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**His Excellency Ambassador Oh Joon
President of the Economic and Social Council**

**International Youth Day Event 2015
ECOSOC Chamber, UNHQ, New York
12 August 2015**

Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you Under Secretary-General Wu for your introduction, and thank you Secretary-General for such inspiring remarks, which I believe, not only speak to all the young people here, but to everyone working to ensure the success of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

I would like to join all of you in celebrating the International Youth Day, including those watching online.

As the Secretary-General has pointed out, 2015 is a momentous year for the United Nations, and the next 15 years will be momentous for the planet and the people of the world.

Young people's engagement in the lead-up to the 2030 agenda for sustainable development has been crucial. However, it will be the continued and enhanced

they are the key to sustainable and equitable economies, societies and development.

As such