



Remarks

by

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President of the 68th Session of the United Nations

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Please check against deliver

Ambassador Osorio, President of the ECOSOC,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to welcome the President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), His Excellency Ambassador Osorio, once again to the General Assembly, to introduce the 2013 Report of the Economic and Social Council, which will serve as a complement to last week's informal briefing on strengthening ECOSOC.

During that briefing, many of you shared your observations and perspectives and my team and I have taken due note. In the 68th session, we will seek to reinforce cooperation and coordination between the Presidencies of the General Assembly and of the ECOSOC, in accordance with GA resolution 68/1 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council and resolution 67/290 on the format and organizational arrangements of the high-level political forum.

Excellencies,

The report that will be introduced today closes an important cycle in the work of the Council, which will undergo significant changes next year as a result of the aforementioned General Assembly resolution 68/1.

During the 2013 session, the Council realized significant accomplishments through its High-level coordination, operational, humanitarian and general segments, as well as through the work and outcomes of its subsidiary bodies. The 2013 ECOSOC report provides information on a wide number of topics, which either call for action by the General Assembly or were brought to its attention. I invite all Member States, UN System organizations and observers to carefully analyze, implement and take stock of these outcomes.

Specifically, I would like to highlight the results of the Council's 2013 substantive session, which was held in Geneva last July. That session included a High-level segment focused on how

science, technology, innovation and culture can contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and sustainable development in general.

Two noteworthy elements from this Ministerial segment were the National Voluntary Presentations and the thematic debate on the Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 development agenda. These informative discussions and exchanges provided insights into the preparations for, and discussions during, the General Assembly's Special Event to follow-up efforts towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, which was held on September 25th.

It is worth underscoring three key messages drawn from the 2013 session and ECOSOC's work in reviewing the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals:

- 1) The silo approach to implementing the environment and development agendas needs to be dissolved. This idea was fully incorporated in the proceedings of the inaugural meeting of the High Level Political Forum and in the Outcome Document of the Special Event.
- 2) The global partnership for development must be renewed in order to support the post 2015 development agenda, and it requires effective accountability and monitoring at all levels.
- 3) An integrated development agenda requires coherent and responsive institutions at all levels. Ensuring integrated and coordinated follow-up and review of the implementation of outcomes from major UN conferences in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, will be a central challenge for the success of the post-2015 development agenda.

Distinguished Delegates,

As you are aware, the theme for the forthcoming session of the Economic and Social Council will focus on the comprehensive assessment of the Millennium Development Goals. This theme, together with the 2014 meeting of the high-level political forum, will provide an excellent opportunity for all relevant stakeholders to engage in collectively forging the post 2015 development agenda.

Resolution 68/1, which calls for the most far-reaching reform of the Council since 1991, will strengthen ECOSOC's contributions to the new agenda, and our General Assembly stands ready to support its speedy and full implementation.

I look forward to continued collaboration between our Assembly and the Council throughout the 68th session, and my hope and expectation is that by enhancing our work together, we will produce more meaningful outcomes.

Thank you.