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**MESSAGE TO THE EVENT: “ANCHORING MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY
WITH THE SDGS”**

New York, 27 September 2015

Delivered by Mr. Wu Hongbo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

It is a pleasure to greet all the participants in this important event.

The global mobilization in support of the Millennium Development Goals generated the most successful anti-poverty effort in history. By focusing political efforts on reducing extreme poverty, the MDGs helped to lift more than a billion people out of despair.

The 2030 Agenda builds on this legacy, recognizing that eradicating poverty in all its dimensions remains the greatest global challenge we face. It aims to end extreme poverty by 2030, and recognizes that poverty is not merely the lack of income or assets, but is also about access to social protection, decent employment, improved sanitation, quality education and health services, and about living without fear and having opportunities to build a better future. The Agenda also seeks to tackle systemic barriers such as inequality, inadequate infrastructure, negative economic trends and armed conflict.

The latest estimates of the UNDP Multidimensional Poverty Index reveal that almost 1.5 billion people in 91 developing countries are living in poverty, with overlapping deprivations in education, health and living standards.

Our challenge, at the global, national and local levels, is to reduce these numbers and ensure lives of dignity for all. That means accurately tracking vulnerability, exclusion and other key variables. It means seizing the great potential of the data revolution to help us better measure poverty and get a full picture of its impacts. Only then will Governments, which will be in the driver’s seat of implementation, be able to determine and pursue their national priorities.

Toward that end, the United Nations Statistical Commission has created an Inter-agency Expert Group to develop an indicator framework for the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda at the global level. The Group is expected to share its thinking with us next Spring.

But even now, there is much we can do to help countries build the evidence base on which we can craft more effective policies to eradicate poverty and reach our overarching goal of leaving no one behind.

Please accept my best wishes for a successful event.