

**Joint Event of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council**  
**“The role of partnerships in the implementation of the**  
**post 2015 development agenda”**

**9 – 10 of April, 2014**

**Background**

The Outcome Document of the Special Event to Follow-Up Efforts to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals held on September 25th of 2013 underscored the need to strengthen the existing global partnership for development under MDG 8 and build new partnerships for sustainable development.

With less than 800 days remaining, efforts must be intensified for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, building on successful, effective and well-managed national, regional and global strategies that have allowed the international community to meet several of the MDG targets and to achieve significant and substantial advances in those goals and targets that have not yet been met. Strengthened global partnerships for sustainable development will be a catalyst for the international community to aspire and advance towards an ambitious and transformative sustainable development agenda beyond 2015.

National ownership will be a fundamental factor of the post 2015 development agenda. National efforts will also need to be assisted by international support and an enabling international environment. The mobilization and effective use of all resources, public and private, domestic and international, will be vital. A renewed sense of commitment and partnership holds the key to both leveraging new public and private resources and leveraging stakeholders’ comparative advantage, including in the areas of research, technology, innovation, finance and human capacity.

**Objective**

The primary objective of the joint thematic debate is to provide a platform for Member States to address how strengthened global partnerships for sustainable development including multi-stakeholders partnerships can contribute to the implementation of the post 2015 development agenda.

The event will promote the scaling-up of the impact of all forms of cooperation in the post 2015 development agenda, and promote the urgent implementation of existing commitments under the global partnership for development while also addressing the emerging role of innovative multi-stakeholder partnerships.

The event will be guided by the following preliminary questions:

- 1) What are the key lessons learned of the implementation of MDG 8 and what incentives can be created to reinforce its implementation?

- 2) While not a substitute to existing cooperation mechanisms, how can multi-stakeholder partnerships be an important complement to achieving internationally agreed development goals, including in the context of the post 2015 development agenda?
- 3) How can Governments, at all levels, incentivize multi-stakeholder engagement for the implementation of sustainable development, in particular from the private sector?
- 4) Which models or mechanisms can help ensure effective monitoring and accountability of the means of implementation of the post-2015 development agenda?

### **Format and outcome**

The joint thematic debate will take place 9 to 10 April 2014 in New York, and will feature three consecutive, interactive, multi-stakeholder panel discussions as well as two partnership sessions.

To avoid any duplication and promote coherence and synergies with the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, the preparations and organization of the event will be carried-out in close consultation with the co-chairs of both groups. A Presidents summary will be issued at its conclusion and will subsequently be made available to the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing for their consideration, as applicable.

### **Participants**

Member States are invited to participate at the highest possible level and to express to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council their interest in co-chairing an interactive panel discussion.

Representatives of United Nations agencies and of civil society, major groups and other relevant stakeholders will also be invited to attend including high-level private sector representatives, including CEOs and heads of corporate and non-corporate foundations, as well as representatives from civil society organizations and academic institutions.

Invitations to this joint high-level event, as well as the program and the details on the issues to be addressed during the plenary and the round tables will be sent at a later stage.

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## **BACKGROUND NOTE**

### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND ECOSOC JOINT THEMATIC DEBATE/FORUM ON PARTNERSHIPS**

#### **“The role of partnerships in the implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda”**

**9 and 10 April 2014**

#### **9 April 2014**

The panel discussions are intended to provide a platform for member states to address how strengthened global partnerships for sustainable development, including multi-stakeholder partnerships, can contribute to the implementation of the post 2015 development agenda. It is intended to promote the scaling-up of the impact of all forms of cooperation in the post 2015 development agenda, and promote the urgent implementation of existing commitments under the global partnership for development while also addressing the emerging role of innovative multi-stakeholder partnerships.

#### **Panel 1: Realizing the MDGs: Building on key partnership opportunities and the way forward**

Partnerships among Governments, business, civil society, foundations, international organizations and individuals have played a critical role in accelerating the achievement of the MDGs. The urgency of achieving the MDGs by 2015 has inspired innovation by creating, for example, new partnership models, new and innovative sources of financing as an adjunct to official development assistance and trade, new uses of technology, and new ways of building capacity and engaging with low-income communities to increase access to basic services. Further leveraging these innovative approaches will be critical to the successful conclusion to the MDGs. We must also draw on these partnership experiences as we look to the strategic formulation and approach of multi-stakeholder participation to deliver on the post-2015 development agenda. As we talk about a renewed global partnership for development, the task at hand is to move beyond consideration of financial flows only and adopt a larger vision which encompasses resources intended as innovation, technology, research, human capacity, and more.

