President of the Economic and Social Council,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Participants and Delegates,

1. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Sustainable Development Goals is our commitment, to creating an ideal world.

2. It is a rallying point, for all of humanity to work in concert... in solidarity... and ensure that no one is left behind.

3. However, half-way to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, our world is in trouble. Only 12% of targets are on track.
4. Equally alarming, some of the targets are regressing from the baseline we have set in 2015.

5. ECOSOC thus provide a vital platform, to allows us to come together, to work in unison, to reaching our 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

6. ECOSOC immense wealth of knowledge and expertise, together with the UN system entities, can support countries in their efforts to achieve the SDGs, and to reach the furthest behind.

7. Through collaboration and coordination, ECOSOC enables us, to explore ways to meet the challenges on achieving SDGs, and respond to the impacts of the multiple crises, with risk-informed, integrated, and transformative policies and actions.

Excellencies,

8. In February, I had the honour of chairing the Coordination Segment of ECOSOC.... bringing together Member States, ECOSOC functional commissions and expert bodies, UN regional commissions, specialized agencies, and United Nations funds and programmes.
9. Our aim was to promote **accelerated recovery**, address the **lingering impacts** of the COVID-19 **pandemic**, and achieve the **necessary transformations** to realize the **2030 Agenda and the SDGs**.

10. Allow me to **share some key points**, that emerged from the coordination segment namely -- **interlinkages, self-evaluation, and concreteness**.

11. **First on Interlinkages**: The pandemic and its ongoing challenges continually remind us of their **inter-connectedness**.

12. They can only be addressed through **interlinked solutions, tools and initiatives**. To achieve this, **we need to**:

   - **Break down persistent silos**, to fully **unleash** tools and transformative initiatives;
   - **Resolve critical bottlenecks in key areas**, such as **data, digital technologies, effective institutions and financing** - to multiply efforts to advance **implementation of** all the Goals;
   - **Foster international cooperation and solidarity**; and
   - **Enhance coherence and coordination**, between ECOSOC, the UN system, and the international financial institutions.

13. **Second, Self-evaluation**: This mid-point of the 2030 Agenda is a key moment to **reflect, evaluate and act**, to create an **enabling and**
conducive environment, for implementation of the 2030 Agenda in its entirety.

14. People-centered policy design and decision-making, supported by an inclusive and coordinated multilateralism, and effective global partnership are crucial.

15. I encourage you, in the coming days of this high-level political forum on sustainable development, to address the following questions:

- Have we appropriately addressed the development challenges faced by people on the ground?
- Have our efforts been sufficiently agile and resilient, in this post-pandemic world?
- Have we taken an inclusive approach, integrating risk, emerging challenges, and opportunities, such as disaster risks, climate change and digital transformation, into our policy design, decision making, and concrete actions?
- Does the current institutional framework, at all levels, have the capacity and ability, to mobilize adequate resources including finance, and to foster trust and effective development policies?

16. The VNR is an important pillar of this self-evaluation. We have to use this opportunity, to conduct a truly honest review, identifying gaps and challenges, as well as support needed, to bring the SDGs back on track.
17. **Third, Concreteness:** I cannot **over-emphasize** the need for **scaling up** concrete, transformative actions to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

18. This is crucial for the recovery, addressing other crises, and getting the 2030 Agenda **back on track**.

19. During the Coordination Segment we heard **very good**, concrete, tangible, specific, and context-sensitive practices and actions.

20. This year we **took the initiative to compile** these “concrete and transformative policies and actions” of the UN system, to be **incorporated** as an annexed to the ECOSOC President’s Summary of the 2023 HLPF.

21. The annex contains **more than 105 policies and initiatives from 50 bodies and entities**.

22. I encourage you to go through the annex, **as they could serve, as a valuable resource for enhancing collaboration** among Member States, and the ECOSOC system for the attainment of the SDGs.
Excellencies,

23. The ECOSOC Coordination Segment this year, has shown that transformation is possible through, **concrete and transformative policies and actions.**

24. We must **seize**, the upcoming **SDG Summit in September**, and other **high-level meetings**, to **translate our actions** into the transformations required to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs.

25. This year is a **“judgement day” in our commitment to achieving the ideal world we aim to create.**

Thank you.