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**Closing statement by
H.E. MR. OH JOON
PRESIDENT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
TO THE DCF UGANDA HIGH-LEVEL SYMPOSIUM**

Kampala, 6 November 2015

**Development cooperation for a new era: Making the renewed global partnership
for sustainable development a reality**

Minister Kasaija,
Under-Secretary-General Wu,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It has been an honour for me to participate in this three-day, inspiring Symposium. I would like to express my thanks to our splendid host, the Government of the Republic of Uganda, and all our distinguished participants.

The depth of the discussion has truly impressed me. You have shown that implementation of the 2030 Agenda has begun in earnest, addressing existing and new challenges.

I will take with me a range of messages. Please allow me to highlight just three of them:

First, the universality of the agenda gives us a spectacular opportunity to shape a sustainable future together. We must energize each other to change our mind-sets, be open to innovation and make

full use of development cooperation for the Sustainable development Goals. Let us celebrate and propel the partnership dimension in addressing poverty, inequality and threats to sustainability. This must build on the strengths of each actor.

Second, you, the policy and decision makers and practitioners in the Ministries and organizations working on development cooperation, have a special responsibility. You have contributed to rethinking the role and scope of development cooperation. You are not only thought leaders, but the change agents that will drive progress. A holistic, grounded and truly collaborative approach is needed.

Third, knowledge and information sharing will be quintessential: not only to raise public awareness of the SDGs, but also to inform evidence-based decisions on the design, implementation and review of development cooperation policy that builds on good practice and creatively explores new opportunities.

A global space, like the Development Cooperation Forum, will remain a vital learning platform to advance the 2030 Agenda. The DCF must maintain its niche. With the High-level Political Forum and the ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development focusing on central implementation and financing issues, the DCF should enrich the work of both by providing expert advice on the emerging contours

of development cooperation and how it should contribute to the realization of the ambitious agenda.

Mr. Wu has so eloquently spoken about the need for mutual trust in his opening. Our discussion has highlighted critical dimensions of such trust building work, especially in the context of review and follow-up of development cooperation under the 2030 Agenda.

This includes development cooperation activities of the United Nations system. Our deliberations these past few days, and ongoing work of the DCF, can generate practical ideas to inform the ECOSOC Dialogue on the longer term positioning of the United Nations development system and ensuring it is fit to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Distinguished colleagues,

I would like to acknowledge the hard work that went into the preparation of this Symposium. My sincere gratitude to His Excellency, the President of Uganda for his patronage, the Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance and his dedicated team, Hon. Mr. Fred Jachan Omach, and Mr. Wu and his wonderful team in DESA for their tireless efforts, as well as colleagues at the UNDP Uganda Country Office.

I would like to invite all of you to the 2016 Development Cooperation Forum to be held in New York in July next year.

I hope that many of you can also attend a special meeting on inequality organized by ECOSOC in New York in the first quarter of 2016.

I will not shake your hands right now, as I will surely see you soon again in Belgium or New York.

Thank you.
