



**Closing Statement by
H.E. Mr. Bob Rae,
President of the Economic and Social Council,**

To the 2025 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”

5 February 2025

Thank you so much, Lotta.

We truly could not have done this without you and the DESA team, and we deeply appreciate your leadership and thoughtful summary. I can assure colleagues that we will be prompt in providing feedback on the discussions we have heard today.

As a next step, I will be releasing an informal note that captures my key takeaways from today’s deliberations, offering a snapshot summary of the rich exchanges we have had.

I am going to conclude in a way that you might not have expected, but I think it is important for us to remind ourselves of how we got here.

The UN Charter, in Article 55, lays out our collective commitment to international economic and social cooperation – and the Charter says – “that with the 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. Universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion.

And in Article 56 goes on to say, “All members pledge themselves to take joint and separate action in cooperation with the organization.” This means the United Nations for the achievement of the purposes set forth in Article 55.

I will be returning to this theme in my opening remarks tomorrow. At our first meeting of the Council's Coordination Segment, which will be taking place tomorrow under the able chairmanship of my colleague from Equatorial Guinea. The Segment will take place over two days, the sixth and seventh, in the ECOSOC Chamber.

Many recommendations and messages from this Forum will be presented at the Segment. Information on the Segment, including the program of work and related documentation, is available on the website of the Council and is available in the Journal.

I want to thank everyone very much for your participation. It has been a very successful day, and I think we have had a good dialogue and a good exchange. And I have found it very worthwhile.

I want to express my appreciation to everyone, to all the speakers, to all of you for speaking and joining with us, and to our friends from civil society who have joined us and are such an active part of this entire exercise.

Thank you very much. Merci beaucoup. Muchas gracias.