



**President of ECOSOC**

**Closing Remarks at the Financing for Development**

**Forum**

25 April 2024

Excellencies,

Esteemed Delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

As we draw the ECOSOC Financing for Development Forum to a close, I am struck by the dedication and insight that has characterized our discussions.

We gathered here not merely as policymakers and experts, but as architects of a more equitable and prosperous future.

The rigorous debates and the exchange of innovative ideas over the past few days have not only been enlightening but has allowed us to take a first critical step on the transformative journey towards the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development in 2025.

Our dialogue has reaffirmed our firm belief that the Financing for Development process is not just about resources—it is about building a future that values sustainability, equity, and shared prosperity.

We have delved into the complexities of investment, debt sustainability, and the creation of inclusive financial systems.

We have tackled pressing issues, from enhancing the role of private business in achieving the SDGs to furthering and deepening international tax cooperation.

The sessions have provided us with a blueprint for action and highlighted the urgency of our mission.

As we look ahead to the Summit of the Future and Fourth International Conference, let us carry forward the admirable engagement and the determination that have characterized this Forum.

Our collective efforts here will echo through the actions we take and the policies we implement.

Excellencies,

Throughout my Presidency of ECOSOC, I have had the honor of visiting various places and meeting with many people: colleagues from the delegations accredited to the United Nations; government, parliamentary, and local authorities; representatives of international organizations and civil society.

Listening to their different voices has confirmed the expectations and attention with which they follow our work. The temptation to confine oneself to the same circles is always present, but we must not forget that our work here has concrete effects on the lives of people around the world, and it is for them that we do everything within our reach to keep the promise of sustainable development alive.

Sometimes it is the small, almost imperceptible modifications that sow the seed for the big changes that are needed. It is not easy to make those decisions, often painful and uncomfortable, but we do so because conversations evolve and we must evolve with them.

Dear friends,

The path to 2025 is paved with both challenges and opportunities. Yet, I am filled with hope, for the commitment displayed here assures me that we are ready to face these challenges head-on.

Our work has just begun, and the journey ahead promises to be one of the most important we will undertake.

Let us celebrate the progress we have made while remaining steadfast in our resolve to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Let us continue to strive for a world where no one is left behind—a world that we can be proud to bequeath to future generations.

*Please check against delivery*

Thank you all for your invaluable contributions. It is our united front that will define our success in achieving a brighter future.

Thank you.