



**The President
of the
Economic and Social Council**

24 March 2023

Excellency,

I have the distinct honour to invite you to the 2023 session of the United Nations high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF), which will be convened from **10 to 14 July and 17 to 19 July 2023**, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), as well as to the final day of the high-level segment of ECOSOC on **20 July 2023**, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The three-day ministerial segment of the forum will be held from **17 to 19 July 2023**, jointly with the high-level segment of the Council.

This year marks the mid-point of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The SDG Summit, the HLPF under the auspices of the United Nations General Assembly, will be convened in September during the 2023 General Assembly high-level week. The Summit will bring together Heads of State and Government to carry out a comprehensive review of the state of the SDGs, respond to the impact of the multiple and interlocking crises facing the world, and provide political guidance on transformative and accelerated actions to achieve the goals by 2030.

The July HLPF will be served as a key preparatory event for the SDG Summit in September. It will help identify substantive priorities and generate political momentum for the Summit.

The theme of the HLPF is “Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels”. Ministers and other high-level participants will be able to discuss effective, inclusive and transformative measures to address the impacts of COVID-19 and the on-going crises on the SDGs while advancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at all levels.

The July HLPF will also conduct in-depth reviews of SDGs 6 on clean water and sanitation, 7 on affordable and clean energy, 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure, 11 on sustainable cities and communities, and 17 on partnerships for the Goals, as well as their inter-relations.

Forty countries will carry out Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) of their implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The European Union will also conduct a voluntary review.

All Permanent Representatives
and Permanent Observers
to the United Nations
New York

I wish to encourage Member States to be represented at ministerial level in the eight days of the HLPF and the high-level segment of ECOSOC. I look forward to the active participation of Ministers from all relevant fields of the SDGs and from finance and planning to share experiences and provide policy recommendations for further consideration at the SDG Summit.

There will be the opportunity for Member States, other participants, and major groups and other stakeholders to intervene in the course of the thematic sessions of the first days of the HLPF, as well as during the VNR sessions. In the ministerial segment, Ministers will also be able to speak in the general debate.

The general debate will focus on the theme “Building momentum towards the 2023 SDG Summit: Transformation for accelerating implementation of the SDGs”.

The programme of the forum is attached. I aim to limit the number of resource persons/panelists, so as to give enough time for interventions by Member States and stakeholders. I am also working with the Secretariat to ensure adequate participation of young people with relevant expertise and experience throughout the programme. The annotated programme and an information note for participants will be circulated in due course. The Secretariat’s concept note will be available at the 2023 HLPF website (<https://hlpf.un.org/2023>) along with short background notes for each session. The Secretariat will inform you when key documents are issued, such as the synthesis of intergovernmental contributions to the reviews of the HLPF which I encourage you to read.

The HLPF will be accompanied by side events, special events, VNR labs and exhibitions. Applications for side events and exhibitions will be opened in April at the 2023 HLPF website.

For further information, please contact Ms. Ling Wang (wang24@un.org) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

I look forward to the active participation of your Government at the HLPF and the high-level segment of ECOSOC and thank you for your support.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Lachezara Stoeva
President of ECOSOC