

UNITED NATIONS



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Address by

**His Excellency Mr. Oh Joon
President of the Economic and Social Council
The 70th Anniversary of the United Nations Charter
New York, 23 October 2015**

Mr. President of the General Assembly,
Mr. Secretary-General
Mr. President of the Security Council,
Mr. President of the Trusteeship Council,
Excellencies,

It is an honor for me to speak as President of the Economic and Social Council, which is one of the principal organs established by the UN Charter.

The 70th anniversary of the United Nations is a historic moment to reflect and build upon our collective action and achievements.

We the peoples of the United Nations were determined in 1945 to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom. 70 years on, we achieved another significant milestone by adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The new Agenda is based on 70 years of United Nations devotion to advancing development. It represents a remarkable evolution in international cooperation that has been since the Organization was established in the aftermath of World War II.

The pursuit of sustainable development has become the responsibility of all countries, both individually and collectively.

Excellencies,

Since its inception, ECOSOC has served as the central platform of the UN to address global economic and social issues. Our primary role has been the coordination of action and formulating policy recommendations for Member States and the whole UN system.

The Council has set global norms and standards in international development cooperation as well as humanitarian action.

Since the 1990s, ECOSOC has advanced an integrated and coordinated approach to follow-up and review of the outcomes of United Nations conferences and summits

More recently, the General Assembly further strengthened the role of ECOSOC in integrating the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

The 2030 Agenda will require that all countries and all stakeholders come together to make the goals a reality. It is important to note that ECOSOC is the only Charter body with a mandate to engage civil society, as established by article 71 of the Charter.

While this engagement has evolved over time, the Council continues to provide the space for the voice of civil society to be heard. Indeed, the vision and the goals of the recently adopted 2030 Agenda are the result of the most open and transparent consultation process in the history of the United Nations. The Council will ensure that these voices from around the world continue to be heard.

The Council will also continue to adapt to the changing times as the successive waves of reform have demonstrated. The development challenges the world faces have become vastly more complex than they were in the post-War era, and this complexity will continue to grow, warranting more effective global governance.

I would also like to stress that ECOSOC is a wide-ranging system composed of functional commissions, regional commissions, and standing committees, including the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

This system has evolved over the last 70 years to deal with the growing number of challenges. This system will be at the center of implementing the new Development Agenda. The Council will also continue to work with Member States and other stakeholders to make ECOSOC more relevant to what is happening in the world.

Excellencies,

The Economic and Social Council stands ready to deliver on the promise of sustainable development. We will pursue sustainable

development as the world's most important global challenge through integrated, coordinated and coherent strategies at all levels.

Thank you.

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