



# ECOSOC

United Nations Economic and Social Council

## TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE LIVES

**Closing statement by H.E. Amb. Frederick Shava  
President of the Economic and Social Council**

**Special Meeting of the Economic and Social Council on “Innovations for  
Infrastructure Development and Promoting Sustainable Industrialisation”**

**31 May 2017 (5:45 p.m.), ECOSOC Chamber**

Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have come to the end of the 2017 Special Meeting of ECOSOC on “Innovations for Infrastructure Development and Promoting Sustainable Industrialisation”.

First, I would like to thank all of our distinguished presenters for their informative inputs into our discussions. I appreciated the very constructive and substantive interactions we were able to follow throughout the day.

I also want to thank the UN family for their strong support to the Special Meeting. This was a noteworthy example of the UN system working as “one” in pursuit of progress on the 2030 Agenda.

In particular, I am grateful for the keynote addresses by Mr. Li Yong, the Director General of UNIDO and Mr. Jose Graziano da Silva, the Director General of FAO. I would also like to thank Mr. Wu Hongbo for his presence and the invaluable support he has extended to us through his Department, UN DESA throughout the process leading to this Special Meeting.

We were also very fortunate to have been joined by Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa ‘Utoikamanu, the recently appointed High-Representative and Under-Secretary-General for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our discussion in this Special Meeting has advanced numerous ideas for follow up in promoting innovations for infrastructure development and sustainable industrialization.



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There were also many calls of support for the work that has already been done, and agreement on the relevance and importance of this initiative.

From my perspective, a key message that has been reinforced is the importance of keeping people at the centre of our discussion of SDG 9. Ultimately, our objective should be to build societies where everyone can thrive, aided by infrastructure, industrialisation and innovation.

In many developing countries where the potential of industrialisation looms large, advances in science, technology and innovation in sectors -- such as agriculture -- have the potential to promote employment and income growth.

Developing key infrastructure will also catalyse the achievement of the entire 2030 Agenda and help to bolster people's abilities to meet their basic needs and fully participate in society.

In these ways, infrastructure, industrialisation and innovation also have critical roles to play in ensuring social inclusion, including of the poorest and most disadvantaged groups.

Although there is broad agreement that infrastructure, industrialisation and innovation are essential for poverty eradication and sustainable development, ongoing gaps in investment, capacities and policy frameworks hold back progress.

We know the scale of the challenge, and this initiative has helped us to highlight some of the key challenges and bottlenecks. The 2030 Agenda provides a roadmap for addressing these challenges, complemented by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which provides a framework for overcoming obstacles to investments in infrastructure and capacity-building.

Progress will also be made through the various partnerships and frameworks formed in response to these challenges, including through such concrete initiatives as the Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) and 3ADI+.

I look forward to continued engagement with these two exciting initiatives and am confident that they will achieve great things as they are strengthened and scaled up.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I will not try to summarize all of the essential points from today's discussion. A summary of today's highlights will be made available after the meeting.



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In the months ahead, I hope that all of you will commit to supporting the proposals announced today to ensure that we maintain the impressive momentum in support of infrastructure, industrialisation and innovation.

Thank you for your participation. The Special Meeting is now adjourned.



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