



**Closing Remarks by
Mr. Li Junhua
Under Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs**

To 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

482 words

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to first congratulate everyone on a successful and fruitful 2023 ECOSOC Partnership Forum.

My deep gratitude goes to the President of the ECOSOC for her outstanding leadership in championing meaningful stakeholder engagement and partnership building in the work of the Council.

On behalf of DESA, I would also like to express my sincere thanks to the organizers of the six thematic Spotlight Sessions that have greatly enriched our discussions. I would also like to thank the organizers of the many side events that have been held today, both in person and virtually.

Dear colleagues,

Today's ECOSOC Partnership Forum has offered an inspiring opportunity for Member States and stakeholders to come together and jointly discuss the priorities for the year ahead. We have heard many new ideas on how we could raise our collective ambition and make this year a turning point for the Sustainable Development Goals, as we are gearing up our preparations for both the July session of the High-level political forum on sustainable development in July, and the SDG summit in September.

Participants also had the opportunity to hear from the Co-chairs of Independent Group of Scientists that are preparing the 2023 edition of the Global Sustainable Development Report, with DESA's support. The Co-Chairs shared a number of valuable insights on how we

could leverage the many interlinkages that exist between the SDGs, including through synergistic partnerships.

Your interventions have been stimulating and thoughtful.

We have heard repeated calls from stakeholders across different sectors and regions for stronger political commitment and international cooperation, given that the SDGs are at a real risk of failure.

A common message that emerged from today's interventions is that we need to close, as a matter of priority, our capital, capacity, data and development opportunity gaps through a revitalized global partnership.

The importance of broad-based participation and engagement of all, including women and the most vulnerable populations, was repeatedly stressed.

Many noted that those who are left the furthest behind are often the ones who have the weakest capacities to engage and partner effectively. We need more capacity building support to enable the meaningful participation of everyone, including the Least Developed Countries.

I am confident that the ideas and examples shared today will also provide valuable inputs to the upcoming fifth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries in March.

Dear friends,

The year 2030 is no longer distant.

We all – governments, UN system and stakeholders across all sectors – need to double down on our efforts to make the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs a reality for all with a renewed sense of focus and decisiveness. The time to act is now.

I look forward to continuing our conversation and collaboration – towards creating more opportunities to engage and more partnerships to join.

My department, UN DESA, stands ready to support you in this.

Thank you.

//END//