

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

THE PRESIDENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
H.E. AMBASSADOR MARTIN SAJDIK

ECOSOC Partnerships Forum
**“The role of partnerships in achieving the Post-2015
development agenda: Making it happen”**

Closing remarks by the President of ECOSOC

in the Economic and Social Council Chamber
United Nations Headquarters
New York, 28 May 2015

Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

This brings us to the conclusion of a very interesting and enlightening discussion. Our strength as a Council is in our multi-stakeholder approach, which is the essence of partnership. It is widely agreed that partnerships between business, NGOs, Governments, the United Nations and other actors will play an important role in the implementation of a new transformative development agenda, which will be put into place this coming September. The agenda, which will include the sustainable development goals, or SDGs, will provide an important framework for the next 15 years within which we can scale up or establish and implement new partnerships aimed at improving the livelihood of those living in poverty around the world.

We were greatly honoured this morning to have here in the Chamber President Bill Clinton as our Keynote Speaker. One of his main proposals was that the donor community should set aside 15% of development assistance over the next 3-7 years to strengthen health systems. The need for sound investment in health care delivery systems, human resources and community-based care was also emphasized. This requires the active and long-term engagement of all key stakeholders, especially to support national development plans. Lastly, the lessons learned from the experiences of the Ebola-stricken countries to respond to the outbreak pointed to the need for new models of sustainable financing to enable countries to have adequate capacity and response mechanisms.

Distinguished participants,

Experience has now taught us that for partnerships to work, they must be squarely aligned with the new agenda and its new goals. They should be streamlined and build on already existing and successful mechanisms and processes, have a monitoring and review mechanism for review and show that they can achieve results. There should also be opportunities for interaction between Member States and partnership sponsors, which would help build trust and confidence.

The Economic and Social Council, is a truly effective platform for bringing us all together, and can serve as a platform for a global review of partnerships. It can establish a framework for the multistakeholder partnerships involving the UN system, including principles and guidelines and a review process that could assess impact and results. It would cover partnerships emerging from all conference follow-up, including those that will emerge after 2015. The Council could also be a springboard for the creation of new

partnership as we have seen today with the launch of the Global Network for Promoting Digital Technologies for Sustainable Urbanization.

The High-level Political Forum, under the auspices of ECOSOC, could put the political spotlight look at thematic partnerships linked to the sustainable development goals and build political momentum to ensure their success. The HLPF could benefit from periodic “lessons learnt” by ECOSOC.

Distinguished participants,

Today, our panellists, moderators, and speakers introduced many new ideas and innovative strategies to us and for which we are all greatly appreciative. I was inspired. I hope you were too. These ideas will be reported to the Council’s Annual high-level Ministerial Review this July, and will serve to inform the Special Summit on the Post-2015 development agenda to be held this September. I also intend to issue a Presidential Statement tomorrow which captures some of the key ideas we have heard here today.

Before we adjourn I would like to thank all of our speakers today. Their contribution to the discussion was indeed invaluable, and truly appreciated.

I would like to invite all of you to a reception graciously sponsored by the Global Partnerships Forum, which will take immediately after the adjournment of this meeting in the Dag Hammarskjold Library Penthouse, which is on the 4th floor of the Library Building. Volunteers are posted outside to help guide you to the location.

The meeting is adjourned