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Closing Remarks
2019 High-level Segment of the Economic and Social Council

ECOSOC Chamber, UNHQ, 19 July 2019, 5:30 pm

Madam President of ECOSOC,
Honourable Ministers,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We now conclude the 2019 ECOSOC High-level Segment. The Segment represents the culmination of the one-year ECOSOC cycle.

Allow me to express my profound appreciation to all of you for making the cycle so productive. I especially thank the Governments and stakeholders for their ideas and insightful contributions throughout the session. I trust that our engagement, deliberations and policy recommendations will serve to accelerate efforts towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

A common message from this year's ECOSOC and the HLPF is that, we are not on track when it comes to achieving the SDGs, and a deeper, more ambitious, more transformative, and more integrated response is urgently needed. This has enormous implications for the future welfare of the world people, in particular the most vulnerable, for global economic stability, for global peace, and for the health of the planet upon which our survival depends.

Similarly, the outcomes from this year's cycle were unequivocal: the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals remain the most compelling roadmap for overcoming the challenges we face to end poverty and achieve sustainable development.

Honourable Ministers,
Excellencies,

Through our consideration of the main theme for 2019 ECOSOC, we have made a positive contribution to the integrated implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The ECOSOC segments and forums and the ECOSOC functional commissions and expert bodies, have all worked to provide integrated policy options and recommendations,

address gaps and challenges, and contribute to the overall review of initial progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

This High-level Segment represents the culmination of that collective work. It also included the ministerial segment of the High-level Political Forum, the apex global forum for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda.

This morning, we had a look at long-term global trends and scenarios as well as where we may be heading beyond 2030. This generated a wealth of forward-looking perspectives and ideas.

We know that currently we are moving too slowly towards sustainable development. We further know that it remains a challenge to obtain quality and timely data. This impacts our ability to provide the most comprehensive overview of global progress and to reach the furthest behind. Much greater investment in statistical capabilities is essential.

There can no let-up in our work. With accelerated and robust actions on the levers of change and means of implementation, we can deliver on the SDGs by 2030.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to convey my warm and sincere thanks to Her Excellency, Ambassador Inga Rhonda King, the President of ECOSOC for her leadership throughout this ECOSOC cycle.

I thank all the Vice Presidents of ECOSOC for their devotion and contribution over the past year.

I also thank our moderators, panelists, participants and interpreters – today and during the ECOSOC cycle – for making our discussions so interesting and insightful. I have learned much from all of you.

Let me also wholeheartedly thank all stakeholders for your invaluable contributions to the High-level Segment. I look forward to your continued engagement with the Economic and Social Council, in our commitment to leave no one behind.

Excellencies,

We have a great opportunity at the forthcoming General Assembly in September – through the SDG Summit, the SG's Climate Action Summit, and the high-level meetings on universal health coverage, financing for development and the midterm review of the SAMOA Pathway – to bring our messages to the world.

I hope to see you all at the General Assembly in September, well prepared to announce ambitious actions for acceleration of progress towards the achievement of SDGs.

We are also looking ahead to 2020, to two conferences of significant importance to the 2030 Agenda: In May, the Second Global Sustainable Transport Conference will take place in

Beijing. And, in June, the Second UN Conference on Oceans will be convened in Lisbon, to support the implementation of SDG 14: conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

Excellencies,

Let us signal that we are moving forward, together, with conviction and ambition to embark upon a decade of action to build a world of dignity for all.

Thank you.
