



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Theme: Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels

Monday, 10 July 2023

**Monday, 10 July 2023, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM, General Assembly Hall
(Overflow room: Conference Room 4)**

Opening

The theme for the 2023 United Nations high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) and ECOSOC is “**Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels**”.¹

The international situation has greatly changed since 2015 when the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted and since 2020 when the theme of the HLPF was decided. Progress towards most of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is off track. The world is grappling with severe financial, energy, food and humanitarian crises triggered by the geopolitical tension. These compound the continuing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the long-standing climate emergency, against the backdrop of a worsening macro-economic situation in many countries.

The 2023 HLPF will assess comprehensively the impacts of these interlinked crises on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and on all the SDGs. Participants will discuss policies and transformations needed to overcome the crises, make up the lost ground on the SDGs and shift the world on to a path to achieve the 2030 Agenda. The discussions will be guided by the continuing strong commitment to realizing the 2030 Agenda and reinforce international solidarity.

At the same time, the forum will place particular emphasis on trends and policies related to SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation; SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy; SDG 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure; SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals and their linkages to other Goals.

With 2023 marking the mid-point of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, the July 2023 HLPF and its preparations will make a key contribution to prepare for the SDG Summit to be held in September 2023 during the high-level week of the General Assembly. The Summit (which is the HLPF convened under the auspices of the General Assembly) will see Heads of State and Government to review the overall implementation of the 2030 Agenda since 2015 and provide political guidance and recommendations.

¹ GA resolution 75/290 B



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The July HLPF will thus be a pre-Summit event aiming to convene the Ministers from all sectors related to the SDGs, including planning, finance, trade, and the economy to seek the momentum and prepare from all aspects for the SDG Summit. The major groups and other stakeholders (MGOS) are also expected to participate in this all-out effort.

The 2023 HLPF will draw from the experience of the 39 countries conducting Voluntary National Reviews and the European Union's voluntary review. It will also hear from other countries and participants about the lessons they have learned on pursuing the 2030 Agenda in these difficult times.

Provisional agenda and documentation (E/HLPF/2023/1)

The HLPF will be informed by the Report of the Secretary-General (special edition) on "*Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: Towards a Rescue Plan for People and Planet*". It will also discuss the transformative policy recommendations of the 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR). The forum will also benefit from other important reports, as well as inputs from the functional commissions of ECOSOC and other intergovernmental bodies and forums.²

Chair:

- **H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva**, President of the Economic and Social Council

Opening remarks:

- **H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva**, President of the Economic and Social Council

Keynote and remarks:

- **Mr. Li Junhua**, Under-Secretary-General of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations (*Main messages from the Voluntary National Reviews*)
- **H.E. Mr. Arrmanatha Christiawan Nasir**, Vice President of ECOSOC (Indonesia) (*Messages from the ECOSOC system*)
- **Mr. Edward Ndopu**, SDG Advocate, youth representative

Monday, 10 July 2023, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM, General Assembly Hall

(Overflow room: Conference Room 4)

(Townhall meeting)

**Overcoming the crises, driving transformation for the SDGs,
and leaving no one behind**

² [Documentation | High-Level Political Forum 2023 \(un.org\)](#)



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(What is the scorecard on the SDGs amidst multiple crises half-way point to the 2030 Agenda? Are the responses to COVID-19, the food crisis and other crises helping to realize the 2030 Agenda and ensure no one is left behind? How can we bring about the transformations the SDGs require? What lessons have we learned?)

The COVID-19 pandemic and the multiple crises continue to threaten decades of progress made in development around the world. Three decades of steady progress in poverty reduction was reversed for the first time and hunger is rising. For the first time on record, the global Human Development Index declined two years in a row. Protracted conflicts around the world and the war in Ukraine continue to impact the food, energy, financial and economic crises, while increasing the humanitarian needs around the world. Estimates for world economic growth in 2023 are projected to be lower than expected earlier, with a sharp downturn in most developed economies and a worsening outlook in most developing countries. The impacts of the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution/waste have been intensifying. Against this backdrop, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development remains the guiding framework to overcome the crises, address the lingering impacts of the pandemic and achieve the transformations needed to realize an inclusive, sustainable, prosperous and resilient future for people and planet.

The session is envisioned to advance discussions on transformative policies and actions needed for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) ahead of the 2023 SDG Summit in September. The discussions could provide insights into developing long-term, risk-informed, inclusive and prevention-oriented strategies to improve people's capacities and well-being, through greater investments in health, education, social services, infrastructure, jobs, technologies and social protection, with a view to leave no one behind.

This session at the HLPF will have a townhall format. This means that the first speakers have been identified but any other participant can then intervene from the floor.

Proposed guiding questions:

- What in your view are the main challenges in assessing SDG progress and how can data capacity be improved to promote evidence-based decision making around the SDGs?
- Are the responses to COVID-19, the food and other crises helping to realize the 2030 Agenda and ensure that no one is left behind? How can recovery measures be more age, disability- and gender-responsive?
- What are transformative policies and initiatives that can accelerate recovery from the pandemic, advance accelerated actions to achieve the SDGs, step up climate action and leave no one behind? How can synergies be best maximized, and trade-offs minimized?
- How can governments, UN entities, civil society, private sector, academia and other stakeholders address the impact of disjointed policies accumulated over a life-course, and reset the trajectory towards equitable, inclusive and sustainable societies?
- How can we address the food security situation, including by building on the outcomes of the Secretary-General's Food Systems Summit, particularly in countries in special situations?

Chair:

- **H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva**, President of the Economic and Social Council



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Presentation:

- **Mr. Li Junhua**, Under-Secretary-General of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations, presentation of the Report of the Secretary-General (special edition) on “*Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: Towards a Rescue Plan for People and Planet*”.

(The speaking order in the meeting is thought of as to stimulate an interactive conversation rather than following protocol.)

Moderator:

- **Mr. Sherwin Bryce-Pease**, Bureau Chief & Correspondent, South African Broadcasting Corporation

Lead speakers:

Part 1:

- **Mr. Qu Dongyu**, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization
- **Ms. Catherine Mary Russell**, Executive Director of UNICEF
- **Ms. Mami Mizutori**, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and Head of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
- **Mr. Ovide Mercredi**, Ambassador of the International Longevity Centre Canada

Interventions of Ministers and other participants (3 minutes each)

Part 2:

- **Mr. Filippo Grandi**, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- **Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana**, Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Coordinator of UN Regional Commissions
- **Mr. Steve Macfeely**, Co-Chair of the Committee for the Chief Statisticians of the United Nations System, Director of Data and Analysis of WHO
- **Ms. Elham Yousefian**, Inclusive Humanitarian Action and Disaster Risk Reduction Advisor, International Disability Alliance (MGoS)

Interventions of Ministers and other participants (3 minutes each)

Monday, 10 July 2023, 3:00 PM-6:00 PM, Conference Room 4

SDGs in focus:

SDG 17 and interlinkages with other SDGs – Partnerships for the Goals

3:00 PM-4:30 PM, Conference Room 4

(Panel)

Financing our crisis response and investing in the SDGs



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(How can the SDG Summit build on the recommendations of the ECOSOC FFD Forum? What can we achieve at the SDG Summit and the GA dialogue on FFD in September 2023?)

The health, cost-of-living, geopolitical and climate crises have exacerbated inequalities within and between countries, and driven millions of people into poverty and food insecurity. The cascading effects of these global shocks have highlighted the urgent need for financing for development to be at the forefront of global efforts towards building back better, as SDG financing needs are growing, but development financing is not keeping pace.

The 2023 ECOSOC Financing for Development Forum follow-up (FfD Forum) zeroed in on key actions needed to respond to the multiple interlinked crises and increase investment towards the SDGs, echoing the Secretary-General's call for a SDG Stimulus to tackle the crippling debt, massively scale up affordable long-term financing for development and expand contingency financing to countries in need.

In preparation for the SDG Summit and the High-Level Dialogue on FfD in the fall, this session will build upon the FfD Forum takeaways to identify actions that need to be prioritized to shift away from a "business as usual" approach and to embrace bold, transformative change to ensure that recovery efforts are aligned with the overarching goal of leaving no one behind.

Proposed guiding questions:

- How to ensure the prioritization of investments in the most vulnerable communities, including women and girls, food insecure communities, people with disabilities, and marginalized groups?
- What can we do to enhance the capacities of developing countries to respond to humanitarian, food, economic, and climate crises? What role can the UN system play to support these efforts?
- How can we encourage that the allocation of concessional finance and crisis relief funds accounts for all dimensions of vulnerability and not merely national income?

