

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

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

Opening remarks

by

**His Excellency Martin Sajdik
President of the Economic and Social Council**

Economic and Social Council Special Event

on

“CERN: Sixty Years of Science for Peace and Development”

**UNHQ, ECOSOC Chamber
New York, 20 October 2014**

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H.E. Mr. Sam Kahamba Kutesa, Pres. of the Gen. Assembly,
H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General,
Former Secretary General Mr. Kofi Annan,
Director-General of CERN, Mr. Rolf Heuer,
Mme Minister,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this Special Event. I would like to congratulate CERN for its work over the past 60 years, for its scientific results, but also for promoting science for peace and development. I thank Professor Rolf Heuer, Director-General of CERN, for co-organizing this important event.

You may recall that in 2013, ECOSOC's thematic focus was on science, technology, innovation (STI) and the potential of culture for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and promoting sustainable development. I remember very well the truly interesting intervention by Professor Heuer to the Ministerial Segment of the ECOSOC at its substantive session in Geneva in 2013. It was the first structured contribution of CERN to the UN processes after obtaining the status as Observer in the General Assembly in December 2012. CERN, although being situated geographically

so closely to the UN and the specialized organisations in Geneva, thus connected to the UN family quite recently and this, we owe, first of all to the leadership of Professor Heuer. But it is also a product of underlying objective processes that have led many political and opinion leaders in our world to the understanding that we have to act as one to tackle the tremendous tasks we all face on our wonderful world.

Excellencies,

Science has an academic side that is often associated with research and cutting edge discoveries. But in fact its results also have practical application to peace and development, in areas including alternative and renewable energies, agriculture and food security, climate change and health, to name a few.

This is what we need just now when we hit the home stretch of our deliberations of shaping the Post 2015 development agenda.

We have seen incredible advances in scientific research lately, which have been achieved through international collaboration in research and innovation.

CERN stands for these incredible advances in scientific research over the past sixty years with Nobel Prizes in Physics twice going to CERN scientists not to speak about the World

Wide Web having revolutionized communications worldwide. And in the last two years CERN has brought us to the understanding that the Higgs Boson is not a mystery but a reality.

Excellencies,

The science-policy-society interface must be strengthened in order to ensure that scientific and engineering education, scientific research, technological development and policy making combine to adequately respond to the needs of society.

Partnerships play a key role. The success of scientific strategies and policies will require an ongoing dialogue between scientists, policymakers and society.

Partnerships - in a more general understanding – are also key to success in science. CERN is a proof of that. Originally CERN was created as a European center of scientific excellence, and a place where the nations of Europe could work peacefully together after a period of conflict. Sixty years on, having remained true to those ideals, CERN now leads the world in its field, and people of over 100 nationalities from all over the world rub shoulders there every day.

Although being firmly rooted in Europe in the West of Canton Geneva at the border of Switzerland and France the twelve founding members of CERN – Austria, my country, joined as

the 13th member in 1959 – have supported CERN in its policy to successfully open up to scientists from outside. And it is to no surprise that – at the moment – a regional laboratory for the Middle East, called SESAME, is presently under construction in Jordan which will be open to all scientists from all countries of the region, all pursuing the common dream of scientific excellence and peace among neighbors.

We are grateful that you, Prof. Heuer, bring this spirit to us here in New York. We need it, especially in these days. Sometimes I think, one or the other of your 6 underground accelerators could also produce miracles here.

We are also grateful that you celebrate your anniversary here together with ECOSOC, which is your natural partner from among the statutory bodies of the UN. We look forward to a close partnership with CERN in the years to come, a partnership in promoting science for peace and development.

We must endeavour to push the boundaries of science in furthering inclusive development. We must also continue to share knowledge, technologies and scientific advancements, so that no one will be left behind.

I thank you.