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Statement by H.E. Mr. Krzysztof Szczerski, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland Excellencies, Distinguished Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Sustainable Development Goals, which constitute a step of fundamental importance for global development. As Vice-President of ECOSOC I am very glad that this body plays such a vital role in bringing countries and various stakeholders together to advance economic and social progress globally.

Our discussion today is focused on SDG 8 "Decent Work and Economic Growth". In my current role as Chair of the Commission for Social Development, I am personally convinced that promoting sustainable economic growth with a strong social dimension, including decent work, is crucial for achieving tangible development progress.

What should we do to further advance in this field?

First of all, in my view, we should prioritize effective partnerships at all levels, from the systems level, down to the community level. The decisions we make here in the UN headquarters have impact on development projects worldwide. Strong partnerships between policy-makers, civil society organizations, the private sector, academia, and local authorities are needed to ensure long lasting progress.

Secondly, we should invest in resilience of societies and economies in all its dimensions: economic, social, and environmental, but also resilience of public institutions and the private sector. Societies must be resilient enough to survive any kind of economic crises without the need to eliminate many workplaces. This theme is one of Poland's priorities at ECOSOC.

Finally, I would like to underline that employment and decent work are at the core of well-being of individuals. Employment should not merely provide a livelihood, but enable individuals to make full use of their skills. We believe that by fostering social dialogue, ensuring equal opportunities and treatment for all, but also by establishing labour standards, and securing safe working conditions, we have much greater chances to succeed in meeting our objectives set out in SDG 8.

I thank you.