

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

**"Briefing on the Zika Virus"**  
*February 16, 2016 (3:00 - 5:00 p.m.)*  
*ECOSOC Chamber*

Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to once again thank our guest speakers for being here with us this morning.

I also would like to commend the tireless efforts of the World Health Organization, the Pan American Health Organization, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Government of Brazil in responding to the Zika virus.

We must come together to coordinate international efforts to stop the spread of this virus.

Strengthening health systems must be a priority if we want to safeguard against future outbreaks.

We need to learn more about the linkages between the Zika virus and microcephaly as well as other neurological disorders.

We need to raise awareness on the importance of personal protection from mosquito bites, especially for pregnant women.

We must invest in mosquito-control programmes.

The United Nations system's coordinated support and engagement in the countries affected to build their capacities to respond will also be needed.

The world's most vulnerable are counting on our support to build their resilience to the Zika virus and other future global public health threats.

International collaboration through strong and effective multilateral system will be indispensable.

The Economic and Social Council will continue to do its part to mobilize the United Nations system to assist affected countries in their efforts to respond to this virus.

Thank you for joining us today.

Now the briefing is concluded.

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