



**Joint Meeting of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
and the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC)**

**2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustaining
Peace**

Opening Remarks

H.E Ambassador Oh Joon

President of the Economic and Social Council

Friday, 24 June 2016, 10:00 -13:00

ECOSOC Chamber

H.E. Mr. Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary-General

H.E. Macharia Kamau, Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission

Distinguished guests,

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

The past ten months have seen historic moments for the United Nations. We have adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. We have reached an ambitious agreement on climate change.

#ECOSOC70

And most recently, we have completed the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture that reaffirmed “the importance of closer cooperation between the ECOSOC and PBC” in the substantially identical resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

Distinguished Guests,

Now is the time to turn our commitments into action to achieve results for people on the ground.

That is why we have gathered here today. We would like to delve into the linkages of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and sustaining peace.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is universal and transformational. Its integrated nature brings complexity and calls for better coherence in policy-making.

Sustaining peace is an enabler and fundamental outcome of sustainable development, as the two notions are of the mutually reinforcing nature.

We also recognize that progress on the Sustainable Development Goals will be most difficult in conflict-affected countries where the Millennium Development Goals were lagging further behind.

We have seen repeatedly how conflict and unrest can reverse gains made in developments. We must work together to assist the countries emerging from conflict in their efforts to implement their commitments.

Furthermore, these countries face complex challenges that require multidimensional approaches. We need to address the immediate challenges of peace and security, and at the same time, tackle the root causes of conflict.

We also need to also support institution-building as well as human resource development. This will require closer cooperation between our intergovernmental bodies.

In this light, the PBC and ECOSOC have forged a working relationship between the Bureaus as well as the bodies themselves over the years.

Joint meetings have included events on “MDGs in countries emerging from conflict” in 2010; “Promoting durable peace and sustainable development in Sudan and South Sudan” in 2011 and “Partnerships for job creation for young people in countries emerging from conflict” in 2012.

In addition, since 2009, the Council has invited the PBC Chair “to continue to inform it on best practices, particularly on lessons learned from its experiences that are relevant for addressing the economic and social challenges of peacebuilding in other African countries emerging from conflict”.

Our most recent joint Bureau meeting took place last December. During this meeting, we considered ways to enhance the collaboration of the two bodies.

Going forward, the Council will certainly benefit from the experiences and lessons learned by the PBC on how to integrate peacebuilding issues to put countries emerging from conflict on a path to sustainable development.

On the other hand, the PBC should also draw on the expertise of ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies, as it was encouraged by the latest resolution.

Closer collaboration of our bodies is imperative in order to achieve our respective mandates to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.

We give ourselves a better chance to do this only if by working together.



I look forward to a fruitful dialogue and insightful proposals during this Special Meeting.

Thank you.