



# ECOSOC

United Nations Economic and Social Council

**TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE LIVES**

**Statement by**

**His Excellency Mr. Oh Joon  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea and  
President of the 2016 Economic and Social Council**

**Introduction of the 2016 Report of ECOSOC to the General Assembly**

**United Nations Headquarters, New York  
10 October 2016**

Mr. President of the General Assembly,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to introduce the report for the 2016 session of the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly.

Entering its seventieth year, the 2016 session of the Council focused on what was needed for start-up implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This included the work of the Council's segments and forums, the various functional and regional commissions and expert bodies, all of which will be instrumental in the integrated implementation of the new Agenda.

Excellencies,

The 2016 session of the Council provided a common space for Governments and stakeholders to come together to advance sustainable development. Allow me to briefly share some highlights of the session.

- The Council conducted its first follow-up and review of implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the High-level Political Forum held under its auspices. At the 2016 HLPF, a large number of countries presented voluntary national reviews on how they plan to implement the global vision embodied in the 2030 Agenda. Together with the Council, it adopted a Ministerial Declaration which reconfirmed our common vision for the future.
- The 2016 ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development follow-up resulted in a concise, forward-looking outcome document, reaffirming our unwavering commitment to the full and timely implementation of the Addis Agenda. The outcome recognizes the close link between the Addis Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Overall, the



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Forum achieved its main purpose to provide a solid, dedicated and inclusive platform for substantive deliberations on the theme of financing for sustainable development and on follow-up to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

- The Council also provided substantive analysis and policy guidance, including through its Integration Segment, on the balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development.
- The Council reviewed trends and progress in international development cooperation through the Development Cooperation Forum. It explored ways to improve the alignment of the UN development system with the demands of the new Agenda.
- In response to a General Assembly mandate, we spearheaded the ECOSOC Dialogue on the Longer-term Positioning of the UN Development System. This offered an opportunity for Member States to consider ways to equip the UN development system to better support implementation of the new Agenda. I believe there is a shared sense that, following the adoption of the new Agenda, the UN development system is at a crossroads and important changes are required. The QCPR resolution which is before this session will be a significant tool to reach that objective. I am very pleased that the Council, through its elaborate preparatory process, has been able to contribute to this very important discussion.
- The Council enhanced the UN's response to emerging global threats and challenges and humanitarian emergencies. It also advanced integrated responses to peace and sustainable development.
- Through the ECOSOC Partnership Forum and Youth Forum, we have continued to strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships, by enabling a voice for young people in our global dialogue for a sustainable future.
- Over the course of the past year, the number of new applications from NGOs for consultative status with the Council has reached an historic record. Such interest reflects the relevance of our work to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. It highlights the need for us to effectively engage with civil society in a spirit of partnership and mutual respect.

Mr President,

These highlights, which are laid down in more detail in the report before you, illustrate how the Council has captured the spirit and the vision of the new universal development agenda of the United Nations. Indeed, ECOSOC has a central role in realizing this vision.



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We should build on this work, in continuing the momentum generated by the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and other milestone agreements of last year. The time is long past for second-guessing any aspects of their provisions. It is our responsibility to ensure a seamless and integrated approach in our work, across different structures and frameworks.

But our work will not be complete or successful without the engagement of the private sector, civil society and other non-governmental partners. I am profoundly grateful for the high-level and broad based engagement of all partners in the 2016 session.

Various bodies of the Council have contributed significantly to its broader mandate and to the HLPF. The functional commissions and other bodies fully embraced their responsibility to support the thematic reviews, as well as the review of implementation. This has also included adjusting their working methods and aligning their agendas to incorporate the SDGs.

Mr President,

On behalf of the 2016 ECOSOC Bureau, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the strong collaboration and support of member States and the UN development system.

Looking ahead, the Council, as guided by its new President, His Excellency Mr. Frederick Shava, is working steadfastly on its objectives for the 2017 session.

I invite all of you to continue your engagement with ECOSOC in the current session. This will help to set the stage for a truly *universal push to transform our world*, as you have so wisely guided us, Mr President.

Thank you.



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