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

DRAFT CLOSING REMARKS
JOINT GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND ECOSOC THEMATIC DEBATE/FORUM ON
PARTNERSHIPS
TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL CHAMBER
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Distinguished guests,
Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

This brings our Forum to a close. We have witnessed enlightening and fruitful discussion. I feel invigorated by the quality of the contributions and I am reminded that our greatest strength rests in our partnership. The partnerships we build in which collaboration can take place will ultimately help people achieve their ambitions and basic needs; right from meaningful employment to better health and education.

Our unified efforts can set the pace for cooperation and policy-making in the future. The Partnerships Forum of the Economic and Social Council is a truly effective platform for bringing us all together, and serves as a springboard for the creation of partnerships and action-orientated dialogue.

Implementation of the post-2015 development agenda would require us to better leverage partnerships and strengthen coordination amongst partners and with other stakeholders at all levels. As the gateway to the United Nations for all non-state stakeholders, ECOSOC provides this unique platform where governments, NGOs, civil society, private sector, the academia and philanthropic community can come together to promote sustainable development.

Development cooperation will play a critical role in the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda. Through the multi-stakeholder Development Cooperation Forum, ECOSOC is advancing a global approach to development cooperation that fits the scale and scope of action required. The forum to monitor implementation of the Post-2015 agenda will be the High Level Political Forum to be convened this July for the first time under the auspices of ECOSOC.

Distinguished guests, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen

Over the last two days, our panellists, moderators, and speakers introduced and refined many new ideas and innovative strategies. Among those let me highlight some:

- We heard that governments both at the national and global multilateral levels must continue to provide policy frameworks and oversight and ensure monitoring, accountability and transparency of the post-2015 development agenda as well as of public-private partnerships. The United Nations bodies need to provide the global governance for partnerships. At the national level, parliaments have an important role to play in ensuring the transparency and accountability of partnerships and along with Supreme Audit Institutions and the Offices of Ombudsperon.
- It was noted that engaging the local community, particularly in identifying needs and formulating strategies, is crucial for fostering local ownership and accountability. In this regard it was – once again - well recognized that civil society is a key partner for development, including – inter alia – by monitoring existing commitments. Social dialogues enrich policy discussions with various views and collaborating with civil society enhances accountability and transparency.

- Furthermore it was mentioned, that partnerships should be measured along criteria such as human rights records, capacity to deliver, acts of corruption, financial transparency and compliance with taxation obligations, among others.
- It was noted that there are three major dimensions of accountability: answerability, enforcement, and a clear delimitation of responsibility. Willingness to be held accountable and be monitored builds trust. Mutual accountability would be distinctly effective tool.
- Human rights frameworks and codes of conduct for corporations are mechanisms that can enhance accountability of public-private partnerships
- Several examples of existing accountability frameworks were shared by the panelists, including the Independent Expert Review Group of the Every Woman Every Child Initiative, the African Peer Review mechanism, Global Compact local network, the DAC peer review mechanism, Busan monitoring framework. There is no one-size-fits-all approach.
- We also heard that a robust, transparent, comprehensive and independent accountability framework was called for to monitor the implementation of global development goals, supported by timely, quality data. Learning and benchmarking with effective existing accountability mechanisms would be helpful in the design of this framework. The High-Level Political Forum is THE platform to establish a mechanism for periodic review of the implementation of those goals. The modality should be developed based on interactive dialogue with governments and relevant stakeholders. There is already a group of Member States actively engaging in this discussion and the first HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC in June and July will provide a space for further discussions on this topic.

- Today in the morning we heard from a wide range of public-private partnerships in the area of food and nutrition security and marine resources, among the Global Crop Diversity Trust, the Global salmon initiative or the Lombok Blue Economy Blue Growth initiative. Those partnerships may provide important lessons learned for developing partnerships elsewhere. Successful partnerships need to be well designed, well-funded and need to enjoy political support from all partners.
- In the afternoon session we heard that infrastructure, particularly ICT, energy and transport, is an enabler and multiplier for sustainable development, especially for the most vulnerable countries. Talking about infrastructure, it should be clear that we cannot only focus on hard infrastructure but as well on improvements in soft infrastructure such as border controls.
- We heard today that sustainable energy connects all other topics of sustainable development. In order to realize the goals of the sustainable energy for all decade, partnerships with finance and municipalities are needed as well as technology, intersectorial and triangular cooperation.
- It was highlighted that governments have to give incentives for and create an enabling environment for partnerships, including through the realization of the Rule of Law. Predictable public policies are important for encouraging multi stakeholder partnerships in infrastructure.

For me, the central pillar for a successful partnership is mutual trust. Trust just does not come like manna from the sky; to have trust requires hard work, requires the willingness to learn from and listen to each other. And what I have learnt from this partnerships forum, is, that – despite all our efforts – there is still a long way to go to have trust between the business sector and diplomacy, specifically our form of multilateral diplomacy. It’s amazing how little

we know of one another. That's why efforts – like this partnership forum – are so necessary and cannot be held often enough.

As stated yesterday this Joint Thematic Debate/Partnership Forum is a novelty in itself with the GA and ECOSOC joining forces, “partnering”, to stage this unique event, Like in all partnerships, especially fresh ones, one should not only be overwhelmed by a spirit of enthusiasm of the new, but one should also lean back to soberly analyse the work undertaken and its results. This is what we will do, from the ECOSOC side, reviewing this unique experience of an endeavour to join forces and draw our conclusions for the future.

The ideas raised during the past two days will be reported to the Council's Annual high-level Ministerial Review this July so we may make progress on these most important of issues.

I wish to thank the Office of the PGA, UNDESA, both the office for ECOSOC support and the Division for Sustainable Development, UNOP, the Global Compact and the UN Foundation who “partnered” with the ECOSOC to make this joint event possible.

I was truly inspired. I hope you were too.

Thank you!