

**Draft Opening Remarks of
President of Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva,
to 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

629 words

Excellencies,
Distinguished colleagues,

I am delighted to welcome you to the 2023 ECOSOC Partnership Forum. I extend my warm greetings to all.

Let me begin by expressing my sincere thanks to the members of my informal Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Group for the 2023 ECOSOC Partnership Forum for their advice and support in the planning of today’s Forum.

Let me also acknowledge the valuable contributions of the over 700 stakeholders from around the world who participated in the virtual global consultation in the lead-up to today’s event. Your inputs have been captured and compiled into a summary report that is available as a background document to this meeting.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today’s gathering today comes at a crucial time. Our ability to tackle multiple interlinked global crises hangs in the balance.

In addition to the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts continue to ravage many parts of our world, while humanitarian and planetary challenges are looming large.

These realities are re-opening deep-seated scars and fragilities and compounding the inequalities between and within countries.

The task of rebuilding our societies in an inclusive and equitable manner may seem insurmountable. But it provides us a rare opportunity to fundamentally re-think the “how-to” aspects of sustainable development.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Sendai Framework, and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change remain our best tools to overcome impediments, reduce risks and forge a better future that is defined by peace, equity and sustainability.

Excellencies,

In order to achieve a more sustainable and inclusive future for **all** eight billion of us, we must find better ways of working together.

We need unprecedented, bold global partnership for reversing extreme poverty, easing debt burdens and mobilising finance.

We need to radically raise our ambitions to provide more targeted and harmonized multi-lateral support for communities and people at risk of being left behind.

While governments bear the primary responsibility for making this happen, they cannot do so without the active participation of stakeholders across all sectors of society.

We need to leverage the knowledge and resources of all actors – be it scientists, young people, local governments, civil society, or the private sector– and foster truly transformative and game changing partnerships.

Distinguished colleagues,

In just over seven months’ time, we will meet here in New York for the 2023 SDG Summit, which will mark the half-way point of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Today’s Partnership Forum is a first opportunity to begin rallying all partners around the Summit, and to hear the views and voices of both governments and stakeholders on how we can work together to put our world back on track for people, planet and peace.

I am determined to ensure that each segment, forum or meeting of ECOSOC helps to set the course for the SDG Summit. The high-level political forum on sustainable development, held under the auspices of the Council, will serve as a pre-Summit event. Taken together, the ECOSOC system can clarify substantive priorities and build political momentum for the Summit.

As President of the Economic and Social Council, I wish to see all meetings of the Council and its subsidiary bodies, including the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July and other key UN fora, catalyse such partnerships.

My earnest hope is to open the doors of all ECOSOC meetings to welcome and engage all institutions and peoples from all walks of life – including not only the most prominent, but also the least visible.

All of us have important roles to play in realizing the sustainable future.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

This is your Forum.

Let us make the most of our time today to engage early, partner strategically and act resolutely towards a better, more peaceful and prosperous future.

Thank you.

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