#### **Panel 2: Collaborating with businesses, foundations, civil society and other actors in support of the Post-2015 Development Agenda**

Implementing a unified and universal Post-2015 development agenda that is broader in scope will require additional capacity and mobilization of resources. The role of the private sector, philanthropy, and civil society has dramatically expanded in size, sophistication, and global reach. These players are pivotal in bringing to the table innovative methods and strengthened tools for leveraging funding, creating decent employment, technology, innovation and research. As Member States work toward a shared vision for a post-2015 development agenda, further exploring in particular the role of private sector engagement to accelerate the achievement of the future development agenda may offer valuable insights. It would be important to create an enabling policy and institutional environment, including incentives that would lead to stronger engagement and involvement by the businesses, foundations and other actors to ensure the success of the new Development Agenda in the post-2015 era.

### **Panel 3: Towards a more effective framework for monitoring the implementation of global development goals**

A robust monitoring and accountability mechanism will be critical for the successful implementation of the Post-2015 Development agenda. The lack of an effective framework is often seen as one of the explanatory factors for gaps in MDG implementation. These mechanisms can help ensure that shared values, goals and resources are upheld and that stakeholders, including governments, commit to inclusive and sustainable development. Engaging with a diverse mix of stakeholders through partnership efforts also allows for shared decision-making and responsibilities to enhance transparency, credibility and legitimacy. The architecture of accountability frameworks needs to be flexible enough to accommodate the diverse nature of partnerships and partners. Sharing of lessons learned and further exploring ways to engage diverse constituencies is critical to deepen the understanding of the challenges and opportunities to advance best practices in partnering. The session will address gender, human rights and peacebuilding issues, where relevant.

#### **10 APRIL 2014**

These panel discussions will provide a link between the interactive multi-stakeholder policy discussions of 9 April 2014 with the more solutions and outcome-oriented discussion of 10 April 2014. The objective of these roundtable discussions is to generate ideas and concrete solutions for specific sustainable development challenges through multi-stakeholder partnerships, with special attention to SIDS, LLDCs, LDCs and MICs. The outcomes of those discussions will help inform major conferences being held in 2014, namely the Third Conference for Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States of SIDS which will be held in Samoa from 1-4 September 2014, the Ministerial Conference on New Partnerships for the Development of Productive Capacities of LDCs to be hosted by the Government of Benin in July 2014 and the Comprehensive Ten-Year Review Conference of the Almaty Programme of Action to be held 3-5 November 2014 in Vienna, Austria."

### **Panel 4: "Scaling up partnership opportunities in food and nutritional security and marine resources"**

According to FAO, 842 million or one in eight people suffer hunger every day. The costs to society include lost productivity, health, well-being, decreased learning ability and overall reduced fulfillment of human potential. Malnutrition is associated with food insecurity, is particularly impactful on the unborn and young children, leading to impaired cognitive development and stunting. Eradicating food and nutritional insecurity must begin with increasing investment in food and agricultural investment. Fisheries and aquaculture also a vital source of food and therefore the unsustainable use of marine resources should also be addressed. Investing in "Blue Growth" and ensuring the sustainable management and use of aquatic resources is particularly important for small island developing states (SIDS). Solutions to food and nutritional security also rests on creating non-farm rural employment opportunities and promoting rural development while at the same time strengthening the resilience of farming systems and food supplies to climate change. While there is no magic wand, public-private partnerships are indispensable to bringing science, technology, financing and capacity building to tackle food and nutritional insecurity. Examples of multi-stakeholder partnerships of a public-private sector nature include the Zero Hunger Challenge and Scaling up Nutrition Movement as well as the Global Partnerships for Oceans.

### **Panel 5: “Scaling up partnership opportunities in sustainable infrastructure”**

Infrastructure is a core component of sustainable development and for most countries a key enabler for generating economic growth and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as well as future development goals. The quality and quantity of infrastructure of a country determines its capacity to produce, the level of productivity of its economic activities, and the capacity to compete and trade in international markets. The construction and maintenance of hard or physical infrastructure such as (i) transport infrastructure, including roads, railways, airlines, ports, border crossing facilities etc., (ii) energy infrastructure, (iii) information and communications technology infrastructure, and (iv) urban planning, water management systems, waste management systems, amongst others, creates an enabling environment for sustainable and inclusive growth. This is particularly relevant for certain vulnerable groups of countries, such as landlocked developing countries, which face acute infrastructure problems affecting transport efficiency often resulting in high transit transportation costs. One of the challenges to developing sustainable infrastructure is the substantial outlay and continued use of financial, human and natural resources. Another significant limitation is the lack of integration of environmental and social aspects into all stages of infrastructure development, from planning, financing, building to management and operation. Partnerships can play an important role in helping to address such challenges and limitations, and should therefore be an integral part of sustainable infrastructure development in developing countries. They are also important for identifying new and innovative sources of financing that is critical for successful resource mobilisation for infrastructure development.

