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**Remarks by
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PRESIDENT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**Opening Session, DCF Ethiopia High-level Symposium
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Minister Ahmed,
Executive Secretary Lopes,
Under-Secretary-General Wu,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to thank the Government of Ethiopia for hosting this important gathering and for your warm welcome.

The High-Level Panel of the Secretary-General sent a clear message that a renewed global partnership for development needs to involve all stakeholders, on an equal footing.

This first DCF Symposium will allow us to discuss, with a diverse group of stakeholders, your views on a renewed global partnership for development and what would make such an engagement meaningful for you.

Let me share an overview of how this Symposium fits into the broader work of the Economic and Social Council and of the United Nations on a post-2015 development agenda.

The contribution of the DCF to the elaboration of a post-2015 development agenda will be two-fold. Firstly, the DCF can help to advance the substantive debate on global trends in development cooperation. Secondly, it can serve as a forum for different stakeholder to discuss, among themselves, on the role they envisage for themselves in a post-2015 setting.

The DCF was mandated by the 2005 World Summit to engage all stakeholders in global dialogue on the effectiveness and coherence of development cooperation. Three high-level Forums have been held since the inception of the Forum, in 2007.

The main objective of the DCF in its current cycle is to advance a common understanding of what is needed to ensure development cooperation is fit for purpose for a post-2015 era. This work will culminate in the July 2014 Development Cooperation Forum in New York.

Here, in Addis Ababa, we will look at how a renewed global partnership for development could work in practice.

At the second DCF Symposium, on 24 and 25 October, in Switzerland, we will examine the implications of a post-2015 development agenda for the future of development cooperation.

At our third DCF Symposium, in the first quarter of 2014, in Germany, we will have a look at accountability and effective development partnership.

Throughout this process we will make sure that all of your voices are being heard. We will ensure that different stakeholder groups have an opportunity to reflect on their role in a post-2015 setting. The success of the 2014 DCF will hinge upon its ability to facilitate a discussion that generates concrete guidance and practical tools for practitioners.

The multi-stakeholder nature and universal convening power of the DCF is clearly visible at this meeting. Several of you already started your discussions during caucus meetings and side events. The breakout sessions this afternoon will provide an opportunity to continue these discussions.

Our discussions today are taking place in the broader context of the Rio+20 follow-up and the Strengthening of ECOSOC.

With its Annual Ministerial Review and the biennial Development Cooperation Forum, ECOSOC has demonstrated its ability to take on a critical leadership role. It carries out a holistic review of the current development agenda and the effectiveness of development cooperation in supporting its implementation. We should build on this success and strengthen these two functions in a post-2015 setting.

I hope that this Symposium will, once again, demonstrate that the DCF is a very vibrant place, where development partners can exchange lessons learned and share best practices on an equal footing and that this function should be strengthened.

I wish you fruitful discussions.

Thank you.
