



PASSATION DE MANDAT - VICE-PRESIDENCE DE L'ECOSOC

New York, le 23 juillet 2020, 10 h

Ambassadeur P. Baeriswyl, Représentante Permanente de la Suisse aux Nations-Unies

Your Excellency, Mr President of the ECOSOC,
Excellencies,
Dear colleagues,

First I would like to wholeheartedly congratulate H.E. the Ambassador of Pakistan on his election as the new President of ECOSOC. I am delighted to have the privilege of serving as Vice-President of ECOSOC and WEOG representative in the Bureau for the next 12 months. Together with my team, I am very much looking forward to working with the President, fellow members of the Bureau, member states and non-member states of ECOSOC, as well as the secretariat towards a successful 2021 session, despite the obvious challenges that lie ahead of us.

Let me also take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Presidency under the able leadership of H. E. Mona Juul, the Bureau members and their teams and the secretariat for a heroic ECOSOC session, of which I have been able to witness the last, quite exhausting, couple of weeks. Your determination and hard work to conclude this session successfully are truly inspiring!

We have been experiencing unprecedented and complex disruptions lately. The vulnerability and interdependence of our societies have been brought to light. The Covid-19 pandemic is shaking up the world with dramatic health and socio-economic consequences that may last for a long time.

In recent months and as the UN celebrates its 75th anniversary, the UN system has spared no efforts to alleviate the suffering of the most vulnerable and reduce the impact of the crisis. We commend those efforts. Switzerland is committed to supporting the effective functioning of the multilateral system both at the political level and in the field, particularly in the current crisis.

While the 2030 Agenda is becoming deeply embedded in the UN's DNA, we only have 10 years left to achieve the SDGs. We must speed up their implementation, while absorbing the setbacks caused by the pandemic and its consequences. The ECOSOC plays a key role in promoting the three dimensions of sustainable development, as well as well-coordinated humanitarian responses. We would like the ECOSOC, and particularly the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, to remain the central and multi-stakeholder platform of the UN system allowing us to have a substantial and transparent exchange on the realization of our commitment to achieve the SDGs.

In view of the urgency of the global challenges that affect all countries without exception, we need a long-term and holistic approach to combat poverty, alleviate the suffering of the most vulnerable, eliminate inequalities and all sorts of discrimination, promote peaceful, just and inclusive societies, and reduce at the same time the impact of climate change and environmental degradation.

My country supports the implementation of the reforms launched by the Secretary-General aimed at strengthening the efficiency and effectiveness of the UN so that it can meet the challenges of our time. Switzerland considers that the ECOSOC and in particular the Operational Activities for Development Segment is crucial to ensure the follow-up of the 2016 QCPR and the resolution on the repositioning of the UN Development System.

Mr President, dear colleagues, Switzerland is a proud member of ECOSOC since the beginning of this year. We have always been among the defenders of a substantive coordinating role of this venerable body for the UN system, and you and the whole Bureau can count on our unwavering support in your efforts to ensure that the ECOSOC and its many functional commissions and other organs can maintain their essential functions and conduct their important business in these challenging times.

Thank you for your attention.