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Closing address by
H.E. Mr. Oh Joon, Vice President of ECOSOC
on behalf of

H.E. Mr. Martin Sajdik
President of the Economic and Social Council
2015 Annual Ministerial Review

“Managing the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals: What it will take”

Economic and Social Council Chamber
Friday, 10 July 2015, 5pm

Excellencies,
Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon,
Distinguished Guests,
Representative of civil society,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have now come to the end of the 2015 ECOSOC High-level Segment. We have had a very rich and fruitful exchange of views.

I would like to deliver a closing statement on behalf of Ambassador Martin Sajdik, who once again sent his regrets for his absence this week.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The High-level Segment of ECOSOC, and the high-level political forum have offered valuable policy guidance for the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to a transformative, unified and universal post-2015 development agenda.

This transition will be a historic opportunity to advance prosperity for people and preservation of the planet. We must be ready to meet the full requirements of the new agenda.

Through ECOSOC, Member States have a vehicle to enable such a transition. Speakers throughout the discussions emphasized the need to:

- coordinate action to address the mounting global challenges;
- strengthen multilateralism, UN leadership and multi-stakeholder engagement to find common solutions; and

- manage global policy integration and coherence requirements.

ECOSOC has to play a special role in promoting policy integration and reducing inequalities.

I believe our discussions over the past week have revealed much common ground. The High-level Segment as a whole, including the three day HLPF Ministerial meeting, made significant contributions to the collective efforts to pave way for implementing the new agenda.

The second meeting of the High-Level Political Forum under the auspices of ECOSOC cemented the Forum as a platform for dialogue and political guidance on the road to sustainable development. The discussion advanced our vision for the Forum beyond 2015. There were many ideas on how to shape its work and review functions.

The final Annual Ministerial Review has painted a holistic picture of the transition to the post-2015 development agenda. We have reflected on the achievements we have made in the past 15 years, and the lessons learned from the MDGs.

We have examined some key challenges of the global economy at yesterday's High-Level Policy Dialogue with senior officials from financial and trade institutions -- a fine tradition of the Council that should be kept.

We have also had an excellent dialogue with the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions on what it will take at the regional level to achieve our agenda.

And we have heard a critical debate on how the new agenda can be made to work for the least developed countries.

This morning, we have heard four National Voluntary Presentations which have grown into a vital lessons-learning platform that must be built upon in the post-2015 era.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

The conclusion of this Segment today offers also an opportunity to reflect on the substantive policy guidance role of the ECOSOC system.

The strengthened ECOSOC is now fully equipped to fulfil its role as a principal body for achieving integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development.

During this cycle, ECOSOC convened for the first time its new platforms, including the Integration Segment as well as the high-level political forum under its auspices.

The Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review follow-up process and the recent ECOSOC Dialogues on the Longer-term Positioning of the United Nations

Development System have consolidated the Council's contribution to maintaining a holistic approach to global development. Taken together, the Council has advanced ownership, engagement, implementation, follow-up and review at the global level.

The ECOSOC system has become an interlocking framework that connects the High-level Political Forum, functional and regional commissions, expert bodies and specialized agencies. All have clear distinctive roles and divisions of labour. This system must be used in its entirety, to support implementation, monitoring and review of the new agenda.

We have an important task before us. In the post-2015 era, we must mobilize our common resources, energy and vision to confront challenges – the fate of humanity and the planet. We have a shared responsibility to do so.

It is in this context that we welcome a strong ECOSOC system and HLPF that meets the integration requirements of the sustainable development goals.

Distinguished delegates,

As we come to the end of the ECOSOC Bureau's term, I would like to profoundly thank His Excellency Mr. Martin Sajdik, President of the Council, and other colleagues on the Bureau, Her Excellency Ms. María Emma Mejía Vélez of Colombia, His Excellency Mr. Vladimir Drobnjak of Croatia, and His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Khaled Khiari of Tunisia.

I would also like to thank the former members of this Bureau, His Excellency Ibrahim Dabbashi of Libya and His Excellency Mr. Carlos Enrique Garcia Gonzalez of El Salvador.

I would also like to thank UNDESA and other UN System organization for their support to the Bureau.

Allow me to express my appreciation to all of you for making the past week impactful and far-reaching. I would like to especially thank all the speakers, moderators and discussants for their in-depth and insightful contributions, all stakeholders for their effective engagement.

Last but not least, I wish to thank Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon for his presence with us today as well as for his leadership.

I thank each of you for your constructive engagement. For those of you who are travelling, I wish you a safe journey home.

Thank you.