



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

(New York, 14-23 July 2025)

Secretariat Concept Note

“Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind”

The 2025 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) will be convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) from Monday 14 to Wednesday 23 July 2025. The High-Level Segment of the Council, including the three-day ministerial segment of the HLPF, will take place from 21 to 24 July 2025.

This note outlines key aspects of the provisional programme of the 2025 HLPF and its preparations. The programme of the 2025 HLPF and High-Level Segment of ECOSOC is available on the HLPF website: <https://hlpf.un.org/2025/programme>

A. Primary objectives of the HLPF

In line with General Assembly resolution 78/285, the 2025 HLPF will address the *theme “Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for leaving no one behind”*.

Without prejudice to the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the SDGs, the forum will carry out in-depth reviews of: Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages; Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all; Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development; and Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

Ten years after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the 2025 HLPF will assess progress on these Goals and identify sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions to advance SDG implementation in the remaining five years. The HLPF will identify interlinkages with other intergovernmental processes in 2025, including the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+30), the Third United

Nations Ocean Conference, the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4), and the Second World Summit on Social Development, creating synergies that underscore the interconnectedness of these processes with the SDGs.

The 2025 HLPF will support the implementation of the Political Declaration of the 2023 SDG Summit and contribute to the follow-up of the Summit of the Future and its Pact for the Future. It will draw on the experience of presentations from the 37 [countries](#) conducting Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) this year, providing a barometer of progress towards the SDGs at the national level, with countries reporting on successes and challenges, lessons learned and actions for accelerating implementation.

B. Key features of the HLPF programme

The HLPF programme has been prepared by the President of ECOSOC in consultation with the Bureau of the Council. The programme will focus on:

- **Unlocking means of implementation: mobilizing financing and science, technology and innovation (STIs) for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** This session will set the stage for the Forum. It will address how countries and stakeholders can advance a robust framework for financing the SDGs and will highlight the key messages and outcomes of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4), held from 30 June to 3 July 2025 in Seville, Spain. It will also address how cooperation on STIs can accelerate progress towards the SDGs, highlighting good practices and innovative examples from the 2025 Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (STI Forum).
- **Reviewing the SDGs in special focus in 2025:** Dedicated thematic sessions will focus on:
 - **SDG 3:** *Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.*
 - **SDG 5:** *Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.*
 - **SDG 8:** *Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.*
 - **SDG 14:** *Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development.*

Each session will feature an in-depth assessment of global progress and challenges in achieving the SDG under review. The discussions will also highlight transformative policies and actions required to meet the SDGs by 2030, while also considering how these efforts can leverage the interlinkages, synergies, and trade-offs with other SDGs to speed up implementation.

The in-depth review of **SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development** will be mainstreamed across all the thematic SDG sessions, given its relevance for achieving all the goals.

- **Countries in special situations:** The programme will feature sessions dedicated to challenges faced by countries in special situations. One session titled *“Pathways to progress: Advancing SDGs in African countries, Least Developed Countries and Landlocked Developing Countries”* will discuss the policies and frameworks that are necessary to ignite economic growth and support sustainable development in these groups of countries. Another session titled *“Small Island Developing States: Strategies for SDG success”* will focus on the unique challenges faced by SIDS as well as on measures

required to successfully implement the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS). An additional session will focus on SDG implementation in middle income countries.

- **Messages from the United Nations Environmental Assembly:** This session will hear the main messages from the United Nations Environmental Assembly relating to the theme of the HLPF.
- **Messages from the regions:** This session will highlight the key messages from the regional forums on sustainable development organized by the United Nations regional commissions. It will aim to mobilize regional action and leverage regional frameworks to support countries in ensuring effective follow-up to the Summit of the Future for SDG achievement.
- **Local action:** This session will look at the innovative strategies that local communities are employing to make progress