



2015: Time for Global Action

President of ECOSOC visits UN partners in Geneva

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In view of the upcoming transition to a new global development agenda, H.E. Mr. Martin Sajdik,



ECOSOC President Martin Sajdik meeting with Mr. Houlin Zhao, ITU Secretary-General – Photo-© ITU

President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) made an official visit to Geneva last week to strengthen cooperation between the Council and its partners from the UN system and the scientific community. During his visit, Mr. Sajdik highlighted the importance of the year ahead for deepening and exploring new opportunities for coordination and partnership on the successor framework to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which will prioritize poverty reduction and sustainable development.

Building on ECOSOC's role in providing guidance and overall coordination of the UN development system, Mr. Sajdik met with key leaders from the UN family in Geneva, as well as with the head of CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research during his trip from 4 to 6 March 2015.

“We have come a long way in shaping the post-2015 development agenda since Rio+20,” he remarked to the heads of the International Labour Organization (ILO), International Telecommunications Union (ITU), UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), UN Economic Commission for Europe (UN ECE), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR).

For the new, sustainable development agenda to be implemented in the post-2015 context, “we have to catalyse global solidarity through a renewed global partnership,” he said. This will require ongoing dialogue and cooperation within the UN family, for which ECOSOC continues to be the natural hub.

In his meeting with Mr. Rolf-Dieter Heuer, the Director-General of CERN, Mr. Sajdik described how improving the interface between science, policy and society is one critical element of a renewed global partnership for development which the Council is prioritizing. The list of complex global

challenges, such as climate change, food insecurity and water scarcity is vast, said the President, “but so are the ideas and innovations being pursued at centres of scientific excellence such as CERN across the world”. Bringing these innovations “front and centre” to the debates on development is the only way to ensure that global solutions are effective and informed by the latest evidence from scientific and technological advances.

To bring together these varied strands—from the UN system world-wide, the scientific community, and other stakeholders from civil society, philanthropy and the private sector—in 2015, all of ECOSOC’s activities, consultations and outputs this year will focus on the theme, “Managing the transition from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): What will it take?” The international community will convene on 6-10 July 2015 at UN Headquarters for the ECOSOC high-level segment to advance coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on the emerging development agenda.