



Closing remarks by Ambassador Munir Akram, President of the Economic and Social Council and Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the UN at the Financing for Development Forum

New York, April 15, 2021

Colleagues and Excellencies,

The draft outcome document which we have adopted will be transmitted by the Economic and Social Council to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development convened under the auspices of the Council as part of the procedural report of the 2021 ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development follow up.

The Forum has thus concluded its consideration of Agenda Item 3. I now invite the Forum to turn to Agenda Item 4 entitled “Adoption of the Report”. The draft procedural report has contained in document E/FFDF/2021/L2 contains information on the organizational aspects as well as the opening meeting of the Forum. It will be further updated by the Secretariat in close consultation with me in my capacity as President of the Council and issued as a full procedural report of the Forum’s meetings.

The Forum has thus concluded its consideration of Agenda Item 4 as well as all other items on this agenda.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,



Let me just say in conclusion that we have heard a number of statements in explanation of position about the outcome document and delegations have stated their national concerns with regards to the content of the declaration.

I would not like this meeting to end without recognizing the value and importance of this outcome document and I would like to, in particular, thank what the co-facilitators the distinguished Ambassadors of Fiji and the Netherlands for their outstanding work, hard work, and diligence with which they have addressed the outcome document. It is certainly an ambitious document and we have covered a lot of ground as has been mentioned.

The issue of the vaccine is, of course, an immediate and urgent problem. We will be having a special meeting of the Council tomorrow on the whole vaccine issue and I hope that we will have full participation for members in that special meeting which is important.

We have covered a lot of ground; we have discussed in this document the issue of debt, the issue of creation and reallocation of SDRs, concessional finance, we have explored new avenues for innovative financing, we have spoken about the mobilization of public and private investment in infrastructure, and we have also addressed illicit financial flows and taxation, digital cooperation, e-commerce, and related issues.

Above all, I think the message that comes through this document is that the global recovery from the COVID pandemic must be undertaken urgently and comprehensively and should restore us on the path of sustainable development towards the SDGs, the Paris



climate goals, and other goals that we have all endorsed. And unless we are not able to make this transition from recovery to development in a way that does not exacerbate the divergences between countries and within countries, we could see a grave international crisis facing the international community.

I believe that international solidarity is essential to avoid that grave scenario that could arise if countries face economic collapse and social chaos. It is my hope, therefore, that this outcome document will serve as a foundation on which we can build further and enhance the level of our agreement on the international actions that are required to achieve the goals to which we all subscribe.

I thank you very much for your participation in this Forum and I would like, in particular, to thank our Deputy Secretary General for attending this session.

I, hereby, declare closed the 2021 Session of the Economic and Social Council Forum on Financing for Development follow-up.

Ends