Chair:

- **H.E. Mr. Maurizio Massari**, Vice President of ECOSOC (Italy)

Highlight:

- Highlights of the report of the Secretary-General (special edition) on progress towards the SDGs – SDG 17 on partnerships for the Goals
Ms. Yongyi Min, Statistics Division of UNDESA

Interactive panel discussion

Moderator:

- **Ms. Sarah Cliffe**, Executive Director, Center for International Cooperation, New York University



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Panellists:

- **Mr. Jay Collins**, Vice Chairman, Corporate & Investment Bank, Citi
- **Ms. Carola Mejía Silva**, Climate Finance Analyst, Red Latinoamericana por Justicia Económica y Social – LATINDADD
- **Mr. Jason Rosario Braganza**, African Forum and Network on Debt and Development, Kenya (MGoS)

Lead Discussants:

- **Ms. Mayada Adil**, Co-Founder of La Loupe Creative, Young Leader for the SDGs

Interventions of Ministers and other participants (3 minutes each)

Monday, 10 July 2023, 4:30 PM-6:00 PM, Conference Room 4

(Panel)

Science, technology and innovation: Triggering transformation and sustaining a science driven recovery

(Key Messages from the 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report. Learning from STI Forum, promoting partnerships on STI for transformation for the SDGs)

At the halfway point of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we are not on track to achieve the SDGs. Scientific evidence suggests that these goals are still attainable, but only through rapid and drastic action. Science, technology, and innovation (STI) can play a critical role in overcoming business-as-usual practices and to achieve these goals. This session will examine scientific evidence, strategies, and case studies to advance sustainability based on the findings of the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR); the 8th Multistakeholder Forum on Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI Forum); and other UN initiatives to promote partnerships in STI.

The Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) was requested by UN member states to inform the high-level political forum, and to strengthen the science-policy interface and provide a strong evidence-based instrument to support policymakers in promoting poverty eradication and sustainable development. The STI Forum was requested by the General Assembly to take place once a year to discuss science, technology and innovation cooperation around thematic areas for the implementation of the SDGs. Based on these and other recent and emerging research, experts will discuss key opportunities and challenges for accelerating the pace of sustainability transformation through policy, practice, and behaviour change.

Proposed guiding questions:

- Faced with multiple interlinking crises (pandemic, climate, economic instability, human conflict, etc.), what role can science play in addressing the high level of uncertainty about the future? What can be done to address distrust in science?



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- How can we harness the power of science, technology, and innovation to accelerate the pace of change for rapid transformation, rather than incremental advancement? What are some examples of transformative change, and what opportunities are there?
- From an STI perspective, what are some of the key lessons learned on what worked and what did not work, to meet the targets related to SDG 6 on water, SDG 7 on energy, SDG 9 on industry, and SDG 11 on sustainable cities? Taking into consideration the strategies that did not work to meet the SDG targets, how can we overcome barriers in the future?
- How can international cooperation be further strengthened, including North-South and South-South cooperation, to accelerate recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic? What are key opportunities to advance innovations created by and for the Global South?
- How can the scientific community better incorporate the perspectives and knowledge of underrepresented groups, including women and girls, indigenous and local communities, young people, and populations in vulnerable situations?

Chair:

- **H.E. Ms. Paula Narváez**, Vice President of ECOSOC (Chile)

Keynote/Presentation:

- **H.E. Mr. Thomas Woodroffe**, Co-Chair of the 2023 STI Forum, United Kingdom Ambassador to the UN Economic and Social Council (*Messages from the STI Forum*)

Interactive panel discussion

Moderator:

- **H.E. Ms. Mathu Joyini**, Co-Chair of the 2023 STI Forum, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations

Panellists:

- **Mr. José Ramón López-Portillo Romano**, Chairman of Q Element Ltd., Member of the United Nations Secretary-General's 10 Member Group for the Technology Facilitation Mechanism
- **Ms. Ana Cristina Amoroso das Neves**, Chair of the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development
- **Mr. Peter Gluckman**, President of the International Science Council

Lead Discussants:

- **Ms. Pamela Matson**, Goldman Professor of Environmental Studies in the Department of Earth System Science and Senior Fellow, Woods Institute for the Environment at Stanford University (MGoS)
- **Ms. Carolina Rojas**, E4CFellows Program Coordinator, youth speaker

Interventions of Ministers and other participants (3 minutes each)



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Tuesday, 11 July 2023

Tuesday, 11 July 2023, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM, Conference Room 4
(Panel)

SDGs in focus:

SDG 6 and interlinkages with other SDGs – Clean water and sanitation

(What integrated policies and partnerships can accelerate the achievement of the targets on clean water and sanitation? How can the interlinkages with other Goals be fully realized to ensure more impactful policies? How can the SDG Summit advance the follow-up to the UN Water Conference?)

Water is deemed a dealmaker for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Water is also considered as a global public good and access to safe drinking water and sanitation is widely recognized as a human right. Water and sanitation run across the entire 2030 while having a cross-sectoral impact. However, contrary to its centrality and importance for the well-being of people, planet, peace, and prosperity, progress on SDG 6 at the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda shows that water-related goals and targets are alarmingly off-track. Governments must quadruple their rate of progress to ensure water and sanitation for all by 2030. The COVID-19 pandemic, intensifying climate change, and regional conflicts have further slowed down much-needed progress.

In this context, to accelerate efforts to overcome water-related challenges, the UNGA Resolution 71/222 declared 2018-2028 as the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”. Furthermore, UNGA resolution 73/226 decided to convene, in New York, from 22 to 24 March 2023, the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, or the “UN 2023 Water Conference” and set out the modalities in UNGA 75/212.

The UN 2023 Water Conference on the midterm review of the Water Action Decade in New York, 22-24 March 2023 concluded with transformative commitments announced by governments, businesses, the UN System and civil society to respond to the global water crisis and get SDG 6 on track. The Water Action Agenda, the key outcome of the Conference, captured over 700 commitments aiming at a water-secure world in an inclusive, cross-sectoral and action-oriented manner.

This session will focus on the follow-up to the UN 2023 Water Conference and the Water Action Agenda, highlighting the interlinkages between SDG 6 and other SDGs. In addition, the UN-Water SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2023, the second one of its kind, provides policy recommendations on how to achieve SDG 6 by 2030 and serves as one of inputs to HLPF 2023.

The session will also discuss how Member States, the UN system and relevant stakeholders can better support the implementation of the second half of the Water Action Decade.



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Proposed guiding questions:

- We are alarmingly off-track to achieve SDG 6. What are some unique ideas that we have not heard already that you could propose, or lessons learned from your experiences, to accelerate progress?
- What will you contribute to implement the game-changers that were proposed at the UN 2023 Water conference, especially the two initiatives called for by UNSG - the Early Warnings for all and the Global Water Information System?
- How can your organization support and/or facilitate the implementation of the Water Action Agenda?
- What will you do to strengthen partnerships for integrated action plans that link SDG 6 with SDGs 7, 9, 11 and 17?
- How can we use positive externalities, regional cooperation and cross sectoral measures and fresh resources to transform the way water is financed?

Chair:

- **H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva**, President of ECOSOC (10:00 AM – 11:30 AM)
- **H.E. Ms. Paula Narváez**, Vice President of ECOSOC (Chile) (11:30 AM – 1:00 PM)

Keynote/Presentation:

- **H.E. Mr. Jaap Sloopmaker**, Vice Minister of Infrastructure and Water Management of the Netherlands (*Co-host of the UN 2023 Water Conference on the outcome of the Conference*)

Highlights:

- Highlights of the report of the Secretary-General (special edition) on progress towards the SDGs – SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation
Mr. Daniel Eshetie, Statistics Division of UN DESA
- Representative of Regional Commissions: Regional perspective on implementation of SDG 6 and interlinkages
Ms. Rola Dashti, Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
- **Ms. Kelly Ann Naylor**, Lead writer of SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2023 on Water and Sanitation

Interactive panel discussion

Moderator:

- **Mr. Johannes Cullmann**, Vice-Chair of UN-Water

Panellists:

- **H.E. Ms. Maria Fernanda Espinosa**, Commissioner of Global Commission on the Economics of Water, former President of the General Assembly
- **Ms. Karin Gardes**, Acting Executive Director of the Stockholm International Water Institute
- **Mr. Joel Kolker**, Water Global Lead for Finance, The World Bank



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Lead Discussants:

- **Ms. Olga Djanaeva**, Director of rural women's association ALGA, Kyrgyzstan (MGoS)
- **Mr. Francis Koroma**, President, Francis Koroma Foundation, youth speakers

Comment:

- **H.E. Mr. Csaba Kőrösi**, President of the General Assembly

Ministerial Respondent:

- **Mr. Callist Tindimugaya**, Commissioner for Water Resources Planning and Regulation, Ministry of Water and Environment, Uganda

Interventions of other Ministers and participants (3 minutes each)

Tuesday, 11 July 2023, 3:00 PM -4:15 PM, Conference Room 4
(Panel)

Transformation from the ground up: **Acting at local level**

(What transformations are being achieved at the local level to overcome crises and shift towards the full implementation of the SDGs in times of crises? How can they be supported?)