## Program

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY and ECOSOC JOINT THEMATIC DEBATE/FORUM ON PARTNERSHIPS

#### “The role of partnerships in the implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda”

Trusteeship Council Chamber, 9 and 10 April 2014

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

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| 10:00 am – 11:00 am  | <p><b>Opening Session</b><br/>H. E. Mr. John Ashe, President of the General Assembly<br/>H. E. Mr. Martin Sajdik, President of ECOSOC<br/>H. E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations</p> <p><b>Keynote address</b><br/>Mr. Tony Elumelu, Chairman, Heirs Holdings, Founder, Tony Elumelu Foundation</p> <p><b>Civil Society Representative</b><br/>Ms. Alessandra Cabral dos Santos Nilo, Co-founder and Executive Director, GESTOS</p>   |
| <p><b><i>Harnessing partnerships to implement the MDGs and the Post-2015 development goals</i></b></p> |   |
| 11:00 am – 1:00 pm   | <p><b>Panel Discussion 1: Realizing the MDGs: Building on Key Partnership Opportunities and the Way Forward</b></p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Robert Orr, Assistant Secretary-General for Strategic Planning, Executive Office of the Secretary-General</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr. John Whitehead, CNZM, Former Secretary of the New Zealand Treasury, Former Executive Director (Asia-Pacific), World Bank</li><li>• Mr. Michael O’Neill, ASG and Director of the Bureau of External Relations and Advocacy, UNDP</li><li>• Mr. Miguel Pestana, Vice-President Global External Affairs, Unilever</li><li>• Ms. Betty Maina, CEO, Kenya Association of Manufactures (KAM)</li><li>• Ms. Bhumika Muchhala, Third World Network</li></ul> |

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| 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm | <p><b>Panel Discussion 2: Collaborating with businesses, foundations, civil society and other actors in support of the Post-2015 Development Agenda</b></p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Christine Bader, Visiting Scholar and Lecturer, Columbia University</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Anthony Smith, Director of International Relations, Department for International Development, UK</li> <li>• Ms. Lise Kingo, Executive Vice President Novo Nordisk A/S</li> <li>• Mr. Benedict Cheong, CEO, Temasek Foundation</li> <li>• Mr. Yaya Winarno Junardy, President Commission, PT Rajawali Corporation and President, Global Compact Network Indonesia</li> <li>• Ms. Alice Albright, CEO, Global Partnership for Education</li> </ul> |
| 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm | <p><b>Panel Discussion 3: Towards a more effective framework for monitoring the implementation of global development goals</b></p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Jane Wales, Vice-President, Aspen Institute, and President and CEO, Global Philanthropy Forum</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs. Brenda Killen, Head, Global Partnership and Policy Division, OECD-DAC</li> <li>• Ms. Joy Phumaphi, Co-Chair, Independent Expert Review Group and Executive Secretary, African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA)</li> <li>• Ms. Frances Beinecke, President, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)</li> <li>• Mr. Jorge Soto, Director, Sustainable Development, Braskem, and President, Global Compact Network Brazil</li> </ul>              |

Thursday, April 10, 2014

| <b><i>Partnership Opportunities for building productive capacity</i></b> |   |
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| 10:00 am – 1:00 pm   | <p><b>Panel Discussion 4: Scaling up partnership opportunities in food and nutritional security and marine resources</b></p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Amir Dossal, Chairman, Global Partnerships Forum</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• H.E. Mr. Devant Maharaj, Minister of Food Production, Land and Marine Affairs, Trinidad and Tobago</li><li>• Mr. Marc Van Ameringen, Executive Director, Global Alliance on Improved Nutrition (GAIN)</li><li>• Mr. Árni M. Mathiesen, Assistant Director-General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, FAO</li><li>• Mr. James Hamilton, VP, Human &amp; Nutrition and Health - North America, DSM</li><li>• Ms. Marie Haga, Executive Director, Global Crop Diversity Trust</li></ul>   |
| 3:00 pm – 5:45 pm  | <p><b>Panel Discussion 5: Scaling up partnership opportunities in sustainable infrastructure</b></p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Gyan Acharya, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• H.E. Mrs. Mwaba P. Kasese-Bota, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Zambia to the United Nations</li><li>• Mr. Kandeh Yumkella, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and CEO, Sustainable Energy for All</li><li>• Mr. Cornie Huizenga, Secretary General, Sustainable Low Carbon Transportation (SloCat) Partnership</li><li>• Mr. Umberto de Pretto, Secretary General, International Road Transport Union (IRU)</li><li>• Mr. Shishir Priyadarshi, Director, Development Division, WTO</li></ul> |
| 5:45 pm – 6:00 pm  | <p><b>Closing Session</b></p> <p>H. E. Mr. Martin Sajdik, President of ECOSOC<br/>H. E. Mr. John Ashe, President of the General Assembly</p>  |



