



ECOSOC

United Nations Economic and Social Council

TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE LIVES

**OPENING REMARKS BY H.E. AMBASSADOR FREDERICK SHAVA
PRESIDENT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
JOINT MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AND
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S SECOND COMMITTEE**

7 OCTOBER 2016

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my distinct pleasure to welcome you to this Joint Meeting of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly's Second Committee.

Following the destruction and despair of the Second World War, the United Nations - and its Economic and Social Council - was built on the premise that global peace could only be sustained if accompanied by efforts to advance the development of all peoples across the globe.

This year, the Council celebrated its 70th anniversary. In its lifetime so far, the Council has witnessed how globalization has transformed our world – changing the way we interact, invest, trade, travel, communicate and do business, beyond national borders.

Globalization has changed the way we live – but, as has become increasingly clear, this transformation has not always been positive. Where it has been positive, the benefits have not accrued to all people.



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Too many people have been left to face the relentless forces of global competition by themselves.

Today's expert panel will, no doubt, highlight those policies at national and global levels that can make for a better globalization which leaves no one behind. We are especially keen to hear their views on the role that multilateral institutions, like the UN system, can play in shaping new norms and standards of conduct for a better world.

After seventy years of global standard setting, I believe that the fundamentals are in place.

Excellencies,

All across the globe, in developed and developing countries alike, people hope for a better life through hard work, access to education and health, and opportunities to share in entrepreneurship and technological innovations.

So we must change the political narratives that propose solutions based on isolationism or tribal instincts. We have a responsibility to promote narratives that acknowledge that sustainable prosperity for all will come through inclusion rather than exclusion.

Too daunting are the challenges of climate change, poverty, conflicts and terrorism, to name a few. The increasingly complex nature of these challenges calls for global solutions as no one country can deal with these issues alone.

Ladies and Gentlemen,



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There is no doubt that a retreat from multilateralism and meaningful global cooperation, on political, economic, social and environmental issues, would pose a significant threat to peace and prosperity.

It is in this spirit that we have come to explore solutions on how globalization can engender inclusive prosperity and thus benefit the entire global community.

I welcome our distinguished panel and look forward to today's discussion.

I thank you.



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