H.E. Mr. Martin Sajdik, President of ECOSOC and Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations in New York

Thank you very much,

Mr. Under-Secretary,
Mr. Moderator,
Dear President,
Dear Foreign Minister,
Dear President of the General Assembly,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I had a prepared speech, and I excuse myself to the translators. Now you can put away my prepared speech because after the PGA spoke, what I would have said would have been a sort of repetition, so allow me to now speak a little bit more freely.

On the issue of what ECOSOC can do for LLDCs and specifically in the post-2015 development agenda:

First, let’s refer to the goals that have already been adopted by the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. And I would like to pick out of these 17 goals – and they are all important for LLDCs – but let me pick three of them that I believe are truly important and also relevant to what we have been discussing here.

(1) There is a goal on inclusive and sustainable industrial development. We always speak about the diversification of LLDCs and about industrialization creating jobs for the young people in the LLDCs. I think this is an issue that we really have to devote all of our work to. We have a goal for this, and we have to use this goal with an inclusive, sustainable industrial development. We have UNIDO here, and UNIDO will be devoting its work exactly to this issue. And the Director-General of UNIDO, Mr. Li, is really behind this goal, and all the work of UNIDO will concentrate on the implementation of this. So what I would say is: It is important for the LLDCs to see the potential of this goal, to work with this goal, to make this goal live, and to make this goal live for them and also through the whole UN system. We in ECOSOC can then look into the follow-up and the implementation.

(2) The other goal that I think is important is on sustainable energy. This goal, I believe and we have talked about, is also so important for LLDCs. It is developing sustainable energy in order to quit their dependence on fossil fuels. Here we have this initiative, Sustainable Energy for All, under the leadership of Kandeh Yumkella, who has been
Director-General of UNIDO before, and he, coming from Sierra Leone, definitely knows the needs of developing countries. And even though his country is not a landlocked country, he knows the issues and necessities of LLDCs. So it is again up to the LLDCs and also the UN structures to really concentrate on these issues and to make them work for the LLDCs as well as to see that they are implemented.

(3) There is one goal, and it is goal 16, on good governance. The President of the General Assembly just gave an example of what can be good governance – if you reduce the transport time from Mombasa to Kampala from 17 days to four days. Honestly, I believe eventually one can cut it down to two days, and this should be the goal. This is how you [President of GA] described it, as a question of good governance. It is also an issue of the functioning institutions within a country. Yesterday in my speech I spoke about the necessity to fight corruption, and this is also a target under this goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals. Here, I believe, especially for institution building, LLDCs need the support of the international donors and the UN system, and also need the vigilance of the UN bodies to ensure that these policies are implemented.

I know I picked only three of these 17 goals, but I personally believe that they really pertain to LLDCs. Now I have already mentioned that the question of implementation. ECOSOC together with the General Assembly every four years will have the high-level political forum in charge of reviewing and monitoring the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. We still have to work out a mechanism of how this will truly function. We will have to wait for the report of the Secretary General and the issue of the implementation monitoring review will be certainly a very important part of this report, and we will still have to do a lot of fine tuning in the months to come. Anyway, the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) meets under the auspices of ECOSOC, and it will be the duty of the bureau of ECOSOC and its members to look at whether the special needs of LLDCs, and SIDs as well, are taken care of. I will look into that there will be a special panel dedicated to the question of how to deal with LLDCs and of how to deal with SIDs and their special needs at the HLPF. I will be president of ECOSOC until July of next year so I will be in charge of the next HLPF, and I will look into that this issue will be taken care of, and I hope that then all those who succeed me follow up as well.

Another issue with ECOSOC is the issue of partnerships. ECOSOC is the gateway for the multi-stakeholders into the UN system. And perhaps Amina [Mohammed] will also touch on this topic later on. We will have to work on how to bring in these partners into the post-2015 Agenda – the business sector, academia, NGOs, philanthropic organizations and many others. We have to make sure that these bodies are supportive of the post-2015 Agenda. It is also the responsibility of ECOSOC to direct them in their work and cooperation toward LLDCs and toward SIDs. And I can say that for as long as I am here, there will be a special focus on LLDCs in these partnerships, as I believe that these are very important.

Let me finally mention that ECOSOC, through its many subsidiary bodies, for instance the Statistical Commission, will have to work on the standardization of data. We always speak about what is the database. So again it will be an issue of how the member countries and
ECOSOC itself will be working on the standardization of data and the Statistical Commission is certainly one of the ideal bodies to do that.

Last but not least, I will, as I have with the conference in Samoa on SIDs, do a debriefing at ECOSOC in New York of this conference, so that our colleagues are aware of the results of this conference.

Thank you very much.