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United Nations Economic and Social Council

TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE LIVES

**His Excellency Mr. Frederick Shava
President of the Economic and Social Council**

Closing of the 2017 High-level Segment of the Economic and Social Council

New York, 20 July 2017

Honourable Ministers,
Under-Secretary-General Mr Wu Hongbo,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have come to the conclusion of the 2017 ECOSOC High-level Segment. I am confident that our deliberations in this session will inspire us all to accelerate efforts to eradicate poverty and advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The consideration of the 2017 ECOSOC main theme, “Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions through promoting sustainable development, expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges”, has contributed in a significant way to increase awareness and galvanize efforts around the goal of eradicating poverty, our greatest global challenge. For this, the entire ECOSOC system worked to provide integrated policy recommendations, address gaps, and contribute to the overall review of progress in implementation. This High-level segment represents the culmination of that work.



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Today, we benefitted from high quality discussions, in the morning with the High-level policy dialogue with the international financial and trade institutions, and in the afternoon the ECOSOC thematic discussion on the topic "Reducing multidimensional poverty in the SDG era".

An international enabling environment, in the form of international institutional frameworks and actions, can be decisive for the effectiveness of national poverty eradication strategies. Nevertheless, globalization is creating pressing challenges. At the same time, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda requires putting people and sustainability at the center of policy decision making, while requiring also the mobilization of a significant amount of resources. This entails a change of mind set.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on Combating Climate Change and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development have underlined consensus on joint action for advancing the wellbeing of humanity and the planet. Nonetheless, the challenges faced by the global institutional system today require a new assessment of how the promise of sustainable and equitable growth can be turned into a reality for all people around the globe.

There is growing consensus that the interconnected and global nature of challenges in all dimensions of sustainable development – the economic, social and environmental – cannot be solved by one nation alone. In this



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context, the 2030 Agenda provides a comprehensive framework for addressing economic, social and environmental challenges by providing global norms for sustainable and inclusive development.

Excellencies,

This afternoon, the thematic discussion emphasized the multidimensional nature of poverty. An increasing number of countries have introduced multidimensional poverty strategies into national development plans, as policies focusing only on the income aspect of poverty cannot eradicate and often fail to increase resilience to it. We have heard how countries have adapted multidimensional measures to address their specific national contexts. At the same time, there are commonalities that can be extracted from national approaches, particularly the universal identification of health, education and living standards as key aspects of national strategies.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As you are aware, the High-level Segment has also included the ministerial meeting of the high-level political forum. All of the discussions highlighted that efforts are progressing and it is important to keep the momentum. Discussions also emphasized the 2030 Agenda demands new ways of thinking and working, by all development stakeholders. So, efforts must continue with intensified thrust.



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This year's theme of the HLPF, “Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world”, was thoroughly addressed through the forty-three national voluntary presentations, presentations from the national sustainable development forums and other high-level and dynamic discussions, and a large number of side events.

Excellencies,

The adoption of the Ministerial Declaration reaffirms our commitment to the 2030 Agenda, and our motivation to move ahead in our implementation efforts. I am satisfied to see that the synergy coming from the relationship of the HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC, and the work of the Council as a whole, serves our commitment to advance the 2030 Agenda and increase the momentum on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Distinguished delegates,

Allow me thank you all for your invaluable work this week. I would also like to convey my special gratitude to the members of the Bureau for their outstanding work. Let me also thank all stakeholders for their engagement and contributions to the High-level segment.

Last but not least, I would like to thank Mr. Wu Hongbu, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, and his team at the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. I also thank the Secretary of the Council and her team, her colleagues at the Departments of General



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Assembly Affairs and Conference Management, as well as the Departments of Safety and Security, and Public Information, for their professional and dedicated support.

Thank you.



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