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FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

Closing Remarks

**Wrap-up of First Week of High-Level Political Forum
Conference Room 4, UNHQ
6:30 p.m. Friday, 13 July 2018**

Madam President,
Excellencies,
Colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

We have come to the end of the first week of the 2018 HLPF. The determination of all to implement and advance the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs is palpable.

The HLPF has really lived up to its expectations. The Forum has gathered governments and actors from all walks of life with the “one heart” that guided the vision of the 2030 Agenda. The Forum has proved itself to be a vibrant place of convergence where commonalities and interlinkages are highlighted, policy coherence is underlined and the poorest and most vulnerable are on the top of the agenda.

Over this first week, we heard where we have been globally on implementation of the 2030 agenda. We heard about progress and obstacles, measures and policies, studies and research to support evidence-based policy making.

We now have a clearer vision of SDG progress, gaps and actions on water, energy, cities, sustainable consumption and production, terrestrial ecosystems and means of implementation.

We heard fresh ideas – from the need for more intergovernmental attention on water, to explicit actions on access to energy at the community level. But, we also heard about all other goals, from health and education to gender empowerment and inclusive and transparent institutions. I think we all come out of these five days with a sense of urgency and the conviction that we must step up efforts to achieve the goals. Yet, we are also reassured that the momentum for implementing the SDGs is as strong as it ever was.

We agreed on the need to build the resilience of societies and communities and solidify our advances towards the SDGs, notably in least developed, landlocked and small island developing states. The principle of the 2030 Agenda, leaving no one behind, was like a thread woven through the sessions. I commend the rapporteurs for such an interesting reporting, in looking at challenges we all face to reach the furthest behind.

On all these issues, we heard a variety of voices. I am greatly reassured by the convergence of views of all actors on the importance of working together in a whole of society effort to reach the SDGs.

Excellencies and colleagues,

DESA and I, personally, are determined to accompany and support you on this journey to a more sustainable future for our children and grandchildren. I was heartened to see all parts of DESA being engaged in supporting you this week. We will continue doing so next week, and for months and years ahead.

I look forward to next week when we will hear from countries themselves on their national implementation.

We are also looking forward to the two separate 2019 HLPF sessions, one under the auspices of ECOSOC, and the other under the auspices of the General Assembly at the summit level. I encourage all of you to start preparing for next year's HLPF so as to make it ambitious and provide guidance for the next four years. I encourage all countries who have not yet done so to present their voluntary national reviews.

It would be wonderful if all countries come to the summit with new commitments to implement the SDGs – whether a commitment to support others, or to undertake an ambitious action or policy to implement the SDGs at home.

Thank you and I hope you will all have a good rest to be ready for the week ahead of us.
