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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

Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to extend a warm welcome to our friends from the philanthropic sector. It is the second time that ECOSOC holds a dedicated dialogue with philanthropic organizations.

Not all of you may be familiar with the Development Cooperation Forum, the DCF. The 2005 World Summit was the cradle of this forum. With great foresight and in response to both the sea change in development cooperation, and the growing role of Southern and non-state partners – world leaders agreed to bring the debate on development cooperation to this new universal platform.

Today, a growing share of development finance comes from new partners that had not been active ten or twenty years ago.

The DCF facilitates a structured policy dialogue on trends in development cooperation, among the broad range of development stakeholders: provider and partner countries, multilateral organizations, civil society organizations, members of parliament, local governments and – increasingly – representatives from the philanthropic community and the private sector.

The DCF is expected to advance in at least three areas by the 2014 DCF, to take place in July next year, here in New York. It should chart a common course of action towards a renewed global partnership for development, underpinning the post-2015 global development agenda. It should help to provide greater clarity on the accountability frameworks and tools needed for development partnerships and to ensure delivery on commitments. And it should assist different actors – Southern partners and civil society organizations, as well as philanthropic organizations – in their efforts to think through how they can best contribute to the elaboration and implementation of a post-2015 development agenda.

The 2012 DCF turned the spotlight on the growing role of philanthropic organizations in development cooperation. In turn, philanthropic organizations have recognized the great value of engaging in a more structured exchange amongst themselves and with other stakeholders, under the aegis of the DCF.

Today's event provides an opportunity to deepen this exchange in at least three areas.

First, the DCF can act as a hub for knowledge exchange for philanthropic organizations to widely share lessons from country-level experiences, such as innovations and challenges in scaling them up or generating synergies. Sessions like this – or virtual and on-line exchanges – can help to collect and cluster such lessons to support others, especially smaller foundations with a limited resource base. Governments can also learn from the approaches applied by foundations.

Second, the DCF could act as a repository of information related to the activities of philanthropic organizations. Greater information on the volume, quality and impact of their cooperation, will be critical to develop a common understanding of how philanthropic organizations can best contribute to global development challenges in future. In partnership with foundations' networks and associations, the DCF could support the collection of such information, including on the effectiveness of philanthropic assistance.

Third, the DCF will facilitate policy dialogue to inform the post-2015 development agenda. It will review the global partnership for development and help define an effective monitoring and accountability framework post-2015. Drawing from their vast

experience, philanthropic organizations should be fully engaged in this discussion. A policy dialogue in Ethiopia on 6-7 June will be a first opportunity for this and I hope to see many of you again on this occasion.

I would like to express my great appreciation to Mr. Matthew Bishop, our moderator for today's debate.

I look forward to a fruitful and frank discussion that may result in a concrete set of recommendations. I hope that today's dialogue will further build understanding between philanthropic organizations, member States and other stakeholders.

Thank you.