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**ECOSOC dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the
United Nations development system in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable
Development**

Briefing Session: *New Context*

Delivered by

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Vice-President of ECOSOC, H.E. Mr. Alejandro Palma Cerna,
Excellencies,
Dear colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is an important landmark in international cooperation for development.

More than ever, an integrated, coordinated approach to the implementation process is necessary due to the deep inter-linkages and mutual dependencies among the Agenda's goals and targets.

In the case of the UN development system, an integrated and coordinated approach requires considerable change in mind-set, method and action.

For a long time, the overall approach in the delivery of operational activities has been underpinned by the principle of specialization. This reflects the original decentralized design of the Organization.

In the post-2015 era, however, this approach increasingly needs to give way to new forms of cooperation, which particularly aim to capitalize on opportunities for synergy across UN entities.

In this context, it is useful to recall the findings of analytical scenarios undertaken by DESA for the Rio+20 Conference in 2012. The conclusion was that the broad pursuit of

sustainable development is far superior compared to a strategy based on achieving single-issue objectives in isolation. These findings mean that the results, impact and cost-effectiveness of development activities can be increased considerably if implemented in a coordinated fashion.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to share with you some of the steps DESA, and other member entities of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs, are currently undertaking in order to meet the requirements of the new development agenda.

The regional commissions have identified seven priority areas where they intend to provide system-wide policy and technical support. These priority areas include strengthening the support of the regional commissions to the UN system in promoting the SDGs integration into national development planning and enhancing data and statistical capacities at the country level.

The Office of the High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDs is also making plans to step-up support to those countries, as well as enhance coordination within the UN development system towards that end.

Training institutions like the United Nations Research Institute for Sustainable Development and UNITAR are similarly undertaking a review and redesign of their programmes in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In DESA, we are examining how to better align the three main functions of the department - support to intergovernmental processes, analytical work including data and statistics, and capacity building - with the requirements of the new development agenda.

The overarching objective of this effort is to ensure that DESA is focused on effectively integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development across its three functional areas.

While continuing to strengthen the Development Cooperation Forum of the Council, DESA is also actively involved in supporting the establishment of three new institutional processes: the ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development, the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and a Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The ECOSOC Dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the UN development system provides an important opportunity for Member States to ensure that the functions, funding practices, governance structures, organizational arrangements, capacity and impact, and partnership approaches of the Organization, are effectively aligned with the new mission of the United Nations as reflected in the 2030 Agenda.

This requires Member States and the UN development system to move quickly in order to ensure that they capitalize on the momentum behind the new Agenda. As the German poet Goethe famously said: "*boldness has power, magic and genius in it*".

I wish you productive discussions this morning and a successful outcome of the second phase of the ECOSOC Dialogue.

DESA stands ready to support the Bureau and Member States in this important work.

Thank you.
