



**H.E. Ambassador Marie Chatardová**  
**President of the Economic and Social Council**

**ECOSOC Special Meeting**  
**Aftermath of recent hurricanes:**  
**Achieving a risk-informed and resilient 2030 Agenda**  
**October 24, 2017, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**Opening Remarks**

President of the General Assembly  
Deputy Secretary-General  
Assistant Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured to welcome you all to the Special Meeting of the Council on *“Aftermath of recent hurricanes: Achieving a risk-informed and resilient 2030 Agenda”*.

During the last six months, we have witnessed severe disasters due to natural hazards—the severe floods in Africa and South Asia, the earthquakes in Mexico, and the devastating hurricanes in the Caribbean and in the United States. The Caribbean region has witnessed two category five hurricanes in the same season for the first time in recorded history.

Firstly, I would like to express my deepest condolences to the victims and their families, and extend our solidarity to all the affected people and Governments.

These disasters led to tragic loss of lives, displaced people, damaged infrastructure and homes, and disrupted livelihoods in both developed and developing countries. We have seen how inequalities exacerbated people’s exposure to the impact of disaster.

They have shown us that gains made in development can be erased if we do not pursue a risk-informed and resilient 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. And the impending cost of recovery and reconstruction in affected communities has raised concern about their path to long-term sustainable development.

Following the hurricanes, the United Nations and the international community have come together to assist affected communities in their efforts for immediate relief. We heard the calls made by the Heads of affected States at the high-level meeting on Hurricane Irma co-hosted by the President of the General Assembly and the UN Secretary-General in September. And the recent annual meeting of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund underscored the importance of facilitating affected small states' access to finance.

Building on these discussions, we have gathered here today to explore ways to assist countries effectively to reduce disaster risk and strengthen resilience; prepare for and respond to future disaster events, with the support of risk financing instruments; and achieve a risk-informed and resilient 2030 Agenda.

Scientists have been warning us that with climate change, we will continue to witness more intense extreme weather events. All partners, the United Nations, international and regional organizations, civil society, the private sector and the scientific community need to come together to assist affected States recover from the devastating impact of the recent disasters, and build resilience for future ones. We must help affected States get back on the path towards sustainable development.

I am particularly grateful that the President of the General Assembly, the Deputy Secretary-General and the Assistant Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community are here with us today. We have a distinguished panel that will provide insights into the humanitarian and socio-economic dimensions and share effective steps taken to reduce its impact. We will also have an opportunity to hear from affected States following the panel discussion.

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