**Summary of the key messages of the General Assembly and ECOSOC  
Joint Thematic Debate/Forum on Partnerships  
“The role of partnerships in the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda”**

9 – 10 April 2014  
United Nations Headquarters, New York

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The following is a summary of the key messages that emerged from the Joint General Assembly and ECOSOC Thematic Debate/Forum on Partnerships “The role of partnerships in the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda”:

**Panel Discussion One: Realizing the MDG's: Building on Key Partnership Opportunities and the Way Forward**

1. Accelerating progress towards the MDGs as well as shaping the post-2015 development agenda will require engagement of more public and private stakeholders. Governments must continue to provide policy framework at the national, regional and international levels. In addition, they must provide accountability, transparency, monitoring and oversight mechanisms for the post-2015 development agenda.
2. Global partnerships for sustainable development should fully respect the intergovernmental nature of the United Nations, its charter principles and programme priorities. Existing United Nations bodies as well as evolving forums such as the High Level Political Forum under the auspices of the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council need to provide global governance for partnerships.
3. Public oversight should promote the public good without stifling private initiative; public policy should ensure the development impact of private economic activity, particularly of business and industry. At the same time, partnerships themselves must have built-in governance mechanisms for accountability, monitoring, transparency and reporting. *Every Woman Every Child* is an example of a global partnership with such a built-in mechanism.
4. Multi-stakeholder partnerships need to address power imbalances as well as reconcile the respective interests of governments, business and civil society, and take into account the needs of small and medium enterprises. Beyond philanthropy and corporate social responsibility, business and industry can promote sustainable development directly by shifting to more sustainable production processes, less intensive use of natural resources, and better social protection of workers.
5. Public-private partnerships and traditional ODA complement each other but are not substitutes for each other. Similarly, triangular and South-South cooperation can complement but do not replace traditional North-South cooperation.

6. Experience with the MDG's has shown a multiplication of the varieties of partnerships that have worked, ranging from one-on-one partnerships between public and private entities, to partnerships involving various combinations and permutations of public, private and multilateral actors. The post-2015 development agenda must draw on these lessons learned.

**Panel Discussion Two: Collaborating with businesses, foundations, civil society and other actors in support of the Post-2015 Development Agenda**

7. The Post-2015 Development Agenda requires a renewed global partnership which should be inclusive, people-centred and should be inclusive.
8. The implementation of the post-2015 development agenda should include a multi-stakeholder approach, effectively engaging civil society, business sector, philanthropic organizations and other actors. Many recognized that the private sector is an important partner for development bringing knowledge and expertise. Public, private partnerships drive innovation and technology transfer to new and innovative financing.
9. Effective partnerships require serious commitments from partners and strong governance to monitor implementation. Engaging the local community, particularly in identifying needs and formulating strategies, is crucial for fostering local ownership and accountability. The most effective partnerships are often driven by problem-solving and rely on each partner's area of expertise for success. It is a process of mutual learning for partners involved.
10. Caution was raised that governments should be mindful of the profit-driven nature of the private sector when engaging in Public Private Partnerships. However, governments should create enabling incentives for the private sector to contribute to development priorities.
11. Civil society is a key partner for development, including monitoring existing commitments. Social dialogues enrich policy discussions with various views and collaborating with civil society enhances accountability and transparency.
12. Some companies see the post-2015 process as business-critical. Companies cannot be resilient and grow if they are directly opposed to the interests of the communities that they serve. It was noted that businesses that take sustainability seriously are outperforming their competitors on the stock exchange and in their own business accounting.
13. Partnerships need to be vetted ex ante against criteria to determine fitness for purpose in pursuit of the post-2015 goals. Such criteria should consider human rights record, capacity to deliver, acts of corruption, financial transparency and compliance with taxation, and other conflicts of interest antithetical to universal norms and principles. A facility is needed to safeguard concerns and to examine the growing corporate influence over human development.

