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**Special Policy Dialogue in preparation for the 2012 Development Cooperation Forum
“Private Philanthropic Organizations in International Development Cooperation:
New Opportunities and Specific Challenges”**

**Monday, 27 February 2012
10:00 am – 1:00 p.m.**

ECOSOC President, H.E. Ambassador Miloš Koterec

Opening Remarks

Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome. I am very pleased to see such high attendance at this meeting. A particular welcome to our friends from foundations who are joining us today.

This meeting is especially important. It is the first time that the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) holds a dedicated dialogue with private philanthropic organizations. This meeting is also timely, given the expanding role of private philanthropic organizations in global development cooperation.

The DCF was established by the 2005 World Summit. Its creation responded to the sea change in development cooperation, and the growing role taken by non traditional actors.

The DCF thus aims to bring the debate on aid and development cooperation to the universal platform offered by the UN. The DCF reviews development cooperation trends. It also aims to advance consensus among the broad range of development cooperation actors on development cooperation policies and practices to strengthen their development impact.

The first two DCFs, held in 2008 and 2010 spurred informal and substantive dialogue on development cooperation issues.

I expect that the 2012 session of the DCF this July will turn the spotlight on the growing role of private philanthropic organizations as aid providers.

In recent years private philanthropic organizations or foundations from the North and the South have significantly increased their commitment to development. They have

become a key source of development finance. They have provided much needed support to critical sectors such as health and education. It has become abundantly clear that private philanthropy can complement official development cooperation in meeting global needs.

However, to date, the volume and impact of cooperation by foundations is not well known. This makes it more difficult to leverage its potential for the achievement of development results.

The rise in private philanthropy opens up great opportunities. Today, we must reflect on how to make the most of them.

We must learn from the development cooperation approaches promoted by foundations. We must reflect on how they can engage in partnerships in pursuit of development goals.

The growing role of foundations may also present some challenges in terms of development effectiveness. It will be also useful to discuss those.

The primary objective of our meeting is to launch a process of dialogue and to build understanding between our two communities.

Given their important role in meeting global needs, it is critical to engage private foundations from the North and the South in the global debate on development cooperation and development effectiveness. This would help generate important synergies and effective partnership with other aid providers.

Today's dialogue is a first step in this direction. It will help generate momentum for the DCF discussions in July.

I look forward to a fruitful, frank and informal debate.

I would now like to give the floor to Mr. Matthew Bishop, who will moderate the dialogue. Mr. Bishop you have the floor.