Local action is a precondition for delivering the promise of the SDGs. According to some estimates, at least 105 of the 169 SDGs targets (62 per cent) will not be reached without proper engagement and coordination with local and regional governments. Moreover, collaboration and co-creation by all relevant local stakeholders can foster the sustainable solutions and accountability needed in each unique community. In recognition of the essential role of local governments and actors, when adopting the 2030 Agenda, Governments pledged to work closely on implementation with regional and local authorities and subregional institutions, among others. (*A/RES/70/1, paragraph 45*)

One of the clear signs of increased local level engagement in SDG implementation are the Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs). Since 2018, VLRs have emerged as an innovative tool by and for cities. The number of VLRs, modelled after the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) by national governments, has since skyrocketed from a few spearheading cities to over 130 reviews and counting. The practice of carrying out VLRs is being taken up not only by capital and large cities but also smaller cities and districts, including in rural areas. Member States are also increasingly benefitting from VLRs in their national level reviews.

The present session will showcase successful local transformations and discuss what enabled them and will address how the lessons learned from these VLR processes can best be utilized to accelerate progress towards all 17 SDGs.



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Proposed guiding questions:

- What are examples of transformations being achieved at the local level, to overcome crises and shift towards the full implementation of the SDGs in times of crises? How can these be supported or replicated?
- What is the role of local and regional governments in accelerating SDG progress?
- What are some of the best ways for increasing stakeholder engagement in local SDG implementation? How can local government help to mobilize and facilitate those experiencing poverty or marginalization, to engage in the design and implementation of local action?
- What are some of the key messages arising from the Voluntary Local Reviews? How can VLRs be used to catalyse global impacts?
- How can the VLRs contribute to SDG-based national planning and budgeting?

Chair:

- **H.E. Mr. Albert Ranganai Chimbindi**, Vice President of ECOSOC (Zimbabwe)

Highlight:

- **Mr. Mathieu Mori**, Secretary General of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe (*Recommendations on localisation of SDGs*)

Interactive panel discussion

Moderator:

- **Ms. Lydia Capolicchio**, Swedish journalist

Panellists:

- **Mr. Turan Hançerli**, Mayor of Avcılar, Türkiye
- **Mr. Robert Papa**, Chief of Staff for the government of Busia County, Kenya
- **Ms. Rosario Diaz Caravito**, Founder of the Millennials Movement, Peru, youth speaker

Lead Discussant:

- **Mr. Bhakta Bishwakarma**, General Secretary and founding member, Asia Dalit Rights Forum, Nepal (MGoS)

Interventions of other Ministers and participants (3 minutes each)

Tuesday, 11 July 2023, 4:15 PM - 6:00 PM, Conference Room 4
(Panel)

Small Island Developing States **From recovery to resilience in the face of multiple shocks**



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(How can we help SIDS in sheltering the crises and financing an SDG-driven recovery? Have they been able to strengthen their resilience against shocks? How can the SDG Summit pave the ground for the 2024 Conference on SIDS?)

The COVID-19 pandemic and its effects in SIDS illustrate how vulnerability to shocks combined with low resilience can have severe and long-lasting detrimental effects on economic growth and sustainable development. While it is the responsibility of national policies to mitigate the consequences of exogenous shocks, and so make the country more resilient, history has shown that economic growth and human development are threatened by exogenous shocks of various origins. Many SIDS were still struggling to recover from the 2008 financial crises and the subsequent onslaught of repeated climate related events, when the COVID-10 Pandemic hit.

COVID-19 may have opened the way for a paradigm shift in development cooperation in SIDS, to make resilience building a more central concern. Initiative such as inter alia the MVI and The Bridgetown Initiative are powerful tools aimed at directing international effort towards integrating vulnerability more centrally into global strategies of UN institutions, international financial institutions, and the work of international development partners and in driving reform of the global development finance architecture. The SDG Summit and the 4th International Conference on SIDS are key platforms for further advocacy and action on these important issues for SIDS.

Proposed guiding questions:

- What are the actionable entry points for SIDS to convert the current crises into opportunities for a more inclusive, resilient and sustainable recovery and effective SDG implementation?
- How can the international community best support SIDS recovery and transformation for accelerated SDG implementation?
- What are necessary strategies to address debt vulnerabilities, ensure better financing for SIDS, and align development co-operation with SIDS sustainable development priorities?
- How can resilience building and the development of proactive and preventative strategies, become more central in the lending policies applied in development cooperation and by international financial institutions (IFIs) and multilateral development banks (MDBs)?

Chair:

- **H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva**, President of ECOSOC

Keynote address:

- **H.E. Mr. Gaston Browne**, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Co-Chair of High Level Panel of the MVI

Interactive panel discussion



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Moderator:

- **Ms. Cristelle Pratt**, Assistant Secretary-General for the Environment and Climate Action, Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States

Panellists:

- **Ms. Mami Mizutori**, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and Head of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
- **Mr. Amit Prothi**, Director General, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure
- **Ms. Ruth Kattumuri**, Senior Director of Economic, Youth and Sustainable Development Directorate at the Commonwealth Secretariat
- **Ms. Renee Atwell**, Dean of the CARICOM Youth Ambassador Corps, Trinidad and Tobago, youth speaker

Lead Discussants:

- **Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana**, Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Coordinator of UN Regional Commissions
- **Ms. Krshtee Sukhbilas**, Global Steering Committee of Children and Youth Major Group (MGoS)

Interventions of Ministers and other participants (3 minutes each)

Wednesday, 12 July 2023

Wednesday, 12 July 2023, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM, Conference Room 4
(Panel)

SDGs in focus:

SDG 7 and interlinkages with other SDGs – Affordable and clean energy

(How are the crises impacting access to affordable and clean energy? How can we accelerate progress towards just energy transitions? How can we build on the momentum created by General Assembly High-level Dialogue on Energy and deliver high-impact initiatives and partnerships?)

Energy lies at the heart of both the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all will open a new world of opportunities for millions of people through new economic opportunities and jobs, empowered women, children and youth, better education and health, more sustainable, equitable and inclusive communities, and greater protection from, and resilience to, climate change.



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Following its first review as an SDG in focus in 2018, this session will for the second time in the context of the HLPF review progress on SDG 7. The upcoming SDG Summit adds further significance to this second review. While much progress has been made since its first review, the world is clearly not on track for the achievement of SDG 7: globally, 675 million people were still lacking access to electricity and 2.3 billion people did not have access to clean cooking fuels and technology in 2021. The share of renewables in the global total final energy consumption (TFEC) is growing only slowly, having reached 19.1 % in 2020. In addition, the energy efficiency improvement rate hit a new low with 0,6% in 2020, which entails that the average annual rate going forward would need to be 3.4%.

In 2021, the High-level Dialogue on Energy resulted in the Global Roadmap for Accelerated SDG 7 Action which provides a guide for collective action on energy across sectors that transcends individual and piecemeal approaches and delivers scaled-up and broad impact. Importantly, the Roadmap also includes two sets of milestones for 2025 and 2030. The Dialogue also triggered some 200 Energy Compacts with voluntary commitments of over US\$600 billion into SDG 7. These achievements must now be used as the foundation for transformational change through just, inclusive and equitable energy transitions. The ambition must be to show the first results of this approach already at the Global Stock take on SDG 7 which was mandated by the UN General Assembly to be held in 2024.

Proposed guiding questions:

- How can progress towards ensuring universal access to energy be accelerated in support of rescuing the SDGs?
- How can we mitigate and reverse the setbacks in achieving universal energy access caused by COVID-19 and the global energy crisis in recent years?
- How can the application of renewable energy solutions and energy efficiency measures be accelerated, to turbo-charge just, inclusive and equitable energy transitions in support of climate action and net-zero emissions?
- How can international cooperation and the flow of finance to developing countries in support of achieving SDG 7 be improved, including addressing the needs of the most vulnerable?
- How can we further strengthen intergovernmental dialogues and cooperation on energy, and leverage multi-stakeholder partnerships in support of achieving SDG 7, effectively bringing into the fold key stakeholders such as the private sector, civil society, youth and others?

