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VIDEO REMARKS AT THE 2023 ECOSOC PARTNERSHIP
FORUM

*“Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease
(COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for
Sustainable Development at all levels.”*

New York, 31 January 2023, 10:00 AM
Trusteeship Council Chamber

**Madam President of ECOSOC,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is my pleasure to address the opening of the 2023 ECOSOC Partnership Forum.

We are in a pivotal year for the 2030 Agenda.

In September, Heads of State and Government will gather at the SDG Summit to reflect on where we stand at the half-way point of this ambitious agenda.

The same week, they will also gather for a crucial Climate Ambition Summit, a High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development, a Ministerial Meeting on the Summit of the Future and a number of global health meetings.

And throughout the year, leaders will also converge around the Fifth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries; the UN Water Conference; and the mid-term review of the Sendai Framework and the Climate COP in the UAE.

This provides us with a unique opportunity to make 2023 a turning point for people, planet and peace.

Your active engagement is fundamental to this effort:

Important voices from around the world joining forces to mobilize a global rescue effort for our Global Goals.

Ladies and gentlemen,

8 years into the SDGs, we are far from where we need to be.

On almost every key indicator – from poverty to exclusion; conflict to displacement; CO2 emissions to biodiversity loss; and the advancement of gender equality – we are moving in the wrong direction.

And we are doing so at a time when global solidarity and trust are faltering.

A time when developing countries are locked into debt spirals and out of SDG financing.

In this environment, it would be easy to lose hope.

But that is not who we are, and it is not what we do.

Every day, across the world, people rise above to achieve the most amazing things – for themselves, for their families, for their communities.

Now is the time for the international community to do the same.

Instead of giving up, we must wake up to this truly existential moment; and to the opportunity that the energy, food, digital and social transitions present us.

We must rise up to this historic moment.

And we need all hands on deck.

Governments must lead the way.

But we can only succeed if we work together, with key partners showing leadership, ambition and action.

Let's start with youth.

As activists, innovators and consumers – young people must steer new, creative and bold solutions to stubborn, old challenges.

Intergenerational leadership, including through the UN's new Youth Office, will ensure young people are meaningfully engaged in decision-making at all levels.

Second, local and regional governments.

As first responders in crisis, recovery and rebuilding – we've seen their vital role in frontline of the pandemic, transforming education and accelerating green energy transitions.

Now is the time for local authorities to move center stage in our SDG rescue effort.

Third, the scientific community.

Recent years have reminded us of the role of science.

In 2023, we must strengthen our collaboration to ensure that future scientific breakthroughs benefit people and planet — and reach everyone, everywhere.

Lastly, of course, the private sector.

We need long-term and socially responsible engagement by the private sector, from multinational corporations to small and medium-sized enterprises.

All private sector entities should align their business models with the 10 principles and the new strategy issued by the United Nations Global Compact.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Our world is facing a choice between breakdown and breakthrough.

Let's choose the only path that will benefit us all.

Let's unite in partnership to get the SDGs back on track – to secure a life of dignity and opportunity for all on a safe and healthy planet.

I wish you the very best in today's discussions.

Thank you.