### **Panel Discussion Three: Towards a more effective framework for monitoring the implementation of global development goals**

14. Accountability frameworks for partnerships must be related to the post-2015 development agenda and monitor progress at partnerships level in terms of overall goals of the agenda.
15. A robust, transparent, comprehensive and independent accountability framework was called for to monitor the implementation of global development goals, supported by timely, quality data. Learning and benchmarking with effective existing accountability mechanisms would be helpful in the design of this framework.
16. Several examples of existing accountability frameworks were shared including the Independent Expert Review Group of the *Every Woman Every Child* Initiative, The African Peer Review Mechanism, Global Compact local network, the DAC peer review mechanism and the Busan monitoring framework.
17. Three major dimensions of accountability: answerability, enforcement, and a clear delimitation of responsibility. Willingness to be held accountable and be monitored builds trust. Mutual accountability in a peer environment proves effective. However, several challenges have been identified, including the difficulty of engaging all partners and the weak enforcement. It was argued that partnerships should not be recognized for the commitments they make but the commitments they fulfil.
18. Effective monitoring requires availability of information, robust data, the right indicators, and reporting with sufficient enforcement. Many believe that it is within the mandate of the High-Level Political Forum to establish a mechanism for periodic review of the implementation of global development goals. The modality should be developed based on interactive dialogue with governments and relevant stakeholders.
19. Many countries and stakeholders emphasized that the High Level Political Forum should take on formally the responsibility for oversight of partnerships for sustainable development. The HLPF is ideally placed to play this role.
20. The Global Compact (GC) reporting mechanism represents another example of accountability. Some seventy-one (71%) per cent of GC signatories currently report back using the original GC criteria. However, only twenty-two (22%) per cent report back on what is important to a broad range of stakeholders, such as broader human rights and environmental issues.
21. It was also stressed that the post 2015 development agenda must find a way to hold partnerships and partners accountable on sensitive themes such as child labour, girls' access to schooling, and air pollution. Also, community ownership of partnerships must be an integral part of the accountability framework for the post-2015 agenda. In addition, the post-2015 agenda must be accompanied by a data revolution, especially at the country and local levels, ensuring that people on the front lines of partnership have the data and indicators to report and ensure accountability.

#### **Panel Discussion Four: Scaling up partnership opportunities in food and nutritional security and marine resources**

22. There is a need to feed more people, with more nutrition, with less land, and with less energy consumption. Intergovernmental cooperation through partnerships is essential to addressing these challenges. For example, successful results achieved through partnerships include new varieties of rice requiring less water and more resistant to salinity, and varieties of banana resistant to disease. Building a climate resilient agricultural system will require public and privately funded research and must focus on knowledge innovation and technology.
23. Sustainable partnerships are key to building long term solutions. Partnerships that address maternal care and nutrition in the first one-thousand (1000) days of life have proven to have a magnified impact on health and development. Likewise, fortifying foods with vitamins and minerals is effective. Once implemented, both partnerships are sustainable and do not necessarily require government reinvestment.
24. Women are the guardians of the natural environment and play a crucial role in securing food and nutrition for their families. Collaborative partnerships must uphold the rights of women by design, including them in the process as equal partners. The private sector has an important role in ensuring the gender dimension is accounted for.
25. Incentive structures, both positive and negative, lead to more successful partnerships and ensure long-term commitment. Both qualitative and legislative incentives strengthen partnerships. They need to be well designed to achieve their purposes and must be nurtured politically and financially if they are to work. Common across all successful governance structures is that they are well funded. There is recognition that strong institutions drive activities on the ground.
26. Many recognised that a global well-functioning system cannot be left to the private sector alone. A range of best practises on public-private governance mechanisms exist. Many public-private partnerships have succeeded where the public element has had the upper hand and likewise strong results have been achieved when the partners are on an equal footing.
27. Successful partnerships need to be well designed, well-funded and enjoy political support from all partners. Scaling up partnerships and replicating experiences elsewhere involves an ethical dimension which is best informed by the UN human rights agenda.
28. Overall, it was recognised that the success of partnerships can be varied. They are best executed in an enabling political environment that provides adequate financial resources. The importance of trust and accountability structures was widely acknowledged in a future partnership-based approach. Management system must have defined rights and responsibilities based on the human rights approach and the right to food. The framework for monitoring partnerships must be transparent and routinely reviewed.

