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United Nations Economic and Social Council

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2018 PARTNERSHIP FORUM, 4 APRIL 2018

“Partnering for resilient and inclusive societies: Contributions of the private sector”

Closing remarks of the President of the Economic and Social Council

Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

This brings us to the conclusion of an interesting and enlightening discussion. Let me first express my sincere appreciation to all of you for making the Forum an exceptional success.

The Forum has showed that all of us are fully committed to building an inclusive future for all, where no one is left behind, where the concerns, and rights of the people, including the most vulnerable, are at the very core. Today, our panelists, moderators, and speakers introduced many new ideas and innovative strategies. It shows that our unified efforts can accelerate change and strengthen the prospects for achieving the goals of inclusion and participation embedded in the 2030 Agenda. I was inspired. The Forum is truly a multi-stakeholder, participatory co-designing platform for invaluable policy solutions for a range of challenges faced by our world today.



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Our discussions contributed to better defining the role of the private sector in pursuit of building more inclusive societies through their business practices including the use of big data analytics. Many innovative, inclusive business models as well as the stories of real challenges and lessons learned have been shared. Examples of failures was acknowledged as was the complexity of country situations and development dynamics and the difficulties in finding solutions.

We looked at ways to utilize big data more strategically and ethically for public good and the role of the public-private partnerships sector in this regard. Building on today's discussions, we need to accumulate more evidence and best practices on how to leverage the new frontier technologies to ensure that the lives of people improve and that those vulnerable groups we spoke about earlier today are not left even further behind.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Former Secretary-General of the United Nations, the late Dag Hammarskjold once stated, "Everything will be all right - you know when? When people, just people, stop thinking of the United Nations as a weird Picasso abstraction and see it as a drawing they made themselves."

We, the United Nations, aim to open new vistas for looking at the future of partnerships in line with the 2030 Agenda and beyond, but all Member States and non-state actors should share equal ownership and accountability in fulfilling our unified and universal vision of leaving no one behind.



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In this regard, I would like to wholeheartedly thank ALL the stakeholders present here today for their very active engagement in shaping, implementing and reviewing the 2030 Agenda. I would like to strongly encourage your continued interest and engagement in the work of the UN and Economic and Social Council as it continues to focus on those who are the furthest behind.

I would like to especially thank all the panelists, moderators and discussants for their excellent contributions. My sincere gratitude also goes to the UN Global Compact, the UN Office for Partnerships, the UN Statistics Division, the UN Global Pulse, the International Labour Organization and the Global Partnerships Forum for their active collaboration. Last, but not least, my special appreciation to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Management for their dedicated support.

Once again, thank you for being a part of inspiring discussion today. I wish you all a safe journey.