Chair:

- **H.E. Ms. Paula Narváez**, Vice President of ECOSOC (Chile) (10:00 AM-11:30 AM)
- **H.E. Mr. Arrmanatha Christiawan Nasir**, Vice President of ECOSOC (Indonesia) (11:30 AM-1:00 PM)

Highlights:

- Highlights of the report of the Secretary-General (special edition) on progress towards the SDGs – SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy
Mr. Leonardo Souza, Statistics Division of UN DESA
- Representative of Regional Commissions: Regional perspective on implementation of SDG 7 and interlinkages



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Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Keynote/Presentation:

- **Ms. Damilola Ogunbiyi**, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All, Co-Chair of UN-Energy
- **Mr. Simon Stiell**, Executive Secretary of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Interactive panel discussion

Moderator:

- **Ms. Sheila Oparaocha**, Executive Director of Energia

Panellists:

- **Mr. Guangzhe Chen**, Vice President for Infrastructure, The World Bank
- **Mr. Hans Olav Ibrenk**, Special Envoy for Climate and Security, Norway
- **Ms. Yoko Lu**, Women's Major Group and YOUNGO (MGoS)

Lead Discussant:

- **Mr. David Arinze**, Program Officer, Off-Grid Energy, Diamond Development Initiatives, Nigeria, youth speaker

Ministerial Respondents:

- **H.E. Ms. Nawal Al-Hosany**, Permanent Representative of the UAE to IRENA
- **H.E. Mr. Yusra Khan**, Ambassador, Environment Stakeholder Member National Energy Council, Indonesia

Interventions of other Ministers and participants (3 minutes each)

Wednesday, 12 July 2023, 3:00 PM-6:00 PM, Conference Room 4
(Panel)

SDGs in focus:

SDG 9 and interlinkages with other SDGs – Industry, innovation and infrastructure

(How can we promote Industrial development, innovation and sustainable infrastructure for shifting gears towards recovery, resilience and advancing the SDGs.)



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

SDG 9 focuses on building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation which are core elements of economic processes and structural transformation with potential synergies across the SDGs. SDG 9 targets including manufacturing value added (MVA) per capita and mobile broadband access have seen significant, though uneven, progress since 2015. Achievement of SDG 9 can be in sight, given recovery is broader based and developing regions and LDCs can catch up. Advances on SDG 9 today must take place against a much more challenging landscape than in the early years of SDG implementation. The COVID-19 pandemic caused economies to shut down and, for several months, multiple industries came to a standstill. Global supply chain disruptions continue to disrupt the recovery of industries and contribute to price increases. High borrowing costs and precarious debt situations in many developing countries have constrained infrastructure development and investment. On the ground, many promising innovations are unable to reach scale due to lack of finances. The kinds of transformational change needed to achieve the SDGs, in climate mitigation and adaptation, in green energy, green industries, sustainable and resilient infrastructure and more will depend on efforts to identify promising ways forward on SDG 9.

This session will examine, how, in the challenging times that we face, innovation, industry and infrastructure, the pillars of SDG 9, can provide a bedrock for the acceleration of SDG progress and realization of the 2030 Agenda. Recent evidence shows that countries with stronger manufacturing systems have weathered crises better, as manufacturing industries maintain crucial access to critical goods, they supply goods to tackle the emergency itself, such as PPEs during COVID-19, and by providing a strong base for economic recovery. Climate resilient infrastructure is increasingly important, and the COVID-19 pandemic provided an important reminder of the importance of digital connectivity to the implementation of the SDGs. This session will also examine how the potential of resilient infrastructure and digital technologies to drive innovation and development can be harnessed to the fullest.

Accelerating progress on the 2030 Agenda will depend on an integrated approach to eradicating poverty and hunger together with decarbonization, sustainable consumption and production, preservation of the global environmental commons. SDG 9 can generate synergies with all of these with the right mix of actions and investments. This session will explore how progress on SDG 9 can be balanced and coherent with other SDGs and targets.

Proposed guiding questions:

- How can we promote industrial development, innovation and sustainable and resilient infrastructure for shifting gears towards recovery, resilience and advancing the SDGs, in the face of recent multiple crises?
- How can industrial development be fostered to achieve sustained economic development, poverty and inequality reduction while serving the imperatives of decarbonization, sustainable production and consumption and restoring the health of the global environmental commons?
- How can countries use policy tools to facilitate financing for sustainable industrial transformation, sustainable and resilient infrastructure and to scale up research and development? What role can multilateral cooperation play in maximizing the efficacy of these policies?
- How can industrialization, innovation and infrastructure be more inclusive of the needs of women and small-scale enterprises, as well as countries with specific needs, such as LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS and disaster-prone countries?



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- What are youth's priorities and challenges pertaining to SDG 9? What skills are needed for accelerating the achievement of SDG 9? How can we ensure that youth have adequate opportunities to acquire these skills in developing countries, and be impactful leaders in the achievement of SDG 9?

Chair:

- **H.E. Mr. Albert Ranganai Chimbindi**, Vice President of ECOSOC (Zimbabwe) (3:00 PM-4:30 PM)
- **H.E. Ms. Paula Narváez**, Vice President of ECOSOC (Chile) (4:30 PM-6:00 PM)

Highlight:

- Highlights of the report of the Secretary-General (special edition) on progress towards the SDGs – SDG 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure
Ms. Faryal Ahmed, Statistics Division of UN DESA

Interactive panel discussion

Moderator:

- **Ms. Jan Beagle**, Director-General of the International Development Law Organization (IDLO)

Panellists:

- **Mr. Norichika Kanie**, Professor at the Graduate School of Media Governance, Keio University, Japan, Member of the Independent Group of Scientists writing the Global Sustainable Development Report
- **Ms. Shahla Naimi**, Senior Program Manager of Google
- **Mr. Axel Berger**, Deputy Director (interim), German Institute of Development and Sustainability
- **Ms. Sabrina Atwine**, CEO of Nimarungi, young entrepreneur, Uganda

Lead Discussant:

- **Mr. Nagesh Kumar**, Director of Indian Institute for Studies in Industrial Development

Interventions of Ministers and other participants (3 minutes each)

Thursday, 13 July 2023

Thursday, 13 July 2023, 10:00 AM-10:10 AM, Conference Room 4

Introduction of the report on the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Sustainable Development Goal 12 established that sustainable consumption and production is key to realize all SDGs. The progress report on the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP) was prepared by its secretariat, the United Nations Environment Programme, on behalf of the Board of the Framework, pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 67/203, 68/210, 69/214 and 70/201. The General Assembly affirms in its resolution 70/201 that due consideration should continue to be given to sustainable consumption and production at the meetings of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, held under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council.

Chair:

- **H.E. Mr. Arrmanatha Christiawan Nasir**, Vice President of ECOSOC (Indonesia)

Presentation:

- **H.E. Ms. Giovanna Valverde**, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to UNEP and UN Habitat, Co-Chair of the Board of the 10YFP

Thursday, 13 July 2023, 10:10 AM-1:00 PM, Conference Room 4
(Panel)

SDGs in focus:

SDG 11 and interlinkages with other SDGs
–Sustainable cities and communities

What can be learned from the experience of local governments in urban crisis response and working towards recovery? How can we leverage the pandemic recovery to leave no one and no place behind? What steps are being taken to promote managed density, regulate urban expansion, and reduce rural-urban land conversion? How can cities reduce carbon emissions and adapt to climate change? How can local governments and cities build their resilience?

The quality of urbanization is central to determining people's quality of life in today's urban world. At the individual level, people's ability to pursue healthy, productive and peaceful lives is directly tied to where they live and what those spaces have to offer. Globally, the quality of urbanization to a large degree determines whether we achieve the SDGs. As the world's population reached the 8-billion mark in November 2022, 55 percent of people lived in cities. By 2050, two out of every three people are likely to be living in cities or other urban centres, highlighting the need for more sustainable urban planning, enhanced service provision and mitigation of adverse environmental and climate impacts, among others.

Since SDG 11 was last reviewed in 2018, the COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts and climate change have exacerbated many urban challenges. But the pandemic also brought many lessons learned and drastically changed our relationship with our streets, public spaces and public facilities. Innovation and the use of digital tools in many places enabled local governments and partners to design new policies and services that are more inclusive, agile, and scalable.



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

This session will explore lessons learned in navigating challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts and climate change, and assess what changes should be retained and amplified. The session will also discuss what are the high impact solutions in governance, digitalization, service provision and other policy spheres that could be scaled up to accelerate progress towards SDG 11.

Proposed guiding questions:

- What can be learned from the experience of local governments in crisis response and working towards recovery and resilience? How can we ensure that we leave no one and no community behind?
- How can cities and communities navigate the intersecting challenges of COVID-19, conflicts, climate change impacts, inequality and other challenges?
- What steps are being taken to promote managed density, regulate urban expansion, and reduce rural-urban land conversion?
- How can cities reduce carbon emissions and adapt to climate change? How can local municipalities and cities build resilience?
- What are some high-impact solutions in effective governance, digitalization, service provision and other policy spheres that could be scaled up to accelerate progress towards SDG 11?

