



#YOUTH2030

## CLOSING REMARKS

**H.E. Marie Chatardová, President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**

**2018 ECOSOC Youth Forum**

*“The role of youth in building sustainable and resilient urban and rural communities”*

**31 January 2018  
Trusteeship Council Chamber  
United Nations Headquarters, New York**

Honourable Ministers,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have come to the end of another exciting Youth Forum. Thank you for gathering here to share your stories and on what we need to do to build sustainable and resilient communities. Your passion has energized us, your ideas have inspired us, and we have taken your messages to heart.

I will take two steps to ensure that our work over these two days has a lasting impact on the ECOSOC system and in particular at the high-level political forum in July this year. I intend to issue a Presidential Statement tomorrow, which will capture the key messages and recommendations that emerged from the Forum. In addition, I will ensure that a more detailed summary that captures the full highlights of all the sessions will also be prepared and shared with you. Both will be transmitted to the





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ECOSOC High-level Segment and the High-level political forum so that your views are heard.

I would like to call on all countries that will participate in the high-level political forum to use these messages in their national presentations. I also urge countries to seriously consider including youth representatives in their delegations.

Distinguished ministers, within your own governments and countries, you have the chance to actively prioritize youth and to collaborate with these brilliant young people to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Only if we are working together on all levels we can reach our goal of a sustainable future.

To all youth representatives, we now look to you. I hope this Youth Forum will spur your continued action upon your return back home. I am calling on you to continue to engage with the Sustainable Development Goals. Wherever you now go, put your energy and vision into practice. Advocate for the SDGs, support their implementation and hold your Governments accountable.

Dear friends,

Before I conclude, I would like to take this occasion to thank the speakers in the various sessions for their comments and reflections over these two days, and I would also like to thank all organizers for your precious support, and thank you all participants - ministers and state representatives, youth representatives and civil society delegates, for your insightful interventions and productive discussions.



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Thank you especially to our young representatives. You have proven once again that you have the creative ideas and optimism that can help push the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

With this, it only remains to wish you all a safe journey back home.

I thank you.