



Statement by H.E. Bob Rae (Canada)

President of the Economic and Social Council

Opening of the 2025 ECOSOC Partnership Forum

5 February 2025

Excellencies,

Dear colleagues,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you all to the United Nations for the 2025 edition of the ECOSOC Partnership Forum.

This Forum is the first major event of the 2025 ECOSOC calendar and its the perfect occasion to bring the entire ECOSOC family together.

That we are all here: governments, academia, the private sector, Indigenous Peoples', civil society organizations, youth and multilateral organizations really illustrates our desire to tackle the issues we are facing together.

And we need to work together because in the backdrop are some profound, global challenges.

Climate change, the rapid advancing pace of technology, conflicts and humanitarian crises are testing the architecture that we have built to



maintain peace and security, to promote sustainable development, and to protect the most vulnerable.

But each of us has an important role to play – big or small – to help give life to our global commitments.

The Pact for the Future, as well as the SDG Political Declaration of 2023, have offered us opportunities to define a common vision for multilateral action going forward.

At the heart of that vision is Partnership. Partnerships are multipliers allowing each of us to go further and amplify individual efforts and make them collective ones.

In 2025, there will be key milestones such as the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development, the High-Level Political Forum and the World Social Summit, to help adjust and plot new actions to put the SDGs on a better track.

This said, we owe it to ourselves to recognize that good progress has been made, in particular on SDG3 – Good Health and Wellbeing, made possible through partnership efforts.

For instance, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) has mobilized over \$65 billion, saving more than 50 million lives across 100 countries since 2002, by combating HIV, tuberculosis and malaria.



Its success lies in bringing together diverse stakeholders – partners united in purpose – through which it has harnessed data-driven strategies and innovative financing models to create impact.

Similarly, the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data showcases the transformative power of partnerships in leveraging data in advancing SDG 3. Mobilizing a network of over 700 organizations the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data works in 35+ countries and engages stakeholders in 80+ countries to strengthen many national data systems, mobilize investments and support evidence-based health policies and resource allocation.

These examples make clear that partnerships are not just tools but essential pillars for achieving the SDGs, bringing together diverse expertise, resources and perspectives to tackle complex challenges. By fostering collaboration across sectors and leveraging shared strengths, they amplify impact, drive progress and ensure that no one is left behind.

While we celebrate these successes, progress on many other goals remains slow. This highlights the need to apply the same focus, dedication and ingenuity to partnerships across all areas, accelerating efforts to achieve all Sustainable Development Goals.

Excellencies,



Much of the success of this Forum is owed to the contributions of my informal Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Group for the 2025 ECOSOC Partnership Forum, whose input and support were invaluable in planning today's event.

I also want to acknowledge the many stakeholders who contributed their insights during the global online consultation which played a key role in shaping this Forum.

Excellencies, in closing,

My predecessor sat here last year and declared that a foundational element of her vision as President was that the Council would serve as a unifying platform for all to contribute in a collective manner to the achievement of the SDGs. You can count on me to continue to champion this spirit of partnership and the inclusion of all stakeholders as we work together to realize the vision contained in Agenda 2030.

I am looking forward to the day's deliberations and now declare the Partnership Forum opened.

Thank you.