Chair:

- **H.E. Mr. Arrmanatha Christiawan Nasir**, Vice President of ECOSOC (Indonesia) (10:10 AM--11:30 AM)
- **H.E. Mr. Albert Ranganai Chimbindi**, Vice President of ECOSOC (Zimbabwe) (11:30 AM-1:00 PM)

Highlight:

- Highlights of the report of the Secretary-General (special edition) on progress towards the SDGs – SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities
Mr. Sokunpanha You, Statistics Division of UN DESA

Interactive panel discussion

Moderator:

- **Mr. Stefano Marta**, Coordinator, Territorial Approach to SDGs, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities of OECD

Panellists:

- **Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif**, Executive Director of UN-Habitat
- **Mr. António Vitorino**, Director General of the International Organization for Migration, Coordinator of the UN Network on Migration
- **Ms. Maruxa Cardama**, Secretary General, Partnership on Sustainable, Low Carbon Transport (SLoCaT)



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- **Ms. Ana Ciuti**, Head of International Affairs & Strategic Partnership, City of Buenos Aires, Argentina

Lead Discussants:

- **Mr. Marc Workman**, CEO of World Blind Union
- **Mr. Paul Stout**, content creator of TikTok account TalkingCities, USA, youth speaker

Ministerial Respondent:

- **H.E. Ms. Nikolina Brnjac**, Minister for Tourism and Sport, Croatia

Interventions of other Ministers and participants (3 minutes each)

Thursday, 13 July 2023, 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM, Conference Room 4
(Panel)

Overcoming middle-income countries' challenges in advancing the 2030 Agenda

What are the barriers MICs face in implementing the 2030 Agenda and SDGs? What steps are needed to address the challenges of MICs?

The Sustainable Development Goals and targets cannot be achieved without addressing the needs and specific challenges of middle-income countries (MICs), as these countries are key actors in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. MICs are home to 75% of the world's population. MICs represent about one third of global GDP and are major engines of global growth. At the same time, MICs are home to 62% of the world's poor. The social and economic impacts of the coronavirus pandemic weigh heavily on middle-income countries. There is consensus among the UN Member States that the COVID-19 pandemic has interrupted the progress of MICs towards their development aspirations, including the SDGs, and exacerbated the challenges they face along all three dimensions of sustainable development. As the UN Secretary-General noted during the High-Level Meeting on Middle-Income Countries held in 2021, MICs are now faced with the challenge to rebuild better after the pandemic which involves restructuring supply chains and addressing debt.

Despite differences between countries, several common challenges are evident. For example, the so-called "middle-income trap", which serves to highlight that policies have to focus on the right type of investment (in physical capital, in human capital, and in the natural capital base). Having attained middle income status, many MICs have found it difficult to sustain the dynamism of their economic development and their progress in increasing incomes. This is often associated with growing difficulties to sustain levels and types of investment that can generate continued improvements in their productivity and adequate employment growth. Another challenge is digitalization, which has been accelerated as a result of the pandemic, particularly in the sectors of health and education. The lack of digital infrastructure has become a defining element for the digital divide. A further challenge relates to social protection systems, whose importance has been underscored by the pandemic. How well



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

MICs address these challenges will determine the success of their efforts to build back better and achieve sustainable development in the years to come.

Proposed guiding questions:

- What are the most pressing issues that are of particular importance to MICs in their pursuit of SDG implementation?
- What are current, specific gaps and challenges that MICs are facing?
- What are the actionable entry points for MICs to convert the current crises into opportunities for a more inclusive, resilient and sustainable recovery and effective SDG implementation?
- How can the international community best support MICs' recovery and transformation for accelerated SDG implementation?
- What are the strategies to address debt vulnerabilities and ensure better financing for MICs, and align development cooperation with MICs sustainable development priorities?
- How can MICs address the challenge of the digital divide, which has become the new face of the development divide, and has been exacerbated by the pandemic?

Chair:

- **H.E. Ms. Paula Narváez**, Vice President of ECOSOC (Chile)

Interactive panel discussion

Moderator:

- **H.E. Mr. Omar Hilale**, Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations, and Chair of the Like-Minded Group of Countries Supporters of Middle-Income Countries

Panellists:

- **Mr. Homi Kharas**, Senior Fellow, Center for Sustainable Development Brookings
- **Ms. Rola Dashti**, Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
- **Ms. Fiona Tregenna**, South African Research Chair in Industrial Development, University of Johannesburg, South Africa

Lead Discussants:

- **Mr. Adrian Lasimbang**, Board Member, Right Energy Partnership with Indigenous Peoples, Malaysia (MGoS)
- **Ms. Mishell Naomi Cabezas Vilela**, Jr Lawyer, Estudio Juridico Merchan /Merchan Law Firm, Ecuador, youth speaker

Interventions of Ministers and other participants (3 minutes each)



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Thursday, 13 July 2023, 4:15 PM – 6:00 PM, Conference Room 4
(Panel)

African countries, Least Developed Countries and Landlocked Developing Countries Turning the tide, regaining lost ground and embarking on the road to the SDGs

What are game changing actions to implement the Doha Programme of Action for LDCs? What are potential solutions to support crisis response, recovery and SDG progress?

African countries, Least Developed Countries and Landlocked Developing Countries have been disproportionately affected by the confluence of interlinked global crises, reversing progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. The group of 46 Least Developed Countries, which includes 33 African countries, remains marginalized in the world economy and faces challenging financial situations that limit their ability to increase productive capacity and invest in climate resilience. The group of 32 Landlocked Developing Countries, which includes 17 Least Developed Countries, are further disadvantaged by lack of territorial access to the sea, isolation from world markets and high transit costs that continue to impose serious constraints on their socio-economic development and require support for investments in transportation networks and trade facilitation.

The Doha Programme of Action, adopted in 2022 and endorsed by world leaders this year at the fifth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries, focuses on investing in people to eradicate poverty and build capacity; leveraging the power of science, technology, and innovation to fight against multidimensional vulnerabilities; supporting structural transformation as a driver of prosperity; enhancing international trade and regional integration; addressing climate change and environmental degradation, recovering from COVID-19 and building resilience against future shocks; mobilizing international solidarity, reinvigorated global partnerships, and innovative tools and instruments. These priority areas are also important for Landlocked Developing Countries and African countries.

This session will focus on examples of policies, measures and actions underway to improve the lives of the most vulnerable, in the countries furthest behind. It will include actions that must be taken urgently to ensure that progress can be made, and solutions for bridging gaps in energy, digital technologies, and gender equality. The discussion will invite examples of inclusive governance and strengthened institutions that apply peer learning activities and whole-of-society approaches that have benefitted from the follow-up and review exercise undertaken through Voluntary National Reviews, reflecting on progress in domestication of the SDGs and their alignment with national development plans, integrated national financing frameworks and strengthened statistical capacities for measuring progress.

In order to get back on track, the international community has been called upon to advance the Doha Programme of Action, as well as Africa's Agenda 2063, and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries. This means fulfilling existing commitments for Official Development Assistance and undertaking new partnerships that leverage progress along multiple pathways, to ensure that these countries are not left behind.



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Proposed guiding questions:

- What transformative financing measures are needed to accelerate recovery, ensure progress towards the SDGs, and advance the Doha Programme of Action, Africa's Agenda 2063, and the Vienna Programme of Action?
- Where have Governments succeeded in integrating the SDGs into national development plans, building capacity for implementation, strengthening institutions, and increasing national statistical capacities for measuring progress?
- How can the global green energy transition, and the associated demand for natural resources to meet it, be leveraged to support sustainable and inclusive industrialization and structural transformation and ensure a just transition for LDCs, LLDCs and Africa?
- What is being done to increase participation and inclusion of women and youth in governance, institutional frameworks, and the labour force? What barriers need to be removed?
- What are development partners doing to close the digital divide, build capacities for inclusive participation in the digital economy, and improve connectivity for small- and medium-sized enterprises?
- What policies are being put in place to realize the potential of the African Continental Free Trade Area, and what needs to happen next?

Chair:

- **H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva**, President of ECOSOC

Keynote/Presentation:

- **H.E. Ms. Rabab Fatima**, High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS), Secretary-General for the LDC5 conference (*Messages from the LDC5 Conference*)

Video:

- A short film by the International Organization of Employers on their partnership to develop a Doha 5-point private sector strategy for SDG advancement

Interactive panel discussion

Moderator:

- **Ms. Mavis Owusu-Gyamfi**, Executive Vice President of the African Center for Economic Transformation

Panellists:

- **H.E. Ms. Namira Negm**, Ambassador, Director of African Union Migration Observatory
- **Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od**, Executive Director, International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries
- **Ms. Dima Al-Khatib**, Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- **Mr. Yacouba Ibrahim Oumarou**, Global Forum of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent, Niger (MGoS)

Lead Discussants:

- **Ms. Rwodah Al-Naimi**, Strategic Partnership Department Manager, Qatar Fund for Development
- **Mr. Humphrey Mrema**, Chairman at Youth Survival Organization and Youth4Climate Advisory Committee Member, youth speaker

Interventions of Ministers and other participants (3 minutes each)

Friday, 14 July 2023

Friday, 14 July 2023, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM, Conference Room 4
(Panel)

Perspectives from major groups and other stakeholders at the mid-point of the SDGs: Towards inclusive transformation

How are the impacts of COVID-19 and other crises being felt by non-state actors? What are their priority areas and transformative actions? Are they being engaged in policies to overcome crises' impacts and resume SDG progress?

