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

**CLOSING REMARKS AT THE  
2015 YOUTH FORUM  
YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN THE TRANSITION FROM MDGS TO SDGS: WHAT WILL  
IT TAKE?  
NEW YORK, 3 FEBRUARY 2015**

Ministers,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have come to the end of another exciting Youth Forum.

I would like to thank all panelists for their comments and thoughtful reflection throughout this highly productive two-day event.

I thank you all for participating; this fourth annual ECOSOC Youth Forum has exceeded expectations because of your presence. What have we achieved over the past two days?

- We have raised awareness of the importance of youth's voice in shaping the post-2015 development agenda.
- We have put on a youth lens to address the multiple challenges young people are facing, especially in Africa. We have highlighted the continued importance of the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth and its links to the Post 2015 development agenda.
- We have put the challenges facing girls and young women in the spotlight on the eve of Beijing+20.



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- We have shared information, knowledge and good practices among representatives of Member States and youth.
- And young people across regions have had opportunities to contribute to the discussion on what it will take to effectively transition from the MDGs to the SDGs.

This year's Forum has been a timely opportunity for advancing the global development agenda with youth at its centre. It has coincided with the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth. It has also marked the 20-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, giving the opportunity to reaffirm the importance of equal opportunities for young women and men.

As we fast approach the Council's own High-level Segment in July, I have no doubt that our work today will be an important contribution. Recommended actions and key messages of this event will be presented at that meeting.

Last year, as I closed the ECOSOC Youth Forum of 2014, I expressed the need for the Forum to become the platform through which the views of young people could be brought in the post 2015 development agenda. Reflecting on these last two days, I can confidently say that we have achieved this.

Our challenge now, dear young colleagues, is to continue these efforts well beyond 2015, with the same enthusiasm we have seen during these two days. Join the Children and Youth Major Group, if you are not yet a member. This would allow you to engage more directly in the UN's work. I also urge you to make sure that the message gets out into your community and is shared with youth around the world. Stay connected on twitter by following #Youth2015 and #YouthNow.

I intend to issue a Presidential Statement which captures the key messages and recommendations that emerged from this meeting. This statement will be shared with all Member States as well as other key partners and stakeholders involved in all aspects of the post-2015 development agenda.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like once again, to thank all of our speakers today and yesterday. You have pushed decision-makers toward great ambition and inclusion. Special thanks also to the co-organizers of this meeting, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, and the United Nations Inter-agency Network on Youth.



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Thank you all for your participation.