

**Remarks by H.E. Ambassador OH Joon
President of the ECOSOC
Messages from the 2015 high-level political forum
(under the auspices of ECOSOC)**

Distinguished Co-Facilitators,
Excellencies,
Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the new President of the ECOSOC it is a pleasure to share the key messages of the second meeting of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) held under the auspices of ECOSOC.

The second HLPF cemented itself as a platform for dialogue and political guidance on the road to sustainable development and advanced our vision for the Forum beyond 2015.

The theme of the meeting was “Strengthening integration, implementation and review: the HLPF after 2015”. A major focus was therefore how the forum can best deliver on its mandate after the post-2015 development agenda is adopted.

The meeting also discussed important issues addressed in this intergovernmental negotiation. Overall, the debates showed that there is strong support for the draft outcome of the summit.

I understand that you have discussed some of the five “P’s”. Allow me now to bring you four “A’s” as the main messages from the HLPF.

1. Ambition:

First, Ambition. Member States place great expectations in the HLPF. It is the apex of a global network of review processes on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as the draft outcome document states.

In addition, the HLPF is mandated to provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations on the pursuit of sustainable development. It will also address new and emerging issues and aims to look to the long term and future generations.

Everything the forum does is to be based on evidence and scientific analysis. Its ultimate purpose is to promote, accelerate

and guide implementation of the agenda. That is why my second “A” is Acceleration.

2. Acceleration

The HLPF will need to stimulate the translation of the SDGs into national policies. Some countries have already embarked on this endeavour. They shared their experience, which showed how complex and urgent this process is. We also discussed how best to move towards integrated planning and policy making. It is hoped that the HLPF can develop approaches that reflect the interrelated nature of the SDGs.

The HLPF is also expected to aid in mobilizing support to help countries implement the agenda. Along with finance, capacity development and technology will be other important themes on its agenda. The forum will build on the follow-up on financing for development commitments, as decided in Addis Ababa. Its implementation reviews may also lead to launching partnerships, as the General Assembly mandated.

3. Architecture

We examined how the forum could deliver on such varied tasks
The answer lies in my third “A” – Architecture with a focus on the role of the HLPF in reviewing the implementation of the agenda.

As envisioned in the draft outcome, the HLPF will conduct at least two kinds of reviews: national implementation reviews and thematic reviews.

First, this architecture will operate vertically -- at national, regional and international levels.

Its effectiveness will hinge in no small part on whether there are solid and inclusive national reviews. At the same time, to avoid overburdening countries, existing reporting mechanisms should be used as much as possible, while ensuring comparability.

National reviews will lead to an exchange of experience and reviews at the regional level thus supporting the HLPF in providing political leadership and recommendations.

In addition, the architecture will operate along horizontal lines. The thematic reviews of the HLPF will build on the work of the

ECOSOC system and draw from the reviews conducted by many thematic platforms.

The challenge will be to ensure that those platforms are mutually reinforcing. HLPF's programme of work could instill a sense of direction and maximize the contribution of thematic platforms. We discussed whether HLPF thematic reviews should address cross cutting issues, groups of SDGs or clusters of issues.

There was a particular emphasis that the HLPF and ECOSOC must complement and reinforce one another. The paper prepared by the Bureau last June explains how ECOSOC and the entire ECOSOC system can support the follow-up and review of the post-2015 development agenda.

At the same time, we realized that we cannot expect the review architecture to be a kind of "jardin a la francaise" ("French formal garden") with perfect symmetry and alignment. This leads me to the fourth "A", Adaptation.

4. Adaptation

The review framework must reflect the diverse realities of countries and regions. National reviews will be owned and shaped by individual countries. We have to find the right balance, keeping in mind the fact that we need to ensure some comparability so as to facilitate aggregation and dialogue.

At the regional level, it was suggested that each region should have autonomy on how and where to conduct its reviews. A representative of the African Peer Review Mechanism explained how the APRM can be adjusted and built upon in the region. The role of UN regional commissions was underscored along with the suggestion for peer reviews to be conducted at regional level.

At the international level, the HLPF will discuss key messages and lessons from the regional reviews and may conduct a number of country reviews. It was suggested that any country wanting to report to the HLPF should be able to do so, and that the HLPF should encourage real dialogue, mutual learning and partnerships.

While respecting diversity, a number of core principles will firmly guide the reviews throughout the architecture, consistent with those in the outcome document – such as the universal and voluntary nature of the review and their role supporting a

constructive exchange of experience on implementation. The HLPF should also champion the inclusion of major groups and other stakeholders throughout the review architecture and in its own work.

Many other points and details are reflected in the summary prepared by the ECOSOC President.

Distinguished delegates,

As the new president of ECOSOC, I am keenly aware that next year, the HLPF will start reviewing the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

A strengthened ECOSOC is now fully equipped to fulfill its role as a principal body for achieving integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development.

I will spare no efforts to enable ECOSOC play the role of central coordinator with the HLPF in the whole process of implementation and follow-up and review of the post-2015 development agenda.

Thank you.

