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**Opening remarks by**

**HIS EXCELLENCY MARTIN SAJDIK  
PRESIDENT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL  
TO THE FOURTH BIENNIAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FORUM**

**“Bringing the future of development cooperation to post-2015”**

**UN Headquarters, New York, 10 July 2014**

Under-Secretary-General Wu,  
Professor Chambers,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Welcome to the fourth biennial high-level meeting of the Development Cooperation Forum.

The last days saw the launch of the High-level Political Forum on sustainable development, as part of the newly designed ECOSOC. Today and tomorrow, this august assembly here of high-level representatives and experts will focus in on development cooperation aspects of the global development agenda.

The DCF is a vital part of the strengthened ECOSOC.

Through the reform, the Council now serves as the platform for collective action in the ongoing MDG implementation, as well as the work on the post-2015 development agenda.

The Council is the “platform that brings everything together” for a unified dialogue on sustainable and inclusive development.

It is the principal UN organ for coordination and policy formulation on all three pillars of sustainable development, providing substantive leadership for all segments with an annual theme.

There are the integration segment, operational activities segment, the Annual Ministerial Review function, which will be gradually incorporated into the High-level Political Forum, and the DCF.

The modalities of the DCF reflect what development cooperation should be – finding solutions to the multiple dimensions of poverty that are inclusive of all development actors through vibrant open dialogue, sharing of knowledge, and experience, guided by analysis of recent trends and progress in development cooperation.

Throughout the two year preparatory process for the 2014 DCF, the Council has advanced an inclusive, global approach to development cooperation post-2015 that fits the scale and scope of action required.

The process has been geared to support Member States and other stakeholders in identifying and addressing barriers and opportunities for more and more effective development cooperation.

Development cooperation will undoubtedly play a significant and unique role to support implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, although only if it adapts in real time to the new parameters in which we have to operate today.

Working towards the UN's 0.7 per cent ODA to GNI target remains critical. Yet, even if met, ODA commitments would still fall far short of what will be needed to support implementation of the global development agenda. Therefore other sources of resources have to be explored. Domestic resource mobilization, a renewed global partnership and the participation of the business sector are essential in this context.

Financing of development and means of implementation should not be discussed in silos. A renewed global partnership for development has to bring together the Monterrey track on Financing for Development and the Rio track on financing for sustainable development and means of implementation, taking the Monterrey Consensus as a starting point.

Up to now, the DCF has reviewed trends in international development cooperation, covering a significant part of MDG-8 and also the Monterrey Consensus.

The Financing for Development follow-up process has comprehensively reviewed the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus.

In a post-2015 development agenda, I see the DCF well-positioned to review the development cooperation aspects of a renewed global partnership for development and to continue reviewing national mutual accountability and transparency, while the HLPF will be monitoring the sectorial and cross-sectorial dimensions of the post-2015 development agenda.

The Third International Conference on Financing for Development will take place next July in Ethiopia, deciding on a single financing framework for a post-2015 development agenda and, with hope, a renewed and more robust global partnership

for development. You, through the DCF, can share your views on how such a framework and partnership could work in practice.

These two days now are also the last occasion for a collective reflection on the role of the various stakeholders in development cooperation post-2015, as well as accountability aspects, before the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and the Expert Committee on Sustainable Development Financing will each conclude their work.

Thus, this is a major opportunity for your voices to not only be heard, but also to provide key inputs to the post-2015 development agenda.

A number of you already started your exchanges during pre-meetings. Throughout the next two days, we will have an opportunity to continue those discussions in the spirit of openness, cooperation and mutual learning.

I ask you to be bold, challenging and focused in your contributions to the discussions and dialogues.

For those of you who were present in Berlin, at the DCF Germany Symposium, let me recall a particular moment when a mayor was so moved by what was being discussed on the panel, that while making her comments from the floor, she walked up to the podium and handed flyers to the panelists, vividly pointing out how her city was handling things in a different way, to ensure development cooperation was directed where it was most needed and would have the greatest impact, on the lives of the poorest and most marginalized.

Without suggesting you all advance on the podium, I want to encourage you to be animated by this same spirit in our work together during these two days – and beyond.

Thank you.

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