survive and prosper. Lack of decent work at home, insecurity, corruption and violence mean that people often have no choice but to leave their homes. We need to do more to ensure that migration is a positive choice rather than an act of desperation.

For this reason, we need to address the root causes of migration. Reducing inequalities and offering long-term economic opportunities and social protection for vulnerable groups can help build more resilient and peaceful societies.

Here is where I see a role for ECOSOC. First, I have proposed a special meeting of the Council on ‘Inequality’ in the first quarter of 2016 to address what many view as the most pressing global challenge of our times. As we witness all over the world today, inequality is one of the key drivers of migration.

Second, the ECOSOC system will work with its partners from civil society to identify the policy options for a multi-sectoral response to the opportunities and challenges posed by migration. We need to address the underlying causes from all dimensions.

Third, it is important for subsidiary bodies of ECOSOC to play a role in the thematic review of the migration-related targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Commission on Population and Development, which considers migration, is currently in the process of reviewing its modalities of work, which makes this an especially timely prospect.

Next March, the Statistical Commission will adopt a framework of indicators, including on migration. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice is also addressing migrant smuggling and human trafficking.

As we begin to take our first steps to realize the commitments made in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, let us make sure that the rights of migrants are fully respected and upheld. Their inclusion and integration in their new homes will benefit all.

In closing, ECOSOC stands ready to work with other organs of the United Nations, including the Security Council and the General Assembly, to address this complex issue that requires our urgent attention.

Thank you.

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