

## **OPENING REMARKS**

**H.E. Mr. Oh Joon**  
**President of ECOSOC**

**2016 High-level Political Forum**  
Opening Session

New York, UN HQ (TCC)  
11 July 2016, 10:00

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Mr. Wu hongbo, Under-Secretary-General for UN Economic and Social Affairs

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year's session is of critical importance for our common future, as it is the first meeting of HLPF after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The 2030 Agenda provides us with a global blueprint for action to end poverty and build an inclusive, sustainable, and prosperous world.

The defining pledge of Agenda is that no one will be left behind. It is therefore no coincidence that "Leaving No One

Behind” is also the chosen theme for this year’s High-level Political Forum.

In the next few days, we will have the opportunity to explore ways to achieve this overarching objective through the prism of the 17 SDGs. We will assess where we stand in year one of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

We will focus on how to enhance national ownership around the Sustainable Development Goals; how to mainstream SDGs in development plans and integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development; and how to address challenges in mobilising means of implementation.

Discussions will also take place around the promotion of the science-policy interface and how to harness science, innovation and technology for advancing the SDGs.

At the same time, we will assess progress on ensuring that the 2030 Agenda delivers for countries in special situations and facing specific challenges, such as Small Islands Developing States, LDCs, LLDCs and those in conflict and post-conflict situations as well as middle-income countries.

The regional perspective in putting the 2030 Agenda into action will also be explored.

The three-day ministerial segment of the HLPF will offer an opportunity for the main messages of the HLPF to be conveyed to ministers and other high-level participants.

Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,

For the future of the 2030 Agenda and its long-term success, the Forum's role as the central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs is extremely important.

At this session of the HLPF, we will be charting our direction forwards in new and innovative ways to ensure the Forum's substantive contribution to the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

First, we will do that by listening to the national reviews including challenges and gaps encountered by the twenty-two volunteering countries from all regions of the world at varying development levels.

I firmly believe that exchanging countries' experiences and best practices not only benefit individual member states but also the long-term implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Second, we are committed to going beyond business-as-usual approaches to bring about the desired results. To this end, countries have been encouraged to employ various ways to structure their national reviews, based on their own views and preferences and to share lessons learned.

Third, Forum will also consider and benefit from the annual progress report on the Sustainable Development Goals prepared by the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the United Nations system, as well as inputs from ECOSOC functional commissions and other intergovernmental bodies and platforms.

Fourth, building on the path of inclusiveness and transparency, we will engage major groups and other stakeholders in the discussions and consider the reports on their contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This will continue to be an integral part of our deliberations in the future.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are all in this together to ensure a sustainable future for all of us.

A strong Forum means faster progress towards the attainment of the 17 ambitious and indivisible sustainable development goals towards inclusive, equitable, and prosperous societies for all.

The experience gained from this HLPF session will be invaluable in the development of subsequent sessions and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. As such, it is a time for us to strengthen our political commitment and to empower the HLPF in fulfilling its mandates.

I wish you good and productive meetings in the next two weeks.

Thank you.