## **Panel Discussion Five: Scaling up partnership opportunities in sustainable infrastructure**

29. Sustainable infrastructure, including infrastructure for access to modern energy services, reliable and affordable transport systems, information and communication services, water supply systems, is an enabler and multiplier for sustainable development, particularly to the most vulnerable countries. Yet, transformative infrastructure development requires further strengthened global partnership for development as well as predictable policies to encourage multi-stakeholder partnerships.
30. Historically, partnerships have flourished to build sustainable infrastructure when a concrete and definable aim has been established. Partnerships bring together the relevant advocacy groups, as well as the policy and finance specialists, which can lead to defining a concrete aim, and build consensus that sustainable infrastructure is a priority.
31. Partnerships for sustainable energy, including the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) initiative, calls for universal energy access, higher share of renewable energy and energy efficiency. These require large-scale financing and technology cooperation, which can all be achieved through multi-stakeholder partnerships.
32. Partnerships can facilitate technology cooperation that can enable a reduction in the cost of access to and use of renewable energies. Partnerships also need to be forged to increase research and development in this area to reduce the cost of storing energy.
33. It is essential that individual actors consider inter-sectoral collaboration. Partnerships can facilitate broader thinking across sectors that can be mutually beneficial to all pursuing development aims. For example, when thinking about energy needs, it is important to consider the local hospital's needs, water and sanitation needs, transport etc.
34. Public policies are essential to engage the private sector, development partners to scale up financing and to conduct R&D and to bring about changes on the ground, which will lead to positive gains in many relevant focus areas for sustainable development, such as healthcare services, water and sanitation, transport.
35. Infrastructure for transit transportation is particularly crucial for land-locked developing countries (LLDCs) as well as bridging the urban and rural divide. More and better transport will enable trade and contribute to many aspects of sustainable development.
36. While more roads and transport infrastructure is much needed in some of the least-developed and developing countries, the majority of developing countries would substantially benefit from more efficient use and access to current infrastructure. Furthermore, implementing current and active UN conventions to facilitate border crossings and transit transportation could result in an immediate, low-cost and more significant reduction in trade and transit transportation costs than building new infrastructure.

37. Trade and infrastructure are mutually reinforcing. Building trade-related infrastructure could also contribute to generating much-needed financing for further infrastructure development, including hard and soft infrastructure.
  
38. Member States need to engage in triangular cooperation; to partner across national borders and continents with States engaged in similar research activities in order to further develop technology and expand their research and development pool.



**Remarks**

**by**

**H.E. Mr. John W. Ashe**

**President of the 68<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations**

**General Assembly**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY and ECOSOC**

**JOINT THEMATIC DEBATE/FORUM ON PARTNERSHIPS**

**“The role of partnerships in the implementation of the  
Post-2015 Development Agenda”**

**New York**

**9 April 2014**

*Please check against delivery*

Excellencies,  
Secretary-General,  
President of ECOSOC,  
Ms. Alessandra Cabral dos Santos Nilo,  
Mr. Tony Elumelu,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to this historic event in which two main bodies of the United Nations have joined forces with all of you in a shared effort to discuss the role of partnerships, which will no doubt be a key contributor to the new development framework that we are all working towards. Let me therefore begin by telling you how much I appreciate your participation in this event, and I look forward to your creative and meaningful contributions.

As we embark on a collective exercise that will culminate in the adoption a new global development agenda, we know that the task of achieving a shared post-2015 development agenda is a difficult one but is also an urgent one for millions who face hunger, malnutrition, ill-health, discrimination and oppression. It is a difficult task. But great and difficult tasks become much less daunting and can deliver more effective results when they are addressed in a concerted, coherent and collaborative manner.

Excellencies,

Since the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals in 2000, we have seen dramatic global changes and national and regional transformations, which have led to unprecedented and increasingly complex socio-economic and environmental challenges. Meeting these and any successor development goals – and managing global changes, including the pressures from climate change, resource depletion, population growth, and increasing urbanization - will require vision, clarity of thought and creativity.

The challenges facing our assembly of nations and our global family are grave, numerous and common to all nations and all people. These challenges cover social, economic and environmental considerations and span the gamut of the sustainable development spectrum.



The depth and breadth of contagion of the recent financial crisis and resultant socio-economic impacts clearly demonstrated our interconnectedness, and in that regard have reinforced the fact that, in order to best respond to these challenges, we need to strengthen the global partnership for sustainable development.

Distinguished Guests,

It is not through isolated and disconnected actions but through the pooling of our efforts, ideas and resources that we can achieve the greater good – it is through partnering and partnerships for action that we can achieve the future that we all want. It is the reaching out to all stakeholders amongst the governmental and nongovernmental communities, whether in academia, business, or civil society and the building of new relationships by which we are most likely to be successful in devising and implementing new solutions to these challenges.

