

Closing remarks
H.E. Ambassador Oh Joon
President of ECOSOC
ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development Follow-up
(New York, 20 April 2016)

Honorable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have now come to the end of the inaugural ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development follow-up.

First of all, let me express my appreciation to all of you for your active participation in the Forum.

All delegations have demonstrated their commitment to the full and timely implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The representatives of major institutional stakeholders reaffirmed their commitment to continuing their collaboration that we have seen in recent years. Non-governmental organizations and the business sector also reminded us of the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships.

I also wish to extend my special thanks to all the panelists and moderators who came from all over the world to make their contributions.

And once again, I thank the co-facilitators, the Ambassadors of Benin and Croatia, for their efforts in working out the intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations.

This inaugural Forum was special in many ways. It was the first time that the FfD community from all sectors met together again after Addis Ababa. It was the first major follow-up event to the three historic global-level agreements we made last year.

Many constructive ideas were put forward over the last three days that can help us realize the ambitious commitments made in Addis. On Monday, we highlighted the need to promote policy coherence for sustainable development and also discussed how to address the humanitarian and development nexus through the interactive dialogue with major institutional stakeholders.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, we discussed concrete and specific measures to address the Addis Agenda and the Means of Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in six thematic round tables, which covered all action areas of the Addis Agenda. We also had an opportunity to take stock of commitments and actions to finance sustainable development. We reviewed initial steps taken by Member States and relevant actors toward the implementation of the Addis Agenda. We discussed future monitoring and follow-up framework on financing for development.

This is only a snapshot of the rich discussions we had over the last three days. Many more points were made and concrete recommendations were put forward that will help us. We look forward to a more detailed summary of the Forum by the Secretariat, which will be issued in due course.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On a final note, one important lesson I learned while preparing for and conducting the Forum, which I hope other participants share, is that what is most important in financing for development is our shared commitment to working together. Sharing the sense of ownership, the spirit of cooperation, and the willingness to seek win-win solutions are much more important than making the Forum long or short, or putting in or taking out some wordings in the document. It is simple truth but we seem to forget sometimes that without each other's genuine cooperation, neither developed nor developing countries would be able to achieve effective development cooperation.

Together we can make an important step to build on last year's global actions and usher in a new era for sustainable development. For this, we must keep our spirit of collaboration alive at all levels.

Thank you.

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