



## **ECOSOC Partnerships Forum 2015**

**“Role of partnerships in achieving the Post-2015 development agenda: Making it happen”**

*28 May 2015, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. and 3:00 – 6.00 p.m., United Nations Headquarters, New York*

### **Background**

The international community is currently preparing for the historic Summit of Heads of State and Government in September 2015 to adopt the post-2015 development agenda. Inter-governmental negotiations continue on shaping this new agenda, one that will be universal in nature and include the views and aspirations of a wide range of stakeholders on ways in which to engage and support international development. Against this backdrop, the Economic and Social Council will hold its seventh annual Partnerships Forum, which will bring together leaders from the private sector, philanthropy, civil society and academia, to engage in a dialogue with governments on actions that could be taken in this regard. The outcome of the Forum will contribute to ECOSOC’s 2015 theme: “Managing the transition from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): what will it take”. It could also provide a valuable input to the September 2015 Special Summit.

### **Objective and focus**

The objective of the 2015 Partnership Forum will be to bring fresh ideas and new thinking on ways in which multi-stakeholders partnerships can support the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda. Building on the Special Meeting convened by ECOSOC on 27 February 2015, the Forum will look at ways to improve outcomes and results in the post-2015 building on lessons learned from MDG partnerships.

As an example of how partnerships can begin to reset the scope and contributions to advancing national development strategies, the Forum will address how partnerships can help to strengthen health systems and building resilience to pandemics. This first partnership dialogue will build on the outcome of the ECOSOC Special Meeting on Ebola: A Threat to Sustainable Development held on 5 December 2014 which called for attention to and investment in health systems including through multi-stakeholder partnerships. The Forum will also aim to promote concrete initiatives and new partnerships that support national development strategies in two areas: namely, (i) developing human resources for health such as world-class medical and nursing schools and a cadre of compensated community health workers; (ii) bringing modern medical care, including drug and vaccine treatments, to settings of poverty. In doing so, the Forum will begin to consider ways that partnerships can support proposed SDG 3: “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.”

The Forum will also look broadly at how partnerships can deliver on UN goals and mandates at an operational level. The second partnership dialogue will address lessons learned from partnerships in support of the MDGs and will also look at opportunities for new partnerships or opportunities in the post-2015 era. It will also examine the question of the effectiveness of partnerships by focusing on how to best measure results. In doing so, practical examples in the area of science, education and policy making will be used to anchor the dialogue.

**Participants**

Participants will include representatives of Member States, regional and other intergovernmental organizations, senior officials of the United Nations system, and leaders from the private sector, philanthropy as well as representatives from civil society and the scientific community and academia with interest in these specific issues.

**Outcome**

A Presidential Statement will be issued by the President of ECOSOC with the key messages of the Forum, which will be transmitted to the media and other stakeholders. A more extensive summary of the meeting's deliberations will serve as an input to the Council's High-level segment in July 2015 as well as the Special Summit on the Post-2015 period to be held in September 2015.