



***Check Against Delivery***

**DRAFT OPENING REMARKS**

**H.E. MR. MILOS KOTEREC, PRESIDENT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**2012 DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FORUM**

**5 July 2012, United Nations Headquarters, New York**

Excellencies,  
Mr. Secretary-General,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to welcome all of you to the third Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council.

The DCF was created almost seven years ago – to encourage an impartial analysis of development cooperation, identify new trends, and promote broad based action that builds on the expertise and experience of multiple stakeholders.

As we come together here in New York, this responsibility is before us again. We all need to join forces to achieve poverty reduction and respond to the rapidly evolving development landscape.

Over the next two days, we will have the opportunity to address a wide range of issues from the allocation of development finance, to mutual accountability and transparency, South-South cooperation and new forms of partnerships. It is befitting that these issues are at the forefront of our agenda, as we engage in a discussion on the future of development cooperation.

A fortnight after the Rio+20 Conference, there is now broad agreement that the future of development has to be built on the three pillars of sustainable development.

Furthermore, the target date for the Millennium Development Goals is drawing near. This directs our attention to areas where insufficient progress has been made and raises questions about the design and objectives of the post-2015 development agenda.

The growing importance of different development actors also demands that we gain a better understanding of their respective contributions and how we can build stronger, more balanced partnerships, partnerships based on mutual accountability and trust.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you well know, the Development Cooperation Forum is not an event – it is a process. It builds on the positive momentum generated by a series of preparatory consultations of which many of you have been part.

The first milestone was a high-level symposium hosted by the Government of Mali in May 2011. It focused on national ownership and how the international development community can maximize the results of development cooperation, especially in least developed countries.

The second high-level symposium reflected on the role of aid as a catalyst. It illustrated how development providers can enable partner countries to mobilize investment and other types of development finance. It was held in October last year with the support of the Government of Luxembourg.

The most recent symposium was hosted by the Government of Australia less than two months ago. The meeting was devoted to the question of how development cooperation can support the transition towards sustainable development.

In addition to these events, ECOSOC organized two special dialogues in New York. While one addressed the changing context of international development cooperation in more general terms, the other focused specifically on the role of private philanthropic organizations.

The programme, which we have put together for you, is a culmination of this work.

It features several keynote addresses, interactive debates and parallel policy dialogues as well as roundtables and regional workshops.

On this note, let me briefly attend to a few housekeeping arrangements before we move to the opening statements and what I know is going to be a very invigorating and lively discussion.

Our goal today and tomorrow is to review key trends in international development cooperation and explore partnership options that are more inclusive, effective and sustainable.

To this end, we first need to look back to gain a better understanding of the changing landscape of development cooperation and the issues that have shaped where we stand today.

We can then heed lessons from our current efforts while developing a clear and realistic consensus on how to better coordinate new sources and modalities of development cooperation.

Finally, I look forward to hearing your vision for the future role of the DCF and its potential deliverables in the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

At Rio+20, Heads of State and Government recommitted themselves to further strengthen the role of ECOSOC. The upcoming Review of the General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the “Strengthening of ECOSOC” will be our opportunity to take action on this recommendation.

The Rio+20 outcome document also rightfully recognizes ECOSOC’s key role in achieving a balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development. As such, ECOSOC is well-placed to contribute to the development of an integrated and coherent development framework post-2015. Here it can build on its important work on the nexus between sustainable development and the future of development cooperation during the current DCF cycle.

With its work on trends in development cooperation, the Development Cooperation Forum can also provide an important input into the report on a “Sustainable Development Financing Strategy” to be presented to the General Assembly for decision in 2014.

At the end of our two days of deliberations, I will capture the gist of your discussions in a brief summary which I will present during the closing session. You will also find a more detailed debrief in the International Development Cooperation Report, to be issued later this year.

As you can see, the agenda for this forum is challenging. We have an impressive list of speakers providing expertise and opinion on a number of complex issues.

Let us uphold the Forum's tradition and engage in a frank and candid exchange.

I also urge you to keep your statements to the allotted time so that we have enough time to address questions and suggestions from the audience.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Making this meeting a success is a shared responsibility. The fact that we have assembled such a diverse range of stakeholders is already a tribute to the international development community's commitment to working together.

Let us take this opportunity and develop innovative solutions to both long-standing and emerging challenges in development cooperation. Let us learn from each other's experience and identify ways in which we can tackle these challenges together.

I am convinced that our efforts here can go a long way. The Economic and Social Council and the Development Cooperation Forum can make a unique contribution by bringing greater determination, greater understanding and greater resolve to a renewed and more effective development agenda. That is the most we can do. That is the least we must do.

Let me welcome you again to this meeting, and may our shared efforts prosper.

Thank you.