



For immediate release to the press, 26 April 2015

Statement by ECOSOC President Martin Sajdik on the Earthquake in Nepal

I am deeply saddened by the loss of life and the destruction inflicted upon the people of Nepal by this massive earthquake. At this time of tragedy, our hearts and condolences go immediately to all who have lost family members and to those who were injured in this disaster.

The full scope of the disaster is not yet known but we all know that its cost goes well beyond the damage to property and has immense economic and social impact on Nepali society. As a “least developed country”, Nepal can ill afford these setbacks on its path to sustainable development.

As we prepare for the September Summit on the post-2015 development agenda, I call again on world leaders to take the necessary steps towards making disaster risk reduction a critical component of the post-2015 development agenda. We also need to ensure that our mitigation efforts are more effective and we minimize the impact of such disasters.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, adopted recently at the United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, stressed that: “It is urgent and critical to anticipate, plan for and reduce disaster risk in order to more effectively protect persons, communities and countries”.

At this time, our primary duties are three fold: first, we need to assess the damage, and second, we need to ensure that a global humanitarian assistance is delivered urgently to Nepal. This assistance and support will be indispensable in the days, weeks and months ahead. Third, the development gains are not lost. I call on Nepal’s partners, United Nations humanitarian and development organizations, the international community as a whole, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector to quickly provide assistance to the country. And, also focus on its long-term recovery.

The Economic and Social Council reaffirms its solidarity with the people of Nepal and pays tribute to their immense resilience and courage. Through coordination and cooperation, we can all mobilize our efforts to help Nepal in this time of great need and for its path to sustainable development.