

UNITED NATIONS



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Remarks by

**His Excellency Mr. Sven Jürgenson
Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council**

**At the open debate on the working methods of the Security Council
New York, 20 October 2015**

Mr. President,
Excellences,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to address the Security Council as Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council at this open debate devoted to the working methods of the Security Council. I wish to thank the Spanish presidency of the Council for convening this debate and for inviting us. Ambassador Oh Joon, the President of the Council, is unable to attend because of prior commitments abroad, and sends his regrets.

Mr. President,

This meeting is a welcome step in the improvement of cooperation between United Nations Charter bodies. The relations between the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council are enshrined in the Charter of the Organization. Article 65 states that ECOSOC may furnish information to the Security Council and shall assist it upon its request. The legal basis for cooperation could not be clearer.

Yet, the use of this provision has been very limited. Its most constructive incarnation is probably the establishment in by the Economic and Social Council of its Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, following an invitation made by the Security Council in its resolution 1212 (1998) to contribute to the elaboration of a long-term programme of support for Haiti. The Ad Hoc Advisory Group continues to exist and contributes to the promotion of coherent and sustained development support to Haiti.

Following the promising example of the Haiti Group, and responding to a request made by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council established Ad hoc Advisory Groups on Guinea-Bissau and Burundi which were active from 2003 to 2006. These Groups, which promoted a comprehensive approach to peace and development in post conflict settings, prefigured the country specific configurations of the Peacebuilding Commission, for which they constituted an “avant garde”. Interestingly, the creation of these Groups led to enhanced interaction between ECOSOC and the Security Council, particularly its Ad Hoc Working Group Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa.

In recent years, ECOSOC has followed the development situation in South Sudan since the country joined the community of nations and has maintained interaction with the Peace-building Commission under its agenda item “African countries emerging from conflicts”. However, interaction with the Security Council has diminished considerably.

Mr. President,

The time has come to revitalise the relationship between the Charter bodies of this Organization. The changing nature of conflict, from interstate wars to complex civil conflicts that are intractable and reoccurring, highlights the fundamental link between sustainable development and lasting peace. As the report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations rightfully stressed, the promotion of inclusive economic and social development and the broadening of community engagement are key to prevent relapse into conflict, and innovative approaches are needed to integrate conflict prevention, governance, development and human rights.

The changing context of global cooperation for development through the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development further enhances this opportune moment for a revitalisation of the relationship. The Agenda seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom and recognizes the major challenge to the achievement of durable peace and sustainable development in countries in conflict and post conflict situations. It also promotes a culture of peace and non-violence.

In particular, Sustainable Development Goal 16, on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, lays the ground for common work. SDG16 highlights the need to address violence, abuse and exploitation, as well as to strengthen national institutions against crime and corruption, making them more transparent, accountable and effective. The connection between peace, stability and development could not have been more clearly stated.

The definition of follow-up and review mechanisms for the 2030 Agenda offer an opportunity to engage in a joint reflection on how the Charter bodies of the United Nations, as well as the Peacebuilding Commission, work together to translate the Agenda into tangible and coherent policy measures by the United Nations system and the international community at large.

The Economic and Social Council can interact with the Security Council on a regular basis on issues of common concern. There are many of these issues: the promotion of institution building and improved governance, the need for social inclusion as a key component for sustained peace, the role of women and youth in that context, the consequences of economic and financial crises on global stability, the impact of environmental degradation on weakened societies.

On each dimension of sustainable development, economic, social or environmental and on their contribution to the overall objective of peace, the UN development system, under the oversight of ECOSOC, has a lot to contribute. The Economic and Social Council can be the counterpart of the Security Council to embrace a truly holistic approach to peace and security, an approach that world leaders have recognized as the only one which can lead to sustainable results.

Mr. President,

The Economic and Social Council stands ready to work together on the modalities for such interaction, be it through more systematic interaction on issues of common interest or the establishment of an Ad Hoc Working Group.

This debate today should pave the way for renewed coherence among United Nations bodies and for a mobilization around the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable

development, for which the Security Council also has a lot to contribute. I trust that our willingness to work together and to make the best use of our respective bodies will be stronger than political and institutional cleavages. Together, the entire UN system, including its principal bodies, ECOSOC and the Security Council, can provide strong, integrated policy support and guidance, within their respective mandate and competencies, to the cause of peace and development.

Thank you very much for this invitation and for your kind attention.