

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

CLOSING REMARKS

BY

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ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (RIO+20)

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FORUM

at

Australia Third High-Level Preparatory Symposium

‘Shaping a Sustainable Future’ – Partners in Development Cooperation

15 May 2012, Brisbane, Australia

**Mr. Baxter,
Ambassador Koterec,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

[INTRODUCTION]

Let me express our heartfelt thanks to the Government of Australia for its gracious hospitality.

It has been a very productive and stimulating meeting. Our gratitude goes to the moderator, who has ably steered the discussions.

I also thank all of you for your thoughtful interventions. Your input is highly useful as we prepare for the Rio+20 Conference and the Development Cooperation Forum in the coming weeks.

[KEY MESSAGES]

I take five messages from this meeting that I will bring with me to Rio+20:

First, development cooperation is essential to help countries with the transition towards sustainable development. Developing countries alone will not be able to shoulder the high upfront cost of the transition.

Second, you felt that we still too often confuse sustainable development with the environment. Instead, sustainable development seeks a more holistic treatment of economic, social, and environmental dimensions of development. National and international institutions have not been conceived to make this happen.

Third, we need to expand the horizon of development cooperation. Achieving sustainable development results takes time. Donors are there for the long haul. Development cooperation is more than aid. It includes ensuring policy coherence and access to technology and markets. It is also about spurring multistakeholder partnerships and mobilizing other development finance that promote sustainability.

This message is the crux of providing means of implementation. No discussion on sustainable development will make headway unless this is addressed effectively.

The fourth message is that sustainable development is urgent for all. But countries have specific needs and vulnerabilities. We need

customized - nationally led - sustainable development responses. Importantly, more attention must be paid to building resilience.

The fifth and last message is that, looking ahead, we must work together towards one shared global agenda. It is too early to make predictions on how the post-2015 agenda will shape up. What we do know, however, is that the outcome of Rio+20 will be a key component to the discussions on this agenda.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

[CONCLUSION]

The United Nations Development Cooperation Forum has a critical role to play in guiding development cooperation for sustainable development.

Your excellent ideas should not end here, but be piloted and carried forward.

I have no doubt our conclusions reached here in Brisbane will resonate at the Rio+20 Conference, the 2012 Development Cooperation Forum, and beyond.

Thank you, once again, for sharing your valuable insights and ideas.

[I will now hand over to the President of ECOSOC, Ambassador Koterek]
