

2016 Ministerial Declaration: Draft Elements for the High-Level Segment

Welcome and take note of the following major outcomes of the work of the 2016 session of the Economic and Social Council under its main theme, “Implementing the post-2015 development agenda: moving from commitments to results”,¹ which provided guidance to the work of its entire system.

- (a) The Youth Forum emphasized that young people everywhere are key drivers for the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and underlined that they should be taken into consideration across all areas critical for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, including in politics, business, academia and civil society.
- (b) The Special Meeting on El Niño and Special Briefing on Zika Virus recognized that extreme weather conditions, such as the El Niño phenomenon, and global health emergencies like the Zika virus, can have lasting consequences on sustainable development, and highlighted that the effective response and enhanced resilience to such emergencies is critical.
- (c) The Operational Activities for Development Segment indicated that the 2030 Agenda requires the UN development system to adopt an integrated approach to delivery of its results. The discussions emphasized that strengthening alignment of UN operational activities with national development priorities will be essential to bolster national ownership, and the implementation will have to be based on each country’s individual needs and challenges.
- (d) The Special Meeting on Inequality recognized addressing inequality, both within and among countries, as a moral imperative and a key requirement for advancing the 2030 Agenda. The Meeting underlined that inequality is a multidimensional and universal challenge with deep impacts on economic development, social cohesion and political stability, and it reiterated the need to create and sustain momentum to achieve the global commitment to combat inequalities.
- (e) The Partnership Forum reiterated that implementation of the 2030 Agenda requires support for more transformational multi-stakeholder partnerships among development actors. It was emphasized that to contribute effectively to achieving the SDGs, partnerships could be more cross-sectoral, better integrated, transparent and accountable.
- (f) The Integration Segment indicated that the 2030 Agenda requires policy integration and innovation. The discussion highlighted that policy integration can help to ensure that benefits are long-term and sustainable, and that knowledge-sharing can mitigate the complexity and uncertainty posed by integration and innovation. It was recognized that implementation strategies would benefit from a balanced approach to policy integration and

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innovation that recognizes specialisation, while capitalising on opportunities for synergy across entities and coalitions of expertise.

- (g) The Dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the United Nations development system recognized that the functions, funding practices, governance structures, organizational arrangements, capacity and impact, and partnership approaches of the United Nations development system, need to be effectively aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- (h) Humanitarian Affairs Segment [Reference to be added]
- (i) High-Level Segment Thematic Discussion on Infrastructure [Reference to be added]
- (j) Development Cooperation Forum [Reference to be added]