



2024 ECOSOC High-level Segment

Multilateral solutions for a better tomorrow: the role of ECOSOC towards a sustainable and resilient path by 2030

Thursday, 18 July 2024, 10:30 am – 1:00 pm
ECOSOC Chamber

Concept Note

Background

The world is not on track to achieve most of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, amidst the significant economic, social and environmental challenges it faces.

The latest data assessment of the roughly 140 targets¹ shows that only about 15 per cent of those targets are on track to be implemented; close to half, though showing signs of progress, are moderately or severely off track; and over one third have seen either no movement or regressed below the 2015 baseline.

The interlinked crises in recent years exposed our vulnerabilities and underscored the need for a fundamental shift to put the world back on track to achieve the 2030 Agenda. With only 6 years to 2030, bold and transformative actions are urgently needed to facilitate and expedite reaching the SDGs.

The Political Declaration of the 2023 SDG Summit, reaffirmed the commitment to effectively implement the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs, upholding all principles enshrined in it, through a coordinated global and multilateral response.

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has been a crucial and committed body to advance a sustainable and resilient path to the 2030 Agenda. Through its forums, segments and special meetings, ECOSOC continues to serve as an inclusive and action-oriented platform for integrated policy making and dialogue in finding multilateral solutions to pressing global challenges.

ECOSOC's policymaking and coordinating role of a vast system of subsidiary bodies and UN entities in the economic, social, environmental, health and related fields provides expert knowledge, technical support and key evidence-based recommendations to Member States to reach informed decisions.

¹ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2023/progress-midpoint/>



ECOSOC plays an increasingly significant role in enhancing the effectiveness of international efforts towards the 2030 Agenda, by harnessing its convening power and multi-stakeholder approach to facilitate and expedite implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

By providing a dynamic platform for discussion and exchange of global, regional and national experiences, the Council promotes synergies and coherence in global development efforts. It creates opportunities for mutual learning and knowledge sharing among various stakeholders, including international financial institutions, local governments, civil society, youth, scientists and academia. The nature of discussions in ECOSOC enhances accountability and fosters spaces where best practices and lessons learned can be jointly shared and actioned.

ECOSOC is well positioned to play a pivotal role in advancing the concrete implementation of the agreements expected to be reached at the forthcoming Summit of the Future. The Summit of the Future aims to find actionable ways to enhance effective global cooperation to achieve agreed goals, such as the SDGs, and to tackle emerging threats and opportunities. The Summit could reinvigorate the structures and the trust necessary for effective global governance, providing an opportunity to encourage initiatives and commitments from a wide array of stakeholders.

The Council will also be central to achieving a multilateralism that is effective, just, representative and networked to ensure a coordinated response and to facilitate contributions by all actors in achieving the 2030 Agenda.

Objectives

The ECOSOC High-level segment signifies the culmination of the Council's annual cycle of work, bringing together its key policy dialogue and guidance functions as well as serving as an integral venue for the Council's work to promote knowledge-sharing and regional and international cooperation.

In this context, the meeting of the 2024 ECOSOC High-level segment will aim to:

1. Better articulate and strengthen the role of ECOSOC and its subsidiary machinery in facilitating and expediting the achievement of the SDGs.
2. Promote a sustainable and resilient path to the 2030 Agenda through inclusive and effective multilateral actions and solidarity as well as engaging the contributions of different stakeholders.
3. Catalyze a coordinated global response to SDG implementation in the follow-up to the 2023 SDG Summit Political Declaration, emphasizing inclusivity, accountability, and operational effectiveness.



Proposed Questions for Discussion

- How can the multilateral system better support the commitments emanating from the 2023 SDG Summit?
- How can the role of ECOSOC be further boosted toward strengthening informed decision-making and give fresh impetus to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda?
- How can the Council and its subsidiary machinery be fully utilized to advance the effective, efficient and impactful implementation of the agreements expected to be reached at the Summit of the Future?
- What actions are needed to achieve the vision of a fairer and more inclusive global governance, considering discussions on financing for sustainable development and preparations for the Summit of the Future?
- What concrete recommendations could be advanced to facilitate the achievement of a more effective, inclusive and ambitious multilateralism?
- How can the meaningful engagement of different stakeholders facilitate achievement of the SDGs?
- How can the Council strengthen its policy dialogue, knowledge-sharing, and regional and international cooperation?

Participants

The ECOSOC High-level Segment will bring together experts from Governments, the United Nations system, think tanks, regional organizations and other stakeholders. The session will engage ministers, experts and key actors to present their views and policy recommendations. The engagement of participants from government, academia, civil society and other stakeholders will provide an opportunity to draw from different perspectives and experiences. The audience will be comprised of representatives of Member States, the United Nations system and of civil society.

Outcome

The outcome of the High-level Segment will be a Ministerial Declaration and summary by the President of ECOSOC.