



**-CLOSING STATEMENT-**

**H.E. Mr. Néstor Osorio, President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**

**Youth Forum**

*“Shaping tomorrow’s innovators:*

*Leveraging science, technology, innovation and culture for today’s youth”*

**27 March 2013**

**United Nations Headquarters, New York**

**Mr. Alhendawi and Mr. Wu,**

**Thank you.**

I would also like to thank Mr. Ghonim, for his very inspiring address. You have given us much to think about as we tackle the complex questions on our agenda today.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**A productive day has reached its end. Before we part, a final word of thanks is in order:**

- **To our energetic moderators, for making this 2013 Youth ECOSOC possible;**
- **To our insightful keynote speakers and panelists, for their thoughtful commentaries;**



- **To you, our tremendous audience for your excellent comments and questions;**

- **And, not least, to all our partners who have been very supportive from the early stage of preparation until today.**

**What have we learned? The promise of science, technology, innovation, and culture, we saw, remains very real.**

**Yet so too are the hurdles impeding progress: failing schools; labour markets which limits access to the young people and the overall gravity of the global economic situation.**

**Sparking innovation, learning and creativity, from which science, technology, and culture all naturally flow, is the path to the future. Governments, for their part, must do a better job getting the incentives right – rewarding risk-taking, establishing an enabling environment for the equal access to opportunities for all, securing property rights, and keeping their countries open to the world.**

**Ladies and gentlemen,  
Young people,**

**"We were greatly inspired by the views expressed here today and by your passion and vision for the future. We also need to hear directly from young people in other regions of the world. We need to bring their voices into global debate and decision-making.**

**I would like to propose the following: beginning in the Fall of 2013, ECOSOC Youth Fora should be held in the various regions. These messages should in**

turn be brought to this Annual Forum - which should be expanded to two days to accommodate the input from the regions.

Indeed, the ECOSOC Youth Forum should now become part of the formal agenda of the Council. The regional ECOSOC Youth fora could become a platform through which the views of young people could be sought on the post 2015 Development Agenda. I rely on your support."

[The Youth Envoy may make similar proposals in his closing address – if so, the President may wish to endorse these proposals]

Before we adjourn I would like to invite you all to participate actively in our social media platforms. On Facebook at [www.facebook.com/unecosoc](http://www.facebook.com/unecosoc) ; and on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/unecosoc](http://www.twitter.com/unecosoc) (Hashtag #InnovateYourFuture), and bring your support to our Thunderclap campaign ([www.thunderclap.it/InnovateYourFuture](http://www.thunderclap.it/InnovateYourFuture)).

Dear friends, we need to continue our efforts well into the future with the same enthusiasm we have seen here today. Tackling these challenges will brighten our future.

Let's empower youth to sustain the planet. Share your voice before decision-makers and world leaders who will get together for the annual meeting of the United Nations Economic and Social Council in Geneva this July.

The Economic and Social Council stands ready to lend a helping hand.

Thank you all for coming – and good evening.