Unlike the Millennium Development Goals, our new agenda will be a more shared and universal one, recognising and respecting the common but differentiated responsibilities of all nations. A strengthened global partnership should therefore be based on mutual respect and trust, the fulfilment of previously agreed commitments and a renewed accountability framework, including means of implementation. In this context, national efforts should be supported, first and foremost, by an enabling international environment. In this regard, let us remember that our efforts toward accelerating the achievement of the MDGs were hampered by the global financial and economic crisis that erupted in 2008; the lack of progress on the Doha Development Agenda; and the volatility of food and energy prices, amongst other structural factors. We must therefore strive to create the appropriate international climate – the best possible enabling environment – that will allow us to work towards a more robust and inclusive development agenda.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Within the framework of the new development agenda, the fulfilment of existing commitments in terms of both official development assistance and financing for development, as stated in the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration, will be pivotal. However, our sense of partnership must expand and include public and private, local, regional and national, domestic and international resources that come in the form of

innovation, technology, research, human capacity, and cross-sectoral partnerships. Much emphasis has been placed on the building of new partnerships at the international level. These are undoubtedly important but there is much to commend the partnerships that can be forged at the national and regional levels where a lot of work needs to take place and new capacity must be built.

The UN is in a unique position to forge these innovative partnerships, bringing together stakeholders from all around the world and all corners of society: government, private sector, civil society, and the academic and scientific communities and in using its agencies at the national and regional levels to support the development policy and programmatic efforts of governments. Such creative partnerships can assist in building bridges across the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development to implement a truly holistic approach.

If sustainable development is to be entrenched in the way we live, do business and engage in recreation, then all sectors and institutions of societies must be mobilised around the central themes of development and an understanding of the integration of its three pillars. This can be achieved through the broad and constructive engagement of new partnerships which offer myriad developmental benefits. From strengthening the fabric of society to creating productive relationships among different sectors; from harnessing and sharing different skills to enabling replication and scaling up of successful projects; from building trust to ensuring enhanced accountability, from the conceptualisation of new ideas to the innovation of new technologies and approaches.

Excellencies,

The themes selected for the panel discussions are both important to me personally and based on outreach my team conducted with the multi-stakeholder community. Let me take a moment to introduce some of the key issues that will come up over the next two days.

Today's discussions will primarily focus on three issues. The first is examining the role partnerships have played in realizing the MDGs. Grounded in a commitment to enhance engagement of the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society, the MDGs ushered in a range of new partnership models, including new and innovative sources

of financing as an adjunct to official development assistance and trade, new uses of technology, and new ways of building capacity and engaging with low-income communities to increase access to basic services. This panel will discuss how to leverage these innovative approaches in the final push to achieve the MDGs, as well as for effective delivery of the post-2015 development agenda.

In the next session, we will discuss what role the private sector, philanthropy, and civil society can play in leveraging new and additional funding, creating decent employment, and harnessing technology, innovation and research in the post-2015 development agenda. At the same time, we must focus on how to create enabling environments and tools for accountability which include incentives for stronger engagement and involvement by business, foundations and other actors to ensure the success of the new Development Agenda in the post-2015 era.

Today's final panel will explore how to ensure that stakeholders, including governments, stand by their commitments to inclusive and sustainable development. We will discuss how to enhance transparency, credibility and legitimacy, as well as ensure the architecture of accountability frameworks is flexible enough to accommodate the diverse nature of partnerships and partners. The session will also address gender, human rights and peacebuilding issues.

Tomorrow as the saying goes is NEW day – one in which we will examine two specific sectoral issues in-depth. The opening session will look at how public-private partnerships can harness science, technology, financing and capacity building to tackle food and nutritional insecurity. We will also look at examples of multi-stakeholder partnerships in these areas, such as the Zero Hunger Challenge and Scaling up Nutrition Movement as well as the Global Partnership for Oceans.

The second panel will look at infrastructure as a core component of sustainable development and, for most countries, as a key enabler for generating economic growth and achieving development goals. Here, we will explore how partnerships can play an important role in helping to address the challenges and limitations of building and maintaining sustainable infrastructure, and how to ensure infrastructure becomes an integral part of sustainable development in developing countries.

Excellencies,

We are now in a critical and sensitive phase of preparations for the post-2015 development agenda. The Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing are gathering their findings for presentation at the start of the 69<sup>th</sup> session of the Assembly. Dialogues on possible options for a technology facilitation mechanism will begin soon. It is therefore important that Member States begin envisioning the structures and capacities that will be needed to implement the post-2015 development agenda. These will be needed at the national, regional and international levels if we are to minimise gaps in implementation.

