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Remarks by

**HIS EXCELLENCY NÉSTOR OSORIO
PRESIDENT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
TO THE OPEN WORKING GROUP**

**“Key messages of the ECOSOC Development Cooperation Forum on the future of
development cooperation”**

UN Headquarters, New York, 10 December 2013

Mr. Csaba Kőrösi, [Permanent Representative of Hungary, Co-chair]
Mr. Macharia Kamau, [Permanent Representative of Kenya, Co-chair]
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First, my gratitude goes to the two co-chairs for this opportunity to address the Open Working Group.

This group has the challenging task of developing a set of goals and targets for a global and truly transformative development agenda, beyond 2015. One that applies to all countries. One that unifies the development and environmental realms – in the way always intended by the concept of sustainable development.

Moving to a sustainable development agenda raises several, practical questions. Let me mention five:

What would a renewed global partnership for development, in support of a sustainable development agenda, look like in practice?

What would be the relationship between the global partnership for development and multi-stakeholder global *partnerships* addressing specific goals or issues?

What would make it attractive for the diverse set of stakeholders to engage in a renewed global partnership for development?

How would development cooperation have to change, to support an integrated approach to the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental?

And what would be the implications for how resources – financial and other – would be allocated, mobilized, accessed, managed and monitored?

Answers to these questions are starting to emerge. Yet, still lacking, is a coherent narrative that brings the different elements together.

This is where the Development Cooperation Forum of ECOSOC comes in. The DCF provides stakeholders a forum to, together, address these questions and find workable approaches.

A principle function of ECOSOC, the DCF meets biennially, at ministerial level, based on extensive two-year cycles of preparation that integrate analytical work with high-level symposiums and stakeholder engagement.

At the Ethiopia High-Level Symposium, in June, the DCF examined how a renewed global partnership for development could work in practice.

The Switzerland Symposium, in October, focused on how development cooperation would need to change to support a post-2015 development agenda, universal in application and unified in focus.

Through the preparations, so far, for the July 2014 DCF, the makings of a new narrative are emerging. Let me share with you some highlights, as they are of direct relevance to your work.

- The fundamentals of the global development discourse have changed.
- Sustainability has moved out of its environmental confines and is set to become a centrepiece of a post-2015 development agenda.
- A renewed global partnership for development is needed that brings together the Monterrey track, on Financing for Development, and the Rio track, on financing for sustainable development and Means of Implementation.
- A transformative agenda must be matched by a different scope and scale of support.
- The traditional North-South framework for pursuing global development cooperation is gradually losing its hold.
- Working towards meeting the UN's 0.7 per cent ODA to GNI target will remain critical.
- Even if past ODA commitments were met, however, these resources alone would still fall far short of what will be needed.
- In one example, the undersupply of infrastructure in developing countries is estimated at USD 1 trillion per year through 2020.

- Development cooperation should benefit all stakeholders, especially the poor and most vulnerable, within and among countries.
- Least developed countries and middle-income countries will need continued support, but the kind of support they will need differs.
- Development cooperation today is about more than governments – North-South and South-South – and about much more than aid.
- Development cooperation is about enabling and supporting rather than driving. It is about engaging the breadth of development actors in a range of partnerships.
- The type, or form, of development cooperation, should follow its evolving function.
- The support should be flexible and take into consideration country needs and specific priorities.
- A shared, yet differentiated, framework will be needed to hold all actors accountable.
- Such a framework should put greater focus on “how” to promote inclusive development and to ensure efficiency and effectiveness of development cooperation.
- All the above shows how Governments alone cannot deliver the needed transformation.
- Broad engagement will be needed, in a renewed global partnership for development, based on co-creation and genuine exchange.
- Multi-stakeholder partnerships are unlikely to replace the inter-governmental partnership. But they are likely to become an ever more important complement.
- Recent partnership initiatives of the Secretary-General show their great potential in engaging a broad set of actors.
- Providing incentives for the diverse set of actors – including also the private sector – will be critical to the agenda’s implementation.

Ladies and gentleman,

The daily practice of development cooperation has already changed, profoundly. The UN debate needs to catch up, otherwise lose the opportunity to influence sustainable development outcomes for all.

The discussions taking place within the DCF are revealing a new degree of openness to question some of the fundamentals of development cooperation.

I hope that this openness also encourages you to question some of the fundamentals, as you reflect on key elements of a post-2015 development agenda.

The July 2014 DCF, in conjunction with the Open Working Group and the Expert Committee on Sustainable Development Financing, can provide important inputs the discussion on the post-2015 agenda.

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