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H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King
President of the Economic and Social Council

2019 ECOSOC Partnership Forum

New York, 11 April 2019

Closing Statement

533 words

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I wish to start by expressing my heartfelt thanks to all the speakers, moderators, interpreters and participants, both physical and virtual, for your excellent contributions.

My appreciation goes to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs for organizing this successful Forum. I would like to also extend special thanks to the

United Nations Office for Partnerships and the United Nations Global Compact for their substantial support in preparing the event.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The 2019 Partnership Forum of the Economic and Social Council has given us an opportunity to reflect on the contributions that multi-stakeholder partnerships can make to the inclusive implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

I will not attempt in these few minutes to capture the richness of the discussions we have had all day today. Instead, let me briefly underline broadly three key messages from the Forum that we can carry forward.

First, today's discussions have again shown how multi-stakeholder partnerships can be an important means of implementation for the 2030 Agenda.

We have heard some impressive case stories from multi-stakeholder partnerships working around education, decent work, inequality, climate action and peaceful and inclusive societies. Such examples and good practices should be replicated, together with efforts to build enabling national environments that foster the creation of partnerships.

Second, we have heard how more and more governments are aiming to build inclusive partnerships platforms with a whole-of-society approach. We need to know more about what has worked and what has not. This also requires, at its core, enhanced efforts for capacity building. I hope that today's discussions will act as inspiration for governments and their potential multi-stakeholder partners.

Finally, we have heard that partnerships that are led by, or are associated with, the United Nations should follow distinct, high standards. To ensure more accountable, transparent and impactful partnerships, the UN system could benefit from a more coherent review mechanism focusing on partnerships. In this regard, Member States have an important oversight role to play.

The ECOSOC Partnership Forum is well positioned to act as an interface between the inter-governmental and inter-agency processes related to partnerships. I hope that the Forum will continue to promote open and dynamic dialogue among Member States, UN system and all stakeholders to improve the transparency and accountability of partnerships moving forward.

Dear colleagues,

A summary of our discussions will be prepared and made available to the July session of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

Once again, my appreciation goes to you all who have actively participated in the fruitful discussions today. I wish you all a safe return home.

Thank you.

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