Major Groups and other stakeholders are an integral part of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs as enshrined in the UNGA resolution 67/290. They bring forth the voices, sentiments and aspirations of the people, often those who are most marginalized and left behind, and are experts, rights-holders and key actors in the implementation and achievement of the SDGs.

This session is organized and led by the MGoS Coordination Mechanism and aims to reflect the opinions and proposals about how to orient and accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs at its mid-point. The session will bring two presentations from MGoS members about the systemic barriers and gaps in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and key recommendations. Also, the session will bring forth examples and recommendations from Regional Forums not just on accelerating but also unpacking the systemic barriers, fulfilling the gaps, and ensuring meaningful right holder's engagement in the implementation of the SDGs and towards recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The session will put forward critical analysis of diverse stakeholders and non-state actors on the challenges and opportunities, as well as demanding a more sustainable, genuinely inclusive of all and a human rights-centric approach to development. The session also reiterates that the midpoint review of the SDGs is an opportunity to renew the commitments especially of governments and strengthen



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

efforts to reach the goals and to undertake an honest assessment of not just the progress made but also how the SDGs have failed to deliver for many stakeholders, and which has been further compounded by the impact of the pandemic.

Proposed guiding questions:

- What are peoples' perspectives and aspirations, particularly from those that have been left behind, on the systemic challenges and priorities to achieve transformational change in the face of multiple and intersecting crises?
- What are ways that civil society and community groups are stepping up to address gaps in implementation of the SDGs, and how can their actions be supported and enabled by development partners?
- How can we restore faith and underpin human rights, equality and equity—particularly intergenerational equity—to advance sustainable development in multilateral global governance; repurpose the global economy and reform finance, aid and trade, as well as promote climate action to genuinely leave no one behind?
- How can civic space at national and multilateral fora be expanded so that civil society can contribute more meaningfully to upcoming United Nations intergovernmental processes? How should we address the problem of threats against human rights defenders, and unlock the potential of civil society in contributing to just, equal, peaceful and sustainable societies?

Chair:

- **H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva**, President of ECOSOC

Keynote/Presentation:

- **Ms. Joan Carling**, Executive Director, Indigenous Peoples Rights International
- **Ms. Paola Simonetti**, International Trade Union Confederation

Interactive discussion

Moderator:

- **Ms. Rashima Kwatra**, Co-chair of MGoS Coordination Mechanism, Senior International Advocacy Advisor, RFSL

Resource persons:

Regional perspectives on thematic issues:

- **Mr. Ali Jillani**, Vice Chair, Karachi Research Chair (KRC), Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (Asia Pacific)
- **Mr. Kofi Kankam**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Elizka Relief Foundation, Africa Regional Mechanism for Major Groups and other Stakeholders (Africa)
- **Mr. Bruno Ibarra**, Group of Children and young people in the regional coordination mechanism of civil society participation (LAC)



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- **Ms. Marianne Haslegrave**, Director, Commonwealth Medical Trust, Economic Commission for Europe Regional Civil Society Mechanism (ECE)

Respondents:

- **Mr. Surya Deva**, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development
- **Ms. Mary Maker**, Goodwill Ambassador of UNHCR

Interventions of Ministers and other participants (3 minutes each)

Friday, 14 July 2023, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM, Conference Room 4

Voluntary National Reviews

As part of the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Member States are encouraged to “conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and subnational levels, which are country led and country driven” (paragraph 79). These national reviews are conducted annually during the HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC.

Paragraph 84 of the 2030 Agenda stipulates that regular reviews by the HLPF are to be voluntary, state-led, undertaken by both developed and developing countries, and involve multiple stakeholders. The voluntary national reviews (VNRs) aim to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The VNRs also seek to strengthen policies and institutions of governments and to mobilize multistakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation of the SDGs.

39 countries will present Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) of implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The European Union will also present a voluntary review. 2 presenters will present for the first time, 37 for the second time, and 1 for the third time.

Chair: H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva, President of ECOSOC

4 VNRs

Panel: **Bosnia and Herzegovina, Comoros, Liechtenstein, Zambia**



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Friday, 14 July 2023, 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM, Conference Room 4

Voluntary National Reviews

Chair:

H.E. Ms. Paula Narváez, Vice President of ECOSOC (Chile) (3:00 PM-4:15 PM)

H.E. Mr. Arrmanatha Christiawan Nasir, Vice President of ECOSOC (Indonesia) (4:15 PM-6:00 PM)

5 VNRs:

1st Panel: **Barbados, Rwanda, Viet Nam**

2nd Panel: **Burkina Faso, Cambodia**



Theme: Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels

Monday, 17 July 2023

**Monday, 17 July 2023, 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM, General Assembly Hall
(Overflow room: Conference Room 4)**

**Opening of the High-level Segment of ECOSOC /
Ministerial Segment of the HLPF**

Chair:

- **H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva**, President of the Economic and Social Council

Messages on behalf of youth:

- **Mr. Jevanic Henry**, Member of the UN Secretary-General Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change
- **Ms. Asma Rouabhia**, Global Focal Point, SDG 7 Youth Constituency

Opening remarks:

- **H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva**, President of the Economic and Social Council
- **Mr. António Guterres**, Secretary-General of the United Nations
- **H.E. Mr. Csaba Kőrösi**, President of the General Assembly
- **Mr. Hoesung Lee**, Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

**Monday, 17 July 2023, 10:15 AM-10:45 AM, General Assembly Hall
Fireside Chat featuring GSDR scientists**

The ministerial declaration of the 2016 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development called for a Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) to be written every 4 years by an independent group of scientists appointed by the Secretary General. The GSDR is an assessment of assessments that presents state-of-the-art knowledge, bringing together diverse perspectives and disciplinary backgrounds, and relying on engagement with a wide range of experts and stakeholders. Its purpose is to strengthen the science-policy interface by providing a strong evidence-based instrument to support policymakers in promoting poverty eradication and sustainable development. The GSDR is distinct but complementary to the SDG Progress Report as described in E/HLS/2016/1, providing a more scientific and analytical perspective, focused on the science -policy interface.



The GSDR takes an integrated approach and examines policy options with a view to sustaining the balance between the three dimensions of sustainable development. With an assessment of the latest evidence, the 2023 GSDR provides a call to action at the mid-point on the 2030 Agenda emphasizing that transformation is possible and inevitable.

Proposed questions for discussion:

- What new scientific evidence is available at the half-way point toward 2030 to guide decision-makers in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda?
- During a tumultuous time like the present with the world facing multiple crises and SDGs feeling out of reach, what are some of the challenges and opportunities for strengthening the science-policy interface? Does the report make recommendations on how to build trust in science?
- Given the latest research and lessons learned over the first half of the 2030 Agenda, how should decision-makers and other stakeholders prioritize their actions over the next seven years? What interventions must take place to support transformation?

Chair:

- **H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva**, President of the Economic and Social Council

Fireside chat

Moderator:

- **Mr. Salvatore Aricò**, Chief Executive Officer of the International Science Council

Speakers:

- **Ms. Imme Scholz**, Co-chair of the Independent Group of Scientists writing the Global Sustainable Development Report, Co-President of the Heinrich Böll Foundation
- **Mr. Jaime Miranda**, Co-chair of the Independent Group of Scientists writing the Global Sustainable Development Report, Head of Sydney School of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine and Health, University of Sydney, Australia, and Professor at the Department of Medicine, School of Medicine, Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Lima, Peru

Discussant:

- **Ms. Marilynn Holguín Clover**, Youth Delegate of The Millennials Movement

Monday, 17 July 2023, 10:45 AM-1:00 PM, General Assembly Hall

General debate:

“Building momentum towards the SDG Summit”



The general debate of the ministerial days of the 2023 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) and the High-level Segment of ECOSOC will be held in person in parallel with the presentations of voluntary national reviews and other meetings from 17 to 20 July 2023. The theme of the general debate will be **“Building momentum towards the 2023 SDG Summit: Transformation for accelerating implementation of the SDGs”**. It will allow Ministers and high-level representatives of participating States, as well as IGOs, UN system, and major groups and other stakeholders to exchange experiences, lessons learned, policy guidance, transformative actions and initiatives for the SDG Summit.

