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Note to the Secretary-General

Partnering for Innovative Solutions for Sustainable Development

The Economic and Social Council Partnerships Forum on “Partnering for Innovative Solutions for Sustainable Development” was held on 24 April, as part of the preparations for the 2013 Annual Ministerial Review (AMR). It attracted over 350 senior representatives from a broad array of stakeholders. Your participation in the Forum and your leadership in promoting partnerships were highly appreciated by speakers. Your announcement regarding the proposal to establish a UN Partnerships Facility also evoked keen interest among the participants.

This year’s Forum had two distinct features. Firstly, policy dialogues that focused on how partnerships could facilitate the process of leveraging science, technology and innovation for addressing sustainable development challenges. The transformational nature of information technologies (IT) was underscored and ideas were explored as to how the IT can be a catalyst for promoting partnerships. Secondly, the Forum for the first time organized “partnership clinics” targeted on specific challenges. The clinic on “Mobiles for Midwives” focused on how to ensure that every birth is recorded and what kind of partnerships are required to devise an effective platform for this purpose. The plan is to submit a white paper to the Every Woman Every Child Alliance, the Health Alliance and the next Broadband Commission meeting in September. The participants of the clinic on Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) called for a political declaration and the appointment of a Special Envoy on NTDs.

The Forum was preceded by a special policy dialogue held on 23 April, which focused on “*Engagement of philanthropic organizations in the post-2015 setting*”. The purpose of the event was to promote a substantive dialogue among foundations – and with Member States and others – on: (a) features of a post-2015 development agenda; (b) promoting the uptake of innovative and risk-taking practices spearheaded by foundations by a broader group of development stakeholders; and (c) strengthening coordination among foundations to avoid a duplication of efforts. Participants agreed on the great benefit of more systematic collection and information-sharing on the work of foundations. They invited the ECOSOC Development Cooperation Forum to play a role in this area as well as to promote a discussion on how a renewed global partnership for development could engage philanthropic organizations.

The two events have once again demonstrated that ECOSOC can serve as an effective platform for nurturing and coordinating partnerships. In this regard, the Department stands ready to facilitate the implementation of the UN Partnership Facility.



WU Hongbo
29 April 2013

cc: Deputy Secretary-General

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