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**UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL GUY RYDER**

**OPENING REMARKS AT THE**

**ECOSOC PARTNERSHIP FORUM**

*“Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind”*

**New York, 5 February 2025**

Distinguished President of ECOSOC, Ambassador Rae,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It really is an honor to be part of the ECOSOC Partnership Forum – it is a unique venue for catalyzing collaboration and action, which is as we’ve just heard essential for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

Partnerships, colleagues, are about building bridges, fostering collaboration, and creating opportunities that extend across boundaries.

I think that this year’s agenda reflects precisely that commitment to do just that and we are here not just to share perspectives but to shape pathways towards the realization and revitalization of the SDGs, learning as you said, President from what we have achieved, up until this point.

And I think that with this shared purpose, we can move forward. And I have a few thoughts to share with you about how can we move towards actionable outcomes.

Ladies and gentleman, When the Secretary-General proposed the Summit of the Future in 2021, the core idea was building a stronger, more networked, and inclusive multilateralism.

One designed inter alia to achieve the SDGs and to address emerging challenges.

Member States responded positively boldly with the Pact for the Future, a landmark framework translating these ideas into concrete commitments.

The Pact amplifies SDG 17, emphasizing the need for partnerships that unite governments, the private sector, parliamentarians local and regional authorities, civil society and technical and academic communities and of course international and regional organizations.

The Pact also calls on us to move beyond traditional partnership models, embracing blended financing and impact-driven cooperation.

And we need to do all of this to urgently accelerate progress on the SDGs.

At the midway point to 2030, only 17% of SDG targets are on track, nearly 50% showed minimal or no progress, and 30% regressed. This stark reality demands that we rethink how we work together, and act accordingly.

When 735 million people face chronic hunger and SDG 2 is so badly off track than it is clear that current partnerships aren't working well enough.

And we must act boldly and accelerate progress.

We have a focus on Science, Technology and Innovation today and we need these partnerships if we want to unlock the benefits of Science, Technology and Innovation equitably and responsibly.

The Global Digital Compact, which was as an Annex to the Pact, is an opportunity to foster inclusive digital transformation, ensuring AI and emerging technologies benefit all. It calls for international partnerships to strengthen AI capacity-building.

The Compact has already been endorsed by over 400 stakeholders: governments, academia, the private sector, technical communities, and civil society. Yet, it also requires governance frameworks to prevent widening inequalities and digital divides.

As the Secretary-General takes every opportunity to reminds us: A world of AI haves and have-nots would be a world of perpetual instability.

We must never allow AI to stand for “advancing inequality.” Only by preventing fragmented AI spheres can we ensure technology serves all of humanity. The Independent International Scientific Panel on AI and the Global Dialogue on AI Governance, which were agreed on the Compact, are powerful tools to help us move forward.

The United Nations Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies, established under the Compact, serves as an inclusive platform for our digital cooperation.

As highlighted in the Pact for the Future, the opportunities and the risks of science, technology, and innovation create tremendous opportunities but also demand new ways of working, particularly with the private sector, which as we all know holds critical expertise. We have the opportunity of the 10th Multistakeholder Forum coming up in early May to help us to respond to that need.

In this time of crises, diverse coalitions are critical. From climate change to conflict, pandemics, and economic instability, no single actor can address these challenges alone.

The Pact for the Future is not just a commitment framework - it is a real call to action for dynamic partnerships that leverage expertise across sectors and across geographies.

We must draw on and include faith-based organizations, which provide essential social services, to Indigenous Peoples and local communities, whose knowledge is critical for environmental sustainability, Academic institutions, advancing evidence-based policymaking.

Today's circumstances demand that we rethink how we build partnerships so that we can we shift from simple aspiration to concrete impact. Partnerships are not just about collaboration—they are about co-creation. So that we can mobilize resources, knowledge, and networks to overcome obstacles and drive systemic change.

The road to 2030 is undoubtedly steep, but with strong partnerships and shared determination, success remains within our reach, but we will get there only with bold action and innovative partnerships—and each of us has a role to play.

I wish you all success in this meeting and your discussions.