



Informal Note of the President of ECOSOC, Amb. Bob Rae, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations

On 5 February, I had the honor of chairing the [2025 ECOSOC Partnership Forum](#), which offered an important platform for Member States, the UN system and stakeholders to exchange bold ideas and to showcase innovative partnerships, with a focus on advancing the SDGs set for review during the 2025 High-level Political Forum (HLPF).

While I will be preparing a factual summary in consultation with the Bureau of the Council to reflect discussions during the Partnership Forum and the Coordination Segment, through this informal note, I share a few personal observations from the discussions in the Forum.

Delivering Results Through Partnerships:

As the first major gathering of the ECOSOC cycle, the **Partnership Forum** strongly underlined that partnerships are essential for achieving durable results.

A central message was clear: partnerships must be action-oriented and results-driven. Across all countries, people care deeply about the issues at the heart of the SDGs, for instance, healthcare, education, decent work and environmental sustainability. Discussions underscored that these goals reflect the 'common sense' of humanity and must be translated into real impact for people's lives.

DESA's [Partnership Snapshot](#) captures the impact of successful partnerships:

- The **Spotlight Initiative**, which has protected over 21 million girls and women from gender-based violence;
- The **Global Ghost Gear Initiative**, engaging over 130 stakeholders to tackle abandoned fishing gear to reduce marine pollution;
- The **Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS)** initiative, implementing 50 projects to strengthen infrastructure and resilience against climate and disaster risks; and
- The **Great Blue Wall Initiative**, aiming to protect 2 million square kilometers of marine areas, restore 2 million hectares of ecosystems, create 2 million 'blue jobs', and sequester 100 million tons of CO2 by 2030.

A Culture of Collaboration:

Following its mandate, the 2025 ECOSOC Partnership Forum was prepared through a consultative approach, which included a [global consultation](#), setting up a [multi-stakeholder advisory group](#) and [planning sessions in collaboration between UN entities and stakeholders](#).

During the discussions, it was clear that to scale up successes, we must foster a 'culture of collaboration' – one where stakeholders actively communicate, coordinate and complement each other's efforts. Too often, the greatest barrier to progress is assumed communication - where actors believe collaboration is happening when, in reality, critical gaps remain. The Forum highlighted the need for greater transparency, knowledge-sharing and alignment of efforts to accelerate progress.

The discussions also emphasized that partnerships should extend beyond traditional actors, integrating the perspectives of civil society, the private sector, local communities, women, youth and Indigenous Peoples.

The voices of those on the frontlines of development efforts must shape the policies and actions designed to serve them.

The Pledge to Multilateralism:

As we navigate an increasingly complex and fast-changing world, the Forum was an opportunity to reaffirm founding principles of the United Nations. Article 55 of the UN Charter envisions international economic and social cooperation as essential to sustainable development and global stability, while Article 56 underscores the collective responsibility of all Member States to take joint and individual action to achieve these shared goals.

Multilateralism is not merely a concept - it is an essential tool for addressing global challenges, enabling countries to achieve shared progress while advancing their national goals. The United Nations provides a platform for collaboration, recognizing that collective efforts can drive more sustainable solutions. The Partnership Forum reaffirmed the value of working together, showing that through cooperation, transparency and sustained commitment, we can make meaningful strides toward achieving the SDGs.

The world is watching for outcomes, not just speeches.

Charter of the United Nations

[\[Chapter IX – International Economic and Social Co-operation\]](#)

Article 55:

"With a view to the creation of conditions of stability and well-being which are necessary for peaceful and friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, the United Nations shall promote:

- a. higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development;
- b. solutions of international economic, social, health, and related problems; and international cultural and educational cooperation; and
- c. universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion."

Article 56:

All Members pledge themselves to take joint and separate action in cooperation with the Organization for the achievement of the purposes set forth in Article 55.

