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Opening Statement by

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

**6TH BIENNIAL HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF THE
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FORUM**

**“The strategic role of development cooperation in achieving the 2030 Agenda –
Building sustainable and resilient societies”**

UN Headquarters, New York, 21 May 2018

Deputy Secretary-General Mohammed,
Under-Secretary-General Liu,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is with great honour that I welcome you to this, the sixth, biennial High-level Meeting of the Development Cooperation Forum.

As leaders, senior experts and practitioners at the forefront of development cooperation, we join here to think collectively – work collectively – on how to build sustainability and resilience of the societies in which we live and serve.

Ladies and gentlemen,

While there are many bright spots, hard won development gains are threatened by real challenges: inequality – migration – climate change – the rise of violent extremism and populism and the shrinking of civic space.

Development cooperation can help turn these trends around. It can help promote the sustainable development “for all” as envisioned in the 2030 Agenda.

When we explore the role of development cooperation in reaching the 2030 Agenda, we look at much more than financial flows. We also examine the role of capacity



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support, sharing of technical know-how, policy change and multi-stakeholder partnership. All of must be mobilized to reach the 2030 Agenda.

I would like to highlight three considerations at the start of this meeting:

First, candid discussions have been a cornerstone of the DCF's success. Especially, the DCF High-level Symposia have helped to move the debate forward by providing space for frank discussion. I urge you to approach our meeting over the next two days with the same openness and constructive spirit. Let us not be shy to challenge each other's ideas. I am convinced that an open discussion will lead to a richer set of ideas and policy recommendations, which I am committed to bring to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July 2018.

Second, the 2018 DCF marks the culmination of an intense preparatory process. Many of you here have been personally engaged in the DCF Symposium and the DCF Survey, two of the major exercises this meeting draws upon. Let us build on the wealth of ideas already generated. Please share your experience how different policy responses have been working – or failed – in your local communities, capitals, countries and regions. Let us deepen our understanding of what is needed and what has worked in different country contexts.

Third, you will notice a common thread running through all the proposed DCF sessions. What steps can we take to ensure that our national strategies and the support provided to developing countries is responding to the new demands of the 2030 Agenda? And what can we learn from each other to help us achieve lasting results in this ever-changing development landscape, which today covers a much wider space and is much more diverse in terms of its actors. A diversity I am delighted to see here in this room.

A number of you will have already come together at the interactive meet-ups this morning to start sharing your ideas. I warmly encourage you to continue connecting through the different formats offered in the coming days.

I wish us all inspired and productive exchange.



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