The sessions around the discussion on partnerships in which you will be engaged are designed to provide opportunities for fresh and creative thinking about what new models of partnership might look like and how they can bring us closer to realizing our two main goals: a world without extreme poverty and a thriving, sustainable planet.

We are fortunate to have a wide range of participants in this debate coming from across sectors. It is my hope that we do hear equally from everyone and that you will engage with each other meaningfully in the truest sense of the word partnership.

I trust that our work here will provide valuable inputs into the ongoing post-2015 process and wish you great success in your deliberations. Ultimately sustainable development, the building of our common future, the shaping of the future we want and the crafting on a new global development agenda can only be realised if we recognise and acknowledge our common challenges and build partnerships for common solutions.

Thank you.

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**Remarks**

**by**

**H.E. Mr. Collin D. Beck**

**Vice-President**

**on behalf of**

**H.E. Mr. John W. Ashe**

**President of the 68<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations**

**General Assembly**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY and ECOSOC**

**JOINT THEMATIC DEBATE/FORUM ON PARTNERSHIPS**

**“The role of partnerships in the implementation of the  
Post-2015 Development Agenda”**

Closing Statement

**New York  
10 April 2014**

*Please check against delivery*

President of ECOSOC,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to join you to deliver a statement on behalf of the President of the General Assembly, who regrets he could not be with us at this moment.

We have now come to the conclusion of this event dedicated to the Role of Partnerships in the Implementation of the post-2015 agenda. This first joint event between the General Assembly and the ECOSOC provided the opportunity for a rich debate with many insightful and thought provoking contributions and the President is very grateful for your participation throughout these discussions. The President also extends his thanks to the moderators, panelists and discussants from civil society as well as the many people involved in supporting this event, particularly from the UN Secretariat. Your engagement and dynamism have contributed to the success of this debate.

Distinguished Guests,

You hail from all corners of the world, representing all corners of society, yet over these two days, as you shared your various experiences, you conveyed some strong common messages. Please allow me to highlight a few of them.

Yesterday, many of you reaffirmed that accelerating progress towards the MDGs as well as shaping the post-2015 development agenda will require the active participation of all stakeholders including governments, civil society and the private sector. We were reminded that such partnerships should fully respect the intergovernmental nature of the UN Organization, UN charter principles and UN programme priorities. Many underscored that public and private partnerships should be a complement and not a substitute to traditional Official Development Aid (ODA), which remains critical in particular for least developed countries. Some highlighted the essential role of government in promoting enabling incentives for the private sector and ensuring they are aligned with national and global development priorities. We also heard that public oversight should support the public good without stifling private initiative. Some companies pointed that the post-2015 process is

business critical and that the private sector ought to look beyond financial risk and also consider environmental and social risk. At the same time, it was noted that partnerships themselves must have built-in governance mechanisms to ensure monitoring, accountability and transparency and good examples of such mechanisms were introduced.

Today, our discussions focused on concrete solutions and ideas for our development challenges in the area of food, nutrition and marine resources, as well as in sustainable infrastructure. It was noted that while the effects of climate change become ever more apparent, food production must respond to the needs of a growing population. The development of resilient agricultural systems will require the skills and experience from the best minds around the world. Cross-sectoral partnerships can provide lessons learned for other regions which can be scaled up and replicated throughout countries. In the second panel today, we heard that sustainable infrastructure is a major development driver across numerous sectors such as water, energy, transportation, education, health and gender equality. But many voiced concerns regarding the significant financing gaps in infrastructure investment and noted the potential of public-private and cross-sectoral partnerships as well as triangular cooperation to leverage additional resources.

Excellencies,

While it is clear that the elaboration of the post-2015 agenda remains a Member States driven process and the responsibility of its implementation will rest primarily on governments, we do recognize that governments cannot do it alone. In the face of the challenges ahead of us, we need to bring together our strengths and resources and join efforts to build a more sustainable world. Your presence here is testimony of the vast pool of skills, experience and resources that we can draw on as we seek to build innovative partnerships to address our global challenges.

In the following days, a summary of key messages which have emerged from this debate will be prepared and shared with Member States, the Open Working Group and the Intergovernmental Committee on Sustainable Development Financing. These key messages will be followed by a more substantial report of the discussions and presentations.

This Thematic Debate was the third of the six events of the General Assembly in our collective journey to set the stage for the post-2015 agenda. This two day debate was one step on the pathway to a sustainable future, and while it was indeed just a step, it was also a demonstration of our joint commitment to a sustainable future. We have reaffirmed that we are all *partners* in this endeavour; we are all bound by the same common belief – that all people deserve to live a life that supports their highest good and allows for opportunities, well-being and hope for the future.

Thank you.

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