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Opening Statement

2019 ECOSOC Partnership Forum

New York, 11 April 2019

Madam President,
Your Excellency, Deputy Prime Minister of Lebanon,
Your Excellency, Foreign Minister of Hungary,
Madam Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, it is my great pleasure to address this year's ECOSOC Partnership Forum under the theme, "Partnerships driving inclusive implementation of the SDGs".

This year will mark the fourth anniversary since world leaders adopted the universal and transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with 17 Sustainable Development Goals at its core.

While governments have the primary responsibility for implementing this ambitious Agenda, the magnitude and multitude of today's global challenges are such that no single government or institution can address them alone.

Distinguished Delegates,

More than ever before, we need cooperation and collaboration today. In addition to increased global partnership for development, we also need to identify and foster new ways of working in multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources.

Excellencies,

Many countries are already making progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda. At the upcoming July session of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, 51 Member States are slated to present their voluntary national reviews.

This will bring to a total of over 140 countries that will have submitted their VNRs to the HLPF. This is an encouraging sign that global commitment to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs remains strong.

Analysis of the VNR reports conducted by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, reveals some common threads regarding multi-stakeholder partnerships and their potential for SDG implementation.

First, it is evident that more and more countries recognize the importance of building strategic and inclusive partnerships with different stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society and local governments.

Second, many countries have recognized the importance of creating an enabling environment for partnerships at the national level.

Third, an increasing number of countries have been witnessing a growing number of private sector initiatives in support of the SDGs.

Finally, different forms of partnerships - public, public-private and multi-stakeholder- are emerging in diverse sectors such as renewable energy, housing, infrastructure, agriculture and technology.

At the same time, there is a growing number of innovative multi-stakeholder initiatives that complement national efforts and help drive an inclusive implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Today's forum will be an opportunity to hear directly from actual partnerships and to brainstorm together on how we could replicate and scale up good practices.

The contributions of Partnerships will be indispensable in this critical year for sustainable development, as we prepare for three high-level events at the forthcoming General Assembly in September: the SDG Summit of the High-level Political Forum, High-level Midterm Review of the SAMOA Pathway and the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development.

I wish to take this opportunity to announce that the official websites for these three high-level events are launched today. They can be accessed through the main website of UN DESA. We look forward to your close engagement and contribution to these events.

Distinguished Delegates,

We need renewed partnerships that generate impacts, that build resilience, and that are inclusive.

Mobilizing such partnerships is critical for realizing the 2030 Agenda and our shared vision of "leaving no one behind".

I look forward to your thought-provoking proposals and discussions.

Thank you.
