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United Nations Economic and Social Council

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**Remarks by H. E. Frederick Musiiwa Makamure Shava
President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council**

**High-level Event on “Leveraging Partnerships for the Effective
Implementation and Monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals and
Agenda 2063 in Africa”**

13 October 2016

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am very honoured to be participating in this critical and timely discussion which addresses two issues that I believe are critical in the context of achieving the SDGs in Africa namely: promoting synergies between the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, and emphasizing the role of strong partnerships in the effective implementation, follow-up and review of the Agendas in Africa.

Allow me to make some brief initial remarks on the importance of partnerships in the face of such ambitious Agendas. I will then outline how ECOSOC plans to contribute to strengthening existing partnerships for sustainable development and building new ones in the year ahead.

African countries have agreed that achieving sustainable economic growth that is inclusive and leaves no one behind will require a structural transformation of African economies. As I noted in my remarks at the NEPAD breakfast yesterday, a core component of achieving this structural transformation is developing and maintaining key infrastructure. This, on its own, is a huge undertaking. However, there are other critical interventions that are also required, key among which is the creation of an enabling international economic environment for Africa’s development.

In Africa, a key lesson learned from the MDGs was that transformation is impossible without a strong national commitment; a national vision and plan for implementation; and the mobilization of domestic resources. At the same time, while Governments’ leadership and commitment to the 2030 Agenda is critical, it will be insufficient on its own.



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The scale of the undertaking clearly advocates for strengthened and strategic partnerships as we look into new approaches and methods for translating commitments into concrete results. Indeed, both the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 recognize this. The integrated nature of the two agendas also requires us, and key actors within society, to work cooperatively towards implementation.

Partnerships can boost and quicken progress in development efforts by bringing much-needed financial, human and other resources; skills and technical assistance. It is estimated that the level of resources needed to achieve the SDGs on the continent ranges from US\$ 600 billion to US\$1.2 trillion per year. This calls for enhanced partnerships, whether in the framework of North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, or using innovative approaches such as remittances or diaspora engagement and curbing illicit financial flows.

It is imperative, nevertheless, that strategic partnerships in support of African sustainable development efforts be aligned with African priorities.

Excellencies,

The Economic and Social Council has been at the forefront of promoting multi-stakeholder engagement in the implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda. It has a central role in promoting dialogue and policy integration for sustainable development.

As you know, ECOSOC provides a range of platforms for all stakeholders to build sustainable partnerships. These are convened on a regular basis to monitor trends, chart progress and devise new solutions for ongoing challenges. The Vice-President of the Council, Her Excellency Ambassador Marie Chatardova of the Czech Republic, provided a detailed account of ECOSOC's contributions to Africa at the opening session on Monday

The High-level Political Forum, held under the auspices of ECOSOC each year, engages partners as part of a global network of review processes. The early successes of the HLPF were shaped in large part by its multi-stakeholder nature, drawing on the contributions of academia, civil society, philanthropy and the private sector. I am therefore committed to ensuring that ECOSOC – and the HLPF more specifically, remains an inclusive space for dialogue and political guidance on sustainable development.

I understand that the UN Monitoring Mechanism -- established by the GA Resolution 66/293 – has a comprehensive mandate to review progress in the implementation of the commitments made towards Africa's sustainable development. In view of this, I look forward to discussing



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potential synergies between the work of the Mechanism and ECOSOC and how its biennial report could contribute to the HLPF or other relevant forums under the Council's purview.

The Council also works to galvanize partnerships in support of sustainable development by convening an annual Partnerships Forum. Next year's Forum is scheduled to be held on 5 April 2017 in New York. It will explore ways to engage the business community around the entire Agenda—with sustainable development as a driver of core business strategy and investment decision—and leaving no SDG behind. It will also showcase examples of multi-stakeholder partnerships that deliver transformational change with strong results for infrastructure and energy.

Throughout the 2017 session, it is my hope that the Council can more innovatively address the challenge of building partnerships for the 2030 Agenda through the institutional mechanisms we have in place. These include the ECOSOC Financing for Development Forum, the Integration Segment, the Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation, and the Youth Forum, among others.

I am also undertaking a special initiative on infrastructure development and industrialization, a priority area for many countries, especially in Africa and countries in special situations. Within the African context, development cooperation and partnerships have been critical to the progress made on infrastructure development in recent years. We need to build on these efforts for the achievement of SDG-9 and the realization of related commitments as part of Agenda 2063.

I plan to convene a Special Meeting of ECOSOC on “Innovations for Infrastructure Development and promoting Sustainable Industrialization” at UN Headquarters in the spring of 2017. The Special Meeting will be preceded by two preparatory meetings on the Continent. Preparations for these are currently underway, and partners from multilateral organizations, the private sector and civil society will be integral to their success.

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Finally, allow me to congratulate you on a very successful Africa Week. I look forward to concrete suggestions, as we advance the role of partnerships in the implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

Thank you.



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