



**Opening Statement by H.E. Mr. Miloš Koterec
President of ECOSOC**

**Briefing on Post-2015 Development Framework
4 April 2012, New York**

Distinguished guests,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am honoured to be with you today to welcome you to this briefing on the work of the United Nations Task Team on the post-2015 development agenda.

This is an exciting time, we are witnessing two very important processes that are simultaneously taking place within the UN: the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and initial discussions on a post-2015 development agenda. The implications of these two processes for ECOSOC are significant both in terms of its substantive contribution to the debate and its role and working methods. ECOSOC's role is especially important given its role and mandate on development.

Let us look back to where it all started. The 2005 World Summit, which firmly established the role of the Council as the principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on issues of economic and social development, as well as for implementation of the international development goals agreed at the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Development Goals.

You may recall that in response to that summit, in its resolution 61/16, the General Assembly gave the Council the mandate to hold annual ministerial-level substantive reviews as part of its high-level segment, and that such reviews should monitor progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields and their follow-up processes.

The deadline for achieving the MDGs is rapidly approaching. In addition to assessing how far we have come and what has been achieved, we need to start thinking ahead. After 2015, we must continue the momentum created by the MDGs and consider a transition to an updated development agenda.

In today's briefing, we will hear about the Secretary-General's timeline and process related to the post-2015 development agenda and some of the key findings and analysis of the UN Task Team. In particular, we will hear about the conclusions of the Expert Group Meeting to support the advancement of the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda, held just recently on 27-29 February 2012. The speakers will build on the informal briefing for delegations held on Tuesday, 28 February 2012 and highlight the intersection of the Rio+20 and the post-2015 development agendas and seek to clarify how they can complement each other.

I would now like to introduce our panel of speakers joining us today.

We will be briefed on the work of the UN Task Team by Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Mr. Sha Zukang and Mr. Selim Jahan, Director of the UNDP Poverty Group. Mr. Sha will present a general overview of the work of the Task Team, the Secretary-General's timeline, the findings of the expert group meeting and the link to the Rio+20 process. Mr. Jahan will elaborate on the analytical work undertaken by the Task Team, the undg process, national consultations and the implementation aspects of the Post-2015 process on national development strategies and policies.

This briefing will be followed by statements by Professor Frances Stewart and Professor Sakiko Fukuda-Parr, members of the Committee for Development Policy. Professors Stewart and Fukuda-Parr will provide their initial reflections concerning the framework and overall process.

It is now my pleasure to give the floor to Under-Secretary-General Mr. Sha Zukang to brief us on the work of the UN Task Team.

Thank you.