Chair:

- **H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva**, President of ECOSOC (10:45 AM-11:30 AM)
- **H.E. Mr. Maurizio Massari**, Vice President of ECOSOC (Italy) (11:30 AM-1:00 PM)

General debate

Monday, 17 July 2023, 3:00 PM-6:00 PM, Conference Room 4
(Parallel meeting)

HLPF

Voluntary National Reviews

Chair: **H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva**, President of ECOSOC (3:00 PM-4:20 PM)

H.E. Ms. Paula Narváez, Vice President of ECOSOC (Chile) (4:20 PM-6:00 PM)

6 VNRs:

1st Panel: **Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guyana, Romania**

2nd Panel: **Central African Republic, Chile, Uzbekistan**

Monday, 17 July 2023, 3:00 PM-6:00 PM, General Assembly Hall
(Parallel meeting)

General debate:

“Building momentum towards the SDG Summit”

(Continuation)



Chair:

H.E. Mr. Albert Ranganai Chimbindi, Vice President of ECOSOC (Zimbabwe) (3:00 PM-4:30PM)

H.E. Mr. Arrmanatha Christiawan Nasir, Vice President of ECOSOC (Indonesia) (4:30PM-6:00 PM)

General debate (*Continuation*)

Tuesday, 18 July 2023

Tuesday, 18 July 2023, 9:00 AM-9:15 AM, Conference Room 4

HLPF

Messages from the UN Environment Assembly

The UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) contributes to the effective implementation and full integration of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, acknowledging that a healthy environment is an essential requirement and key enabler for sustainable development. In her allocution, the President of the UN Environment Assembly, H.E. Ms. Leila Benali, Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development of the Kingdom of Morocco, will convey the main messages of the UN Environment Assembly and present the contributions of the Assembly to the debates of the HLPF.

Chair:

- **H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva**, President of ECOSOC

Speaker:

- **H.E. Ms. Leila Benali**, Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development of the Kingdom of Morocco, UNEA-6 President

Tuesday, 18 July 2023, 9:15 AM-10:45 AM, Conference Room 4

HLPF

Messages from the regions



The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development stresses the importance of the regional and sub-regional dimensions in the follow-up and review of the Agenda. Since the creation of the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development, Regional Forums on Sustainable Development have been organized by the United Nations Regional Commissions to contribute to the forum's preparations and provide a regional perspective at the HPLF discussions. Their importance was recognized in the Political Declaration of the SDG Summit in September 2019 and in the 2021 review of the HLPF.

The session will discuss the recommendations from the Regional Forums on Sustainable Development. In light of the upcoming SDG Summit, each Regional Forum on Sustainable Development has brought to light regional perspectives on the challenges and opportunities for accelerating progress towards the SDGs, identified transformative policies and actions, and highlighted renewed commitments from a wide range of stakeholders for the Goals. The session will include interventions by the Ministerial Chairs of the Regional Forums as well as an interactive discussion with Member States, regional organizations and other participants, including from civil society, youth, academia, the private sector, financial institutions, and development banks. The Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions will respond to questions from Member States and other stakeholders, if any, during the open dialogue.

At the halfway mark between the adoption and finish line of the 2030 Agenda, we must accelerate progress or reverse current trends to achieve its 2030 ambitions. The convergence of multiple global crises has dialled back much of the hard-earned progress and has sounded the alarm for acceleration and urgent actions. Yet the 17 Sustainable Development Goals remain the course of actions needed for recovery. There is still much to be done to turn our obligations into reality by 2030.

Against this background, the session will highlight ways in which Regional Commissions are contributing to addressing these crises through mobilizing regional action and leveraging regional frameworks. In line with the HLPF, the 2023 Regional Forums particularly zoomed in on SDGs 6, 7, 9, 11 and 17.

The session will address the following questions:

- How can regional cooperation and partnerships contribute to recovering better, building resilience against future shocks and delivering on the 2030 Agenda?
- At the mid-point of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which policy actions should be taken to accelerate progress without losing sight of those furthest behind in areas such as ensuring safe drinking water and sanitation for all, accelerating a just and inclusive energy transition, sustainable industrialization/urbanization?
- What are high impact solutions and game changing initiatives across the regions that can accelerate SDG progress? How can we amplify these gamechanging solutions, including at the SDG Summit?

Chair:

- **H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva**, President of ECOSOC



Opening remarks:

- **Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana**, Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Coordinator of the Regional Commissions

Video:

- Snapshots from stakeholders in the regions to set the scene

Interactive discussion

Moderator:

- **Ms. Nudhara Yusuf**, Facilitator of the Global Governance Innovation Network, STIMSON CENTER, youth speaker

Speakers:

Chairs of the Regional Forums on Sustainable Development

- **H.E. Ms. Garama Saratou Rabiou Inoussa**, Minister of the Environment and the Fight Against Desertification of Niger and Chair of the ninth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development
- **H.E. Mr. Waed Abdullah Badhib**, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation of Yemen, Chair of the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development 2023
- **H.E. Mr. Pagnathun Theng**, Delegate of the Royal Government of Cambodia in charge of Director General of Planning, Cambodia, Chair of the Tenth session of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.
- **H.E. Mr. Milos Prica**, Ambassador at Large in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Chair of the Council for the Implementation of the SDGs, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and
- **H.E. Mr. Markus Reubi**, Delegate of the Federal Council for the 2030 Agenda, Switzerland, Co-Chairs of the 2023 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE Region
- **H.E. Ms. Marisol Merquel**, President of the National Council for the Coordination of Social Policies, Argentina, Chair of the Sixth session of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development

Lead Discussant:

- **Mr. Javier Surasky**, Director of Research of Cepei, Argentina (MGoS)

Followed by interactive discussion with Member States and other stakeholders:

Member States, regional organizations and other stakeholders will be given the floor to express their views on the regional dimension of accelerating SDG progress and the follow-up to the outcomes of the Regional Forums. (3 minutes each)

Regional Commissions' Executive Secretaries will be available to answer questions from Member States and other stakeholders during the open dialogue



Tuesday, 18 July 2023, 10:45 AM-1:00 PM, Conference Room 4

HLPF

Voluntary National Reviews

Chair: H.E. Mr. Arrmanatha Christiawan Nasir, Vice President of ECOSOC (Indonesia)

5 VNRs:

Individual: **Saint Kitts and Nevis**

Panel: **Bahrain, Belgium, Croatia, United Republic of Tanzania**

Tuesday, 18 July 2023, 3:00 PM-6:00 PM, Conference Room 4

(Parallel meeting)

HLPF

Voluntary National Reviews

Chair:

H.E. Mr. Arrmanatha Christiawan Nasir, Vice President of ECOSOC (Indonesia) (3:00 PM-4:20 PM)

H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva, President of ECOSOC (4:20 PM-6:00 PM)

6 VNRs

1st Panel: **Brunei Darussalam, Iceland, Timor-Leste**

2nd Panel: **France, Lithuania, Singapore**

Tuesday, 18 July 2023, 3:00 PM-6:00 PM, Trusteeship Council Chamber

(Parallel meeting)

General debate:

“Building momentum towards the SDG Summit”

(Continuation)

Chair: H.E. Mr. Albert Ranganai Chimbindi, Vice President of ECOSOC (Zimbabwe)

General debate *(Continuation)*



Wednesday, 19 July 2023

Wednesday, 19 July 2023, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM, Conference Room 4

HLPF

Voluntary National Reviews

Chair: H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva, President of ECOSOC

8 VNRs

1st Panel: **Canada, Poland**,

2nd Panel: **Saudi Arabia, Maldives**

Individual: **European Union**

3rd Panel: **Ireland, Mongolia, Tajikistan**

Wednesday, 19 July 2023, 3:00 PM-5:30 PM, Conference Room 4

(Parallel meeting)

HLPF

Voluntary National Reviews

Chair:

H.E. Mr. Albert Ranganai Chimbindi, Vice President of ECOSOC (Zimbabwe) (3:00 PM-4:20 PM)

H.E. Mr. Maurizio Massari, Vice President of ECOSOC (Italy) (4:20 PM-5:30 PM)

5 VNRs

1st Panel: **Kuwait, Slovakia, Turkmenistan**

2nd Panel: **Fiji, Portugal**



Wednesday, 19 July 2023, 3:00 PM-5:30 PM, Trusteeship Council Chamber
(Parallel meeting)

General debate:

“Building momentum towards the SDG Summit”

(Continuation)

Chair: H.E. Mr. Arrmanatha Christiawan Nasir, Vice President of ECOSOC (Indonesia)
General debate *(Continuation)*

Wednesday, 19 July 2023, 5:30 PM-6:00 PM, Conference Room 4

Closing of the HLPF

Chair: H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva, President of the Economic and Social Council

Closing remarks:

Mr. Li Junhua, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations

H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva, President of the Economic and Social Council

Performance:

Sing for Hope - Children’s singing group from New York City

Conclusion of the HLPF



Theme: Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels

Thursday, 20 July 2023

High-level Segment of ECOSOC

(Continued)

Thursday, 20 July 2023, 10:00 AM -10:30 AM, ECOSOC Chamber

Introduction of the Secretary-General's reports on the theme of HLPF and ECOSOC and on "long-term trends and scenarios: impacts on the realization of the SDGs"

Introduction of the report of the Committee on Development Policy

Chair:

- **H.E. Mr. Maurizio Massari**, Vice President of ECOSOC (Italy)

Presentations:

- **Mr. Li Junhua**, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations, introduction of the Secretary-General's reports on the theme of HLPF and ECOSOC 2023 ([E/2023/78](#)) and on long-term future trends and scenarios: impacts on the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals ([E/2023/89](#))
- **Ms. Sakiko Fukuda-Parr**, Chair of the Committee on Development Policy (CDP), introduction of the CDP report ([E/2023/33](#))

Thursday, 20 July 2023, 10:30 AM -1:00 PM, ECOSOC Chamber
(Panel)

((Parallel meeting))

Strengthening UN system institutions for resilient sustainable development

The United Nations is a unique multilateral institution that provides a space for all countries, to cooperate and achieve universally agreed goals, such as the Sustainable Development Goals.



