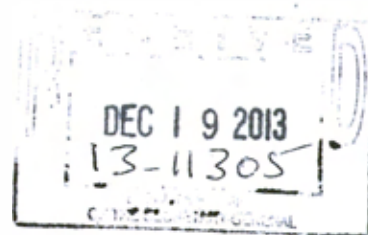


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Note to the Secretary-General

Adoption of the 2013 ECOSOC Ministerial Declaration

The Economic and Social Council yesterday unanimously adopted the 2013 Ministerial Declaration five months after the substantive session was adjourned in Geneva in July.

The central issue that delayed the consensus was to find a way to reflect the notion of realization of the right to self-determination of people living under foreign occupation. The G-77 and China were insisting to quote from last year's ECOSOC Ministerial Declaration that had a clear and unambiguous language on this issue. The United States was not inclined to import the agreed paragraphs from last year's Declaration.

The President of ECOSOC, fully supported by the Secretariat, undertook extensive consultations with the most interested delegations (US, Fiji as Chair of G-77, Palestine and Pakistan) and was able to find a compromise formula. He added a first operative paragraph into the 2013 Ministerial Declaration, which reaffirmed the 2012 Ministerial Declaration. This reaffirmation helped in reinforcing operative paragraph 9, which stressed the need to remove obstacles to the full realization of all rights of people living under foreign occupation.

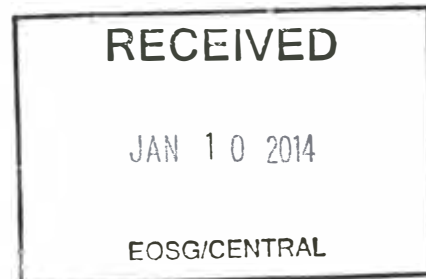
The adoption was followed by an explanatory statement by the President and interpretive statements by Fiji (G-77 and China), Pakistan and the US. While they all had their spins around this compromise, they acknowledged that the reference to "all rights" included the right to self-determination.

Bolivia expressed its reservations on all references to "green economy" in the Declaration. Notwithstanding these interpretations and reservations, unanimous adoption of the Ministerial Declaration was hailed by everyone as a success for ECOSOC in positioning itself as a central platform for pursuing the sustainable development agenda in the coming years.

WU Hongbo

ODSG	DSG	SG
For DSG's approval <input type="checkbox"/>	For SG's approval <input type="checkbox"/>	Approved <input type="checkbox"/>
For DSG's attention <input type="checkbox"/>	For SG's attention <input type="checkbox"/>	Noted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
For DSG's information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For SG's information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Seen <input type="checkbox"/>
For DSG's signature <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For SG's signature <input type="checkbox"/>	Signed <input type="checkbox"/>
Subject: <i>3-1</i> Note from Mr. Wu - Adoption of the 2013 ECOSOC Ministerial Declaration	Date: <i>2/1/2014</i> Comment (if applicable):	Date: <i>02/Jan/14</i>
Seen in ODSG by:		
Date:		
Log number: 13-11305		

WU Hongbo
18 December 2013



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