

Statement by Ambassador Navtej Sarna, Additional Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, at the Special Ministerial Meeting of ECOSOC on September 24, 2012

Mr. President,

I thank you for organizing this Special Ministerial meeting of the ECOSOC.

We are witnessing unprecedented and daunting economic, social and development challenges. Globalisation has magnified their impact on countries and communities further.

The global economic crisis continues to be a matter of deep concern. Poverty, unemployment, food and energy insecurity and environmental degradation further compound our problems. These are issues that require a coordinated and coherent global response.

In such a situation, the role of ECOSOC in responding effectively to new and emerging challenges assumes far greater salience. It is a principal body of the UN for policy review and dialogue on social-economic issues.

Over the years, this Council has played an important role in advancing a holistic and coordinated approach to global economic and social development taking into account the inter-relatedness of the different goals and targets of major UN conferences. It is also the central mechanism of the UN for the coordination of the United Nations system and supervision of its subsidiary bodies.

Mr. President,

The Rio+20 Conference has laid out a comprehensive sustainable development agenda. We must now get down to its implementation.

The Rio+20 outcome envisages a key role for ECOSOC in achieving a balanced integration of the three dimensions of the sustainable development.

We must work to strengthen the ECOSOC as provided by the RIO Outcome for integrated and coordinated follow up on all the major UN Conferences and Summits in the economic, social and environmental fields.

However, for this to happen, reform of the working methods and agenda of the ECOSOC is most essential. The Council must undertake concrete steps to avoid duplication of work with other organs of the UN, streamline its oversight responsibilities, and impart cohesion and transparency in the functioning of its committees. In this regard, we look forward to the review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Council.

The reform is equally critical for achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 and developing a comprehensive Post 2015 Development Agenda, one that truly encompasses the overriding priority of developing countries to meet their basic socio-economic needs.

The Council has done a commendable job in following up on the MDGs. It must now leverage its coordination expertise and prepare itself to work closely with the proposed High Level Political Forum for follow up on the sustainable development goals.

Mr. President,

Addressing the deficit in global governance lies at the centre of the sustainable development agenda. This must be a priority on the agenda reform of the Council. In the present global economic context, there is a clear recognition that global economic governance needs a wide participation from developing countries especially in the decision making structures of the BWIs. We hope that the Council would play a proactive role in achieving this objective.

We deeply appreciate the recent high level policy dialogue the Council has been promoting with the international financial and trade institutions on current developments in the world economy.

Mr President,

We look forward to your leadership in strengthening ECOSOC for it to play a more effective role in meeting global development aspirations. You can count on our full support.

Thank You.

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