

UNITED NATIONS



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**Opening Remarks by  
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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF COLOMBIA TO THE UNITED  
NATIONS**

**2013 ECOSOC ANNUAL MINISTERIAL REVIEW  
NATIONAL VOLUNTARY PRESENTATIONS**

**Geneva, 1 July 2013**

Honourable Ministers,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to declare open the 2013 National Voluntary Presentations.

The National Voluntary Presentations – or “NVPs” – are intrinsic to the ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review. The NVP process has demonstrated the value of ECOSOC as a forum for engaging the global community in an exchange of critical lessons learned in the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals. The NVPs have enabled the Council to explore ways to address lags in MDG implementation.

Since 2007, 53 countries – both developed and developing – have shared their best practices and lessons learned through the ECOSOC High-level segment.

The NVP presentations this year will be linked to the theme of the 2013 AMR on "Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals". They are also well-positioned to add value to key ongoing inter-governmental processes, including the follow-up to Rio+20 and preparations for post-2015 development agenda.

The NVPs provide a platform where national level implementation can connect with international policy making. This provides an opportunity to build linkages with the normative and operational areas of development in the work of the United Nations System.

Yet, the process can still be improved. I believe that including a report-back mechanism to the Council, on further progress in implementing some of the recommendations emerging from this dialogue, would greatly strengthen the overall value of this experience. I am also convinced that, in the future, the introduction of a standardized analytical framework and the establishment of regional knowledge-sharing networks will scale-up the benefits of the review.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to convey my special thanks and appreciation to the Governments of France, Nigeria, Peru and Vietnam, for volunteering to give NVPs this year. We look forward to their presentations and their active engagement with the Council.

The key to the effectiveness of the NVPs is the feedback provided throughout the review process, particularly by the NVP Reviewers, who are also called “NVP friends”. I also thank and congratulate those “Friends” who will contribute to the dialogue, immediately following the national presentation.

I expect, also, that the future will continue to bring greater involvement by UN Country Teams in contributing to national review processes. Once more, I commend all of the countries for undertaking this crucial review task and those that will contribute as Reviewers.

I trust that the National Voluntary Presentations will pave the way for the further strengthening of global coordination and cooperation, and the global partnership for sustainable development.

I thank you.

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