With its oversight role in matters of operational activities for development, development cooperation and humanitarian assistance and its overall coordination of the UN development system, the Economic and Social Council is uniquely placed to provide a unifying platform for multilateral responses and support policy dialogue and guidance for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Its convening power and stakeholder engagement can help forge consensus among increasingly divergent views on solutions to today's challenges, as well as advance discussions on multilateral arrangements.

As we reach the mid-point of the 2030 Agenda, the consensus around the value of multilateral action needs to be shored up so that the global public can be assured that the United Nations and its organs can tackle current and emerging global challenges. It is important for ECOSOC to regularly reflect on its role in guiding multilateral efforts to promote rules-based policymaking and implementations that adheres to agreed commitments across multiple and interlinked sectors. The UN system has an important role to play in capitalizing on opportunities for transformative policies and actions that are sustainable and resilient and leaves no one behind.

This interactive panel discussion will focus on how to strengthen coordination and build capacity for UN system institutions to become more resilient, foster trust, and prepare for the future. It will also explore how the UN system can help build capacity for more reliable, effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at the country level that can deliver progress for sustainable development.

The report of the Secretary-General on the 2023 theme *Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels* (E/2023/78) provides background for this session.

Proposed guiding questions:

- What are the lessons learned from the pandemic related to UN response and recovery efforts? Can these be scaled up and replicated?
- What improvements are needed in international norms-setting and institutional support that would better inform country-level policy and decision-making for sustainable and resilient recovery and foster long-term sustainable development?
- How can international institutions, including UN system entities, better integrate and mainstream the principles of resilience across their policies, programmes and activities?
- How can the UN system support the achievement of national commitments for transformation that the Secretary-General has urged leaders to bring to the SDG Summit in September?
- What role can the Economic and Social Council play in strengthening UN system institutions for resilient sustainable development?
- How can the Economic and Social Council and its system of subsidiary bodies contribute to and help advance ongoing discussions on the multilateral arrangements within the context of the proposals for Our Common Agenda?
- How can ECOSOC contribute to addressing the current challenges of multilateralism, through its agenda setting role?



Chair:

- **H.E. Mr. Maurizio Massari**, Vice President of ECOSOC (Italy)

Interactive discussion

Moderator:

- **Mr. Eddy Maloka**, CEO of the African Peer Review Mechanism of the African Union

Panellists:

- **Ms. Rebeca Grynspan**, Secretary General of UNCTAD
- **Ms. Najat Maalla M'jid**, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children
- **Ms. Afshan Khan**, UN Coordinator of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement

Lead discussant:

- **Ms. Dorothy Davis**, UN Representative, Congressional Black Caucus Political Education and Leadership Institute (CBCI)

Ministerial Respondents:

- **H.E. Ms. Siti Nurbaya Bakar**, Minister of Environment and Forestry, Indonesia
- **H.E. Ms. Sanja Ajanović Hovnik**, Minister of Public Administration, Slovenia
- **H.E. Ms. Lenora Qereqeretabua**, Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs, Fiji

Interventions of other participants

Thursday, 20 July 2023, 10:00 AM-1:00 PM, Trusteeship Council Chamber
(Parallel meeting)

General debate:

“Building momentum towards the SDG Summit”

(Continuation)

Chair:

H.E. Ms. Paula Narváez, Vice President of ECOSOC (Chile) (10:00 AM-11:30 AM)

H.E. Mr. Arrmanatha Christiawan Nasir, Vice President of ECOSOC (Indonesia) (11:30 AM-1:00 PM)



General debate (*Continuation and conclusion*)

Thursday, 20 July 2023, 3:00 PM - 5:30 PM, ECOSOC Chamber

(Panel)

Overcoming “short-termism” to secure a better future

(Long term trends and scenarios on crisis response and recovery and the SDGs)

Integrating long-term thinking and decision-making into policy making is an essential part of sustainable development for the current and future well-being of people and planet. The historic World Commission on Environment and Development's 1987 Brundtland report “Our Common Future”, for example, defines sustainable development as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.

The Secretary-General has recently emphasized the risks of ‘short-termism’ and the importance of taking fully into account long-term policy impacts in his report “Our Common Agenda”, including through his proposal for a Summit of the Future, which Member States have decided to convene in 2024 to complement and further the outcomes of the 2023 SDG Summit.

At the halfway mark of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the SDGs are slipping from the world’s grasp. The succession of global crises over the past few years has battered numerous countries. Yet by embracing long-term economic and social development and environmental protection strategies, nations and the world can still transform to deliver on the vision and promise of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs and on achieving sustainable development for current and future generations. Sustainable development scenarios show that the SDGs and climate targets are still within reach and that there are possible pathways towards ensuring decent living standards for all.

This session will present different perspectives and experiences and engage participants in a dialogue on overcoming ‘short-termism’ and focusing on integrating long-term, forward-looking approaches to advance sustainable development and secure a better future for all. It will apply long-term thinking and analysis to the policies and multilateral collaboration needed to accelerate the recovery from COVID-19 and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda at all levels, for the year 2030 as well as to the future far beyond.

The discussion will be informed by the Secretary-General’s reports on this year’s ECOSOC High-level Segment and HLPF theme ([E/2023/78](#)) and on long-term future trends and scenarios: impacts on the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals ([E/2023/89](#)).

Proposed guiding questions:

- In the light of several current and interlinked crises, how can policymakers balance the need for immediate action with a longer-term perspective on the sustainability of policy measures and their long-term impacts on society, the economy and the environment? How can multilateral responses be strengthened to overcome short-term planning and uncoordinated national responses to global crises?



- What are some examples of impactful policies and initiatives that have taken a long-term perspective in economic, social and/or environmental challenges? What lessons can be extracted from them and scaled up?
- How can we better integrate knowledge and expertise into policymaking processes, to ensure that decisions are based on sound evidence and a comprehensive view of the long-term implications of policy options?
- What can we learn from recent developments in terms of feasible science and technology futures? What are the most desirable futures? How might science and technology differ in 2030 and 2050, compared to today? Do long-term scenarios take such future differences into account?

Chair:

- **H.E. Mr. Albert Ranganai Chimbindi**, Vice President of ECOSOC (Zimbabwe) (3:00 PM-4:15 PM)
- **H.E. Mr. Maurizio Massari**, Vice President of ECOSOC (Italy) (4:15 PM-5:30 PM)

Presentation:

- **Ms. Maria-Francesca Spatolisano**, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs of UN DESA

Interactive panel discussion

Moderator:

- **Mr. Andrew Revkin**, Director, Initiative on Communication Innovation and Impact, Columbia Climate School, Columbia University

Panellists:

- **Ms. Izabella Teixeira**, Co-Chair, International Resource Panel, Brazil
- **Dr. Jennifer Dixon**, Chief Executive, The Health Foundation, United Kingdom
- **Ms. Shonali Pachauri**, Leader of the Transformative Institutional and Social Solutions Research Group, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), Austria
- **Ms. Yasmine Kumi**, Founder and Executive Director, Africa Foresight Group

Lead Discussants:

- **Ms. Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez**, Commissioner of New York City Department for the Ageing
- **Mr. Jerome Bellion-Jourdan**, Deputy Secretary General of the International Organization of Employers (IOE)
- **Ms. Kehkashan Basu**, Founder-President, Green Hope Foundation, Canada, youth speaker

Ministerial Respondents:

- **H.E. Ms. Noor Ali AlKhulaif**, Minister of Sustainable Development, Bahrain



- **H.E. Mr. André Moz Caldas**, Secretary of State for the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Portugal
- **H.E. Ms. Lenora Qereqeretabua**, Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs, Fiji

Interventions of other Ministers and participants

Thursday, 20 July 2023, 5:30 PM -6:00 PM, ECOSOC Chamber

Conclusion of the High-level Segment of ECOSOC

Chair:

- **H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva**, President of Economic and Social Council

Closing remarks:

- **Ms. Amina J. Mohammed**, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations
- **H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva**, President of the Economic and Social Council

Conclusion of the High-level Segment of ECOSOC