

**Closing Statement by  
H.E. Mr. Oh Joon  
PRESIDENT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL  
COUNCIL**

**THE DCF BRUSSELS HIGH-LEVEL SYMPOSIUM**

Brussels, 8 April 2016  
**Re-thinking development cooperation for the SDGs:  
Country-level perspectives and lessons**

Under-Secretary-General (USG), Wu Hongbo,  
Chief of Cabinet Development Cooperation, Mr. Moors,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have come to the end of the third high-level Symposium towards the 2016 DCF.

Our debate over the past three days reaffirmed strong commitment to the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement.



The implementation of the 2030 Agenda warrants a more competent, coherent and efficient multilateral system that is transparent and accountable to the world.

Global norm-setting and policy making processes must be sensitive to the needs of the most vulnerable countries and populations.

Global policies should provide space and means for the poorest and most vulnerable to pursue sustainable growth at present and in the future.

With the new sustainable development agenda, governments are making efforts to reengineer institutions to meet the new challenges. These efforts must be mirrored at the multilateral level.

I am encouraged by the high confidence placed in the United Nations. The UN development system must be upgraded to be more resilient united. The whole system must be



upgraded to become more effective, efficient, resilient and united.

In that regard, I will bring your voice to the ECOSOC dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the UN development system.

The intergovernmental processes at the UN and the realities on the ground must be brought closer.

I am determined that this premise define the upcoming High-level Political Forum, the ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development follow-up and the Development Cooperation Forum, each of which I will have the honour to convene.

For ECOSOC, it is about ensuring that all functions are adding value at global level, generating concrete guidance and support for national as well as regional and local efforts.

ECOSOC is the unifying platform.

It should bring all the strands together. The special meeting of ECOSOC on inequality last week was indeed special and amply demonstrated that the Council can mobilize a wide range of actors behind the SDGs.

We need to build on the convening power and multi-stakeholder outreach power of ECOSOC, so that we can make it more relevant to what is actually happening in the world. We need to build on this strength of the Council. I am also going to organize a Special Meeting on El Nino in early May.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a responsibility of all of us. The SDGs can only be achieved by unlocking the potential of all stakeholders.

Development cooperation plays a more prominent role in translating these aspirations into reality, by better aligning the goals, resources, capacities, and incentives of governments.

The DCF *in the SDG era can contribute to* context-specific and vulnerability-sensitive development cooperation policies and actions.

Policy innovations grow out of exchange of views that are not necessarily sanitized for political correctness.

The DCF provides the flexibility for free, innovative and transformative discussions. *We need to ensure that the HLPF and FFD Forum fully take into account the outcomes of the DCF.*

Distinguished Delegates,

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the hard work that went into the preparation of this Symposium. My sincere gratitude goes to our Co-Chairs, H.E. Mr. Alexander De Croo, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Development Cooperation and Mr. Wu, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, and for the outstanding support



provided by their dedicated teams from the Belgian Government and in UN DESA.

Let me also convey my heart-felt thanks to all of you, our moderators, panelists, participants, interpreters and event management staff, who have made this Symposium a great success.

I look forward to welcoming you to New York in April or in July or both.

Thank you.