



# ECOSOC

United Nations Economic and Social Council

**TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE LIVES**

**Closing remarks at the 2017 HLPF**

by

**H.E. Frederick Musiiwa Makamure Shava,  
President of ECOSOC**

Wednesday, 19 July 2017

Under-Secretary-General Mr. Wu Hongbo,

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have come to the end of the 2017 High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development. I am encouraged by these eight days of the HLPF. The 2017 HLPF has yet again reaffirmed its place as a central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda. The Ministerial Declaration set forth important recommendations and political guidance on all seven SDGs under discussion as well as on the voluntary national reviews and cross-cutting issues.

Discussions were rich and meaningful. We have heard about the state of our world which is still very much wrought with poverty and inequalities within and among countries. But we have also heard that we can reverse this trend through sustained economic growth and sustainable use of natural resources as well as through social inclusion and providing social protection.

We have heard from the Secretary-General that the 2030 Agenda is an agenda that seeks to promote fair globalization aiming at leaving no one



**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**  
17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

[facebook.com/UNECOSOC](https://www.facebook.com/UNECOSOC)

[twitter.com/UNECOSOC](https://twitter.com/UNECOSOC)

[youtube.com/UNECOSOC](https://www.youtube.com/UNECOSOC)



# ECOSOC

United Nations Economic and Social Council

## TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE LIVES

behind, eradicating poverty and creating conditions for people to regain their trust not only in political systems but also in multilateral forums and international organisations like the UN. He also briefly but eloquently highlighted how the UN development system will be reforming in order to better support countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

I am sure you will agree with me that the HLPF has succeeded in adding value to the discussions held in other fora that deal with specific sectoral issues. It has done this by looking at interlinkages, cross-cutting issues and trade-offs in all SDG sessions. A call for an even stronger commitment to partnerships and cooperation as a critical means to ensure implementation of the Agenda was heard both at the official meetings and at the Business forum and the Partnership Exchange that gathered around a thousand participants including very strong presence from business sector.

We also heard from the main messages of the Regional Forums on Sustainable Development (RFSD) how the forums had enabled a critical nexus between the national and global levels.

And most importantly, we have heard from 43 countries who presented their voluntary national reviews. I commend all of them for their presentations but above all for what they have accomplished at the national level.

They all demonstrated and emphasized the importance of political will and equipping institutions to implement the 2030 Agenda. They showed the need for evidence and science based decisions in defining



# ECOSOC

United Nations Economic and Social Council

## TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE LIVES

policies and strategies and the importance of reliable and disaggregated data to leave no one behind.

All underlined the need for economic growth, but at the same time emphasized the need to put measures in place to protect the most vulnerable and to ensure social inclusion and reduce inequalities including through the empowerment of women and girls and the sustainable use of natural resources.

All underlined that means of implementation are essential and that domestic and international resource mobilization is key. It was emphasised that countries in special situations require special assistance through concessional financing, north-south and south-south cooperation.

All stressed the need for the engagement of the whole of government and society. The promotion of partnerships was highlighted as there could be no implementation.

This is all very encouraging and with nineteen countries already expressing their will to present next year, I am confident that leaving my successor, the next President of ECOSOC, will also preside over a vibrant forum where like this year we will have unprecedented multistakeholder engagement and high interest to be involved at all levels, both at formal meetings and side events. We might even have more than the 147 side events that took place this year.

Let me end my remarks by expressing my sincere gratitude to all the ministers, the Secretary-General and principals of UN agencies, funds and programmes who had very fruitful and animated discussions during



**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**  
17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

[facebook.com/UNECOSOC](https://facebook.com/UNECOSOC)

[twitter.com/UNECOSOC](https://twitter.com/UNECOSOC)

[youtube.com/UNECOSOC](https://youtube.com/UNECOSOC)



# ECOSOC

United Nations Economic and Social Council

## TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE LIVES

the luncheon that I have organized today.

I also extend my sincere thanks to my fellow Bureau Members, Vice Presidents from Chile, Czech Republic, Germany and Pakistan for their staunch support and dedication to make the HLPF a success. Let me also thank all of you who participated at the HLPF, from Member States to all stakeholders. My thanks also to the Secretariat who have supported this meeting, both substantively and organizationally, to interpreters and technicians who worked overtime to ensure smooth running of the meeting. And finally let me thank my own team who worked hard in supporting me in my work.

And to wrap up on a light note, the excitement caused by the fire alarm yesterday, certainly gave this year's HLPF a first in shaking things up a little. But all is well that ends well. And this meeting is really ending on a high note. I wish you well as you travel to your various destinations.

I thank you.



**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**  
17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

[facebook.com/UNECOSOC](https://www.facebook.com/UNECOSOC)

[twitter.com/UNECOSOC](https://twitter.com/UNECOSOC)

[youtube.com/UNECOSOC](https://www.youtube.com/UNECOSOC)