



**The President  
of the  
Economic and Social Council**

4 April 2013

Excellency,

I am writing to advise you on the preparation of the special meeting of the Council on “External debt sustainability and development”, which will be held on 23 April 2013 in the ECOSOC Chamber at UN Headquarters.

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/198, the meeting will address lessons learned from debt crises and ongoing work on sovereign debt restructuring and debt resolution mechanisms.

Following a short opening plenary featuring remarks by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development of DESA, senior officials of the World Bank and IMF will discuss lessons learned from the history of debt crises. Subsequently, UNCTAD and DESA will provide briefings on the ongoing work on sovereign debt restructuring and debt resolution mechanisms, followed by an interactive discussion.

The afternoon session will feature a keynote address by Prof. Joseph Stiglitz, entitled “*Gaps in legal and institutional structures for debt restructuring*”. It will be followed by a panel discussion on the “*Architecture for debt restructuring*” and an interactive discussion.

A renewed effort will be made to promote strict adherence to the meeting schedule and time limits for interventions, in order to stimulate a more interactive dialogue among all participants. Participants will be requested to avoid reading from written statements, although this will not preclude the distribution of full texts.

The meeting will conclude with my closing remarks highlighting the main points of discussions and action-oriented proposals. A full summary of the meeting will be issued as an official document.

For further information, including the tentative programme of the event, please consult the website of the meeting at: [www.un.org/esa/ffd/ecosoc/debt/2013/index.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/ecosoc/debt/2013/index.htm).

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Néstor Osorio

To the Permanent Representatives  
and Permanent Observers  
to the United Nations  
New York, NY