Closing Remarks
H.E. Ambassador Oh Joon
President of the Economic and Social Council

"ECOSOC Special Meeting - Impacts of the 2015/16 El Niño phenomenon: Reducing risks and capturing opportunities"

May 6, 2016 (10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.)
ECOSOC Chamber

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank all our speakers and panelists for their active participation.

I would like to also commend the affected countries and the United Nations system for their efforts to respond to the El Niño phenomenon.

We must build on what we have learned from the previous El Niño phenomena – we know what it takes to be prepared and to minimize its economic, social and environmental impact.

In this regards, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction provides a solid basis for a risk-informed and resilient 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

This Framework was also acknowledged in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, in which Member States committed to developing and implementing holistic disaster risk management at all levels in line with the Sendai Framework.

We cannot achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for all, if we do not address the economic, social dimensions of the El Niño phenomenon.

We must have a coordinated and comprehensive approach to addressing the economic, social and environmental dimensions of the El Niño phenomenon.

Distinguished Delegates,

I intend to issue a Presidential Statement to capture the key ideas and recommendations we heard today. The outcome, which I will transmit to the General Assembly, will inform the 2016 plenary meeting of the General Assembly that will be convened to discuss action-oriented recommendations to address its socioeconomic and environmental impacts.

In closing, let me reiterate that the Economic and Social Council will continue to promote coordination in the work of the United Nations development system in coping with various global challenges and assist affected countries in their efforts to respond to risks.

Thank you for your attention.

The meeting is now adjourned. //END//