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Closing Statement by

**Her Excellency MARIE CHATARDOVA
President of the Economic and Social Council**

**DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FORUM
ARGENTINA HIGH-LEVEL SYMPOSIUM**

**“South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Achieving the 2030 Agenda:
Building Innovative and Inclusive Partnerships”**

San Martín Palace, Buenos Aires, 8 September 2017

I would like to take this opportunity to express special thanks to our co-organizer and splendid host, the Government of Argentina. This meeting would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of the staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina.

I would also like to thank Under-Secretary-General Liu and his dedicated team in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs for their exceptional support in preparation for this Symposium.

We have generated a wealth of ideas: building on strengths, learning by doing, measuring the qualitative, people-to-people cooperation, so many others. These ideas resonate with the work of everyone in this room and call us to action.

I wish to acknowledge and thank our moderators, panellists, interpreters and participants for making our discussions so candid, stimulating and insightful. I have personally learned so much from all of you.

I have just assumed my role as President of the Economic and Social Council. ECOSOC aims to strengthen the connection between the intergovernmental processes at the United Nations and the realities on the ground.

I am fully persuaded that 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. They could transform the cooperation agenda of all countries and stakeholders in support of sustainable development.

Many participants have stressed that the global economic and financial architecture should reflect this new reality and potential of South-South and tri-angular cooperation; I have been asking myself what the role of the United Nations might be in this context.

There are several aspects to this question. Let me answer two -- each addressing a key concern I have heard from around this room.

First, is sustaining and strengthening the network of the “equals”, the essential spirit of South-South cooperation. This principle of horizontality should give rise to more equitable cooperation interventions at all levels. I believe this is a demand and opportunity of the 2030 Agenda that all us need to more strongly embrace. The Economic and Social Council has long served as a platform to mobilize action against all forms of inequalities. I would like to re-assure you that the Council will continue its stance and efforts to advance equality and encourage the contribution of South-South and triangular cooperation to this end.

Second, we offer the Economic and Social Council as a space where the multi-stakeholder Southern partners can make their cooperation efforts more “visible” to each other and to the world. I am committed to bring our practical discussions on the issues during these past three days into the work of the Council, into the 2018 DCF and all relevant processes.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Development Cooperation Forum, within the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council, has a distinctive role to play in reviewing trends and progress in international development cooperation. The outcome of the Forum and its preparatory Symposiums, such as this, clearly show how ECOSC adds value in global and national efforts towards mobilizing and making optimal use of all means of implementation for sustainable development.

I encourage all of you to engage in the preparations for the sixth biennial High-level Meeting of the Development Cooperation Forum, which will be held in 2018 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Forum will feature South-South and triangular cooperation as one of its priority focus areas.

Our discussion will also serve as a valuable input to two other prominent Forums of the Council at center of the follow-up for the 2030 Agenda, namely: the Forum on Financing for Development, which will be held in April next year and the High-level Political Forum in July.

I look forward to your continued engagement in the work of the Development Cooperation Forum and the Economic and Social Council to fulfil our ambitious sustainable development agenda, leaving no one behind.

Once again, I thank you for your participation, especially to those who travelled from afar.

I wish you a pleasant journey!