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United Nations Economic and Social Council

**TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE LIVES**

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

**Closing of the 2016 High-level Political Forum**

**New York, 20 July 2016**

Distinguished Ministers,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have now reached the end of the Ministerial Segment of the 2016 High-level Political Forum under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council.

During the past three days, we have had the opportunity to be a part of inspiring presentations of national reviews on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as well as engage in other fruitful discussions.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Discussing on the theme of “ensuring that no one is left behind”, we have addressed the urgency and importance of prioritizing the most vulnerable in our efforts to achieve SDGs.

Let me now just briefly go over a few messages that emanated from our discussions.

First, the SDGs must be implemented in their entirety. At the same time, implementing the SDGs will require transformative leadership, thus national priorities should be the starting point for the implementation of the Agenda.



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Second, in order to leave no one behind, we must strive to reach out to those most vulnerable. We must also address poverty, inequality, and discrimination in this regards. Beyond the characterization of specific groups, we should strive to involve all citizens in the realization of the Agenda.

Third, the focus should also be on those at risk of falling into poverty over the next 15 years. We must make globalization work for everyone. We need to ensure that economic actors respond to the need of vulnerable groups.

Fourth, better data and information will be a critical element of enhancing inclusion of all. Making everyone visible is a critical first step towards inclusion.

Fifth, resources will have to be mobilized at the national and international levels. Resource allocation will have to be mindful of all the goals, as well as the linkages among them.

International development cooperation has to respond to the transformative nature of the Agenda. Meeting the commitments included in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, including ODA commitments will be critical.

Sixth, coordination, coherence and integration across government and inclusiveness have been mentioned in all presentations.

Accountability, transparency, access to justice and information, good governance, peace and security, resilience to shocks were stressed as important elements in defining the strategies for implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs.

And among others, voluntary national presentations of all 22 countries have been very encouraging and have shown a high degree of



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engagement and involvement from the highest level with political will to the grass roots.

I am also pleased that today we adopted a Ministerial Declaration of the 2016 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council which points out to the main elements needed for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as well as to make future HLPF a successful central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before closing, I would like to extend my gratitude to the panelists, speakers, and participants from governments, the United Nations system, major groups, and other stakeholders for their active and meaningful engagement not only during the high-level segment but during the whole duration of the Forum.

In particular, I would like to express my special thanks to the twenty-two countries for their dedication, leadership and excellent presentations prepared in such a short timeframe. You have really set the bar high.

I would like to thank my colleagues in the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council for their support and commitment throughout the process of preparing the 2016 HLPF.

And finally, let me thank our Secretariat colleagues and all those who have made this meeting possible.

Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,



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I trust that you will all maintain this high level of ambition and commitment to sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda in the years to come.

It was a successful meeting and although I will hand the Presidency to the new President of the Council by the end of this month, the HLPF will certainly be in my thoughts moving forward and I hope it will be in yours too.

I hope you will mark your calendars now to come here again in July 2017 in order to continue guiding the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

The meeting of the 2016 HLPF is adjourned.

Thank you. /END/



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