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United Nations Economic and Social Council

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Statement by

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“Policy Coherence, the SDGs and the UN 2030 Agenda: Grappling with policy interactions and transboundary spill-overs in the global economy”

Nelson Mandela Auditorium, AFD’s Mistral Building, Paris, 27 October 2017

Session 3: “The geopolitics of international cooperation: What prospects for policy coherence and achieving sustainable development in a multi-polar world?”

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me start by congratulating OECD and *the Agence Française de Développement* (AFD) for organizing this important policy discussion.

It is an honour for me to participate in this third and final session of today’s event, whose theme, “Policy Coherence, the SDGs and the UN 2030 Agenda: Grappling with policy interactions and transboundary spill-overs in the global economy” I find fitting and timely.

Those that have spoken before me have identified and stressed key messages and priority areas that should be the central focus of our individual and collective endeavours. I am pleased to add to these diverse voices, perspectives and policy messages of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

The 2030 Agenda is pathbreaking in many notable ways, among them, the realization that while development finance is indispensable in the fight against extreme poverty and hunger, it is, by itself, an inadequate modality for the realization of sustainable development.



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Effective mobilization, and the strategic use of other forms of development cooperation, including support to policy coherence and capacity development, undertaken on the basis of global partnership and solidarity are just as important. It is this understanding that has informed much of the discussions on international development cooperation that are taking place in ECOSOC.

Thus, I am delighted to see that the OECD and AFD are taking this same broadened view of the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda in their policy dialogues.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As regards the 2030 Agenda, the task set before us is clear. We have a collective responsibility to defeat hunger, disease, extreme poverty and exclusion, and to meet the needs and aspirations of the peoples of the world by the year 2030.

For this to happen, global trading and financial systems along with world markets must be reformed to yield benefits for all, especially for the Least Developing Countries and other vulnerable countries that have been excluded and marginalized for far too long.

The responsibility bestowed upon us demands that we harness the power of globalization; that we tap unfolding technological advancements; that we make good use of our vast knowledge and experiences; and that we deploy our material wealth to bring about economic growth, social and material prosperity in a manner that is broad-based, inclusive, shared and sustainable.

We must keep our resolve and determination: leaving no-one behind is within our reach.

Political leaders should not only remain committed, they must fully impress their role as champions of the 2030 Agenda.

Development and policy institutions must align their work and priorities in service of sustainable development.



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In our pursuit of effective Global Partnership, we must be alert to and leverage different capacities and contributions from all development actors.

As the central platform for fostering debate and innovative thinking and forging consensus on efforts to achieve internationally agreed goals, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has stressed the need to put into our daily practice, a transformative focus on sustainable development results, putting the furthest behind first, and adapting institutions and policies in support of priorities and systems in developing countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In this regard, let me highlight five messages that have emerged from recent meetings of the United Nations Development Cooperation Forum, which is mandated to review trends and progress in international development cooperation.

First, while the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships in implementing the 2030 Agenda is widely recognized, we must bear in mind that it is governments who bear the principal responsibility of coordinating and leading development efforts. Governments must intensify and accelerate efforts to develop legal and institutional frameworks that foster effective multi-stakeholder approaches, and enable all actors and beneficiaries to be meaningfully engaged in the process.

Second, international development cooperation should continue its distinct role in supporting the poorest and the most vulnerable countries and people. Official Development Assistance remains central to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, Small Island Developing States, Africa, and countries in or emerging from conflict.

In this context, it is important for developed countries to strive to reach their ODA commitments and re-assess its allocation and strategic use to ensure that it benefits those furthest behind first. The emergence of complex humanitarian difficulties and adverse climate change effects call for enhanced and well-targeted development assistance.



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Third, we must create, strengthen and realign our development cooperation institutions to make their benefits bigger, better, more visible and more tangible, especially for the poor and most vulnerable people. This institutionalization must also have, at its core, intensified effort to support capacity development and address development asymmetries.

Fourth, we must promote policy coherence and ensure that development cooperation brings about changed mind-sets needed to achieve the SDGs – from sectoral to integrated approaches; from governmental to whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches; from measuring development in terms of income or growth to considering the multiple dimensions of poverty, sustainability and inclusivity. As I mentioned in the outset, it should promote the shift in the means of implementation from financing to the broader partnership dimension and effective engagement of all stakeholders.

Fifth, South-South and triangular cooperation have the potential to build a new generation of multilateralism, which is more solidarity-driven, more horizontal and less inspired by financial motives. South-South cooperation preserves policy and fiscal space for developing countries, and has great potential to reduce asymmetries in access to development opportunities and directly respond to local demands. Global economic, financial and political architecture should reflect and impress this new reality.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have generated enough knowledge, tools and resources to meet the Sustainable Development Goals. I am encouraged by the level of commitment and activity at the national and grass root levels in many countries. There is an intensification of efforts to bring about greater policy coherence and synergy between different processes. I would like to assure you that the Economic and Social Council stands ready to support all stakeholders in these endeavours.

I thank you.