



OPENING REMARKS

BY

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PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COUNCIL (ECOSOC)**

AT

**EXPERT GROUP MEETING OF THE MULTI-STAKEHOLDER
ADVISORY GROUP ON THE 2022 ECOSOC PARTNERSHIP FORUM**

**15 DECEMBER 2021
09:00 HOURS**

VIRTUAL MEETING

Please check against delivery.

**Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. I am very pleased to open this important Expert Group Meeting today. Let me start by thanking you all for accepting the invitation to join this Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Group, that will advise me and the ECOSOC Bureau on the preparations for the 2022 ECOSOC Partnership Forum.
2. Having already dedicated their enormous time and effort as Co-Facilitators of the mandating resolution, I am particularly grateful to my dear colleagues the Permanent Representatives of Austria and Senegal for accepting to contribute further and serve as Ex Officio members and thus assist in accurately ascertaining the legislative intent of the General Assembly.
3. Allow me to also thank the United Nations Foundation and UN DESA for their support in organizing this two-day meeting.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. For our societies to recover from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we need bold leadership from, and partnerships between all actors and sectors of society. We need to recover

from the pandemic in a more inclusive and fair way, guided by the Sustainable Development Goals as an overarching framework for our actions.

5. In accordance with the recent General Assembly Resolution 75/290A on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council, the ECOSOC Partnership Forum will be held on **2 February 2022**. It will be an important opportunity to galvanize Member States and a wide range of other non-state stakeholders in an interactive and inclusive manner around the upcoming work of the ECOSOC and the HLPF at the start of the New Year.
6. As over **20 experts and leaders** representing stakeholders across different sectors, I look forward to hearing your views and expectations on the scope and thematic focus of the Forum, and your ideas and suggestions on how we could mobilize stakeholders from all over the world to contribute to the discussions in an interactive and engaging manner.
7. I also hope to hear from you about innovative strategies that consider the interlinked nature of the SDGs and how we can support an enabling environment for partnerships at all levels to strengthen interlinkages among Goals and increase benefits in several areas.

Dear Colleagues,

8. Multi-stakeholder engagement is a central tenet of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
9. The upcoming Partnership Forum will be an important opportunity for all of us to recall this commitment, to share good practices and proactively promote new initiatives that deliver on the ambition, complexity and breath of the SDGs.
10. It will be an important input to the ECOSOC Coordination Segment and other Forums and Segments of ECOSOC.
11. It will also contribute to the discussions at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which needs to send a strong message on recovery through achievement of SDGs.
12. I count on your expertise, support and creativity to make this renewed ECOSOC Partnership Forum a success.
13. I wish you all a fruitful and productive meeting.

I thank you for your kind attention.