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**Closing Remarks by H.E. Ambassador Néstor Osorio,
President of the Economic and Social Council**

**Special Policy Dialogue in preparation for the 2014 Development Cooperation
Forum**

“The role of philanthropic organizations in the post-2015 setting”

New York, 23 April 2013, 5:15 p.m., Conference Room 3

Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank our distinguished panelists for their contributions to this stimulating discussion, as well as UNDP, UNDESA, OECD Net-Forward and WINGS for co-organizing this dialogue.

I would also like to thank Mr. Matthew Bishop for so ably steering our discussions and all of the participants for engaging in a very rich exchange of views.

We have learned a lot about the role of private philanthropy in international development cooperation. And we have heard many interesting views and perspectives.

Allow me to share a few key messages I take away from today’s meeting:

We all agree that philanthropic organizations play an increasingly important role as development partners. They are an efficient, yet heterogeneous group of actors. And they often engage in issues-based, multi-stakeholder partnerships at country and local levels.

Models of philanthropy are changing fast. Many foundations are at the forefront of developing and testing new solutions to development challenges. Innovations by foundations can address bottlenecks and tipping points in development cooperation.

To maximize their impact, some innovations blend profit and non-profit approaches. Philanthropic organizations must continue to reach the most vulnerable populations through long-term engagement.

The next task is to better leverage such approaches and strengthen coordination amongst each other, and with other stakeholders, at country and global levels. This may require foundations, member States and multilateral actors to overcome structural differences in the way the function. It will also require common ways of monitoring, sharing knowledge and accounting for results.

Specific core strengths guide the work of philanthropic organizations. In many contexts, a more enabling environment is needed to unleash their full potential to complement development efforts by governments and other actors.

Good practices of multi-stakeholder partnerships are encouraging. There is great benefit in collecting and widely sharing such examples and information on the work of foundations. I would welcome if you would carry forward the idea of how to use the DCF for this purpose.

Addressing global challenges is a shared responsibility. Foundations can feed their lessons learned –from successes and failures- in development into the shaping of the post-2015 global development agenda.

A renewed global partnership for development must embrace diversity and recognize the roles of all stakeholders, including those of philanthropic organizations. This is critical to achieve robust development results in future.

As the post-2015 development agenda is evolving, the broad range of actors – including philanthropic organizations – need to be part of the discussion.

The Development Cooperation Forum of ECOSOC is ideally placed, as it provides a safe space to spur informal and frank discussions among Northern and Southern foundations, with its other stakeholders, including the broad range of member States, civil society organizations and parliamentarians. I encourage all of you to continue to engage through the DCF.

I will also bring these messages to the attention of Ministers attending the ECOSOC annual session and the DCF High-level Symposium in Ethiopia, which will look at “A renewed global partnership for development for a post-2015 era”.

I hope that some of you will also participate in the symposium.

ECOSOC stands ready to support foundations in their efforts to engage in global policy dialogue on development cooperation.

In my view, today’s special dialogue was an important step. I look forward to continuing this important debate with all of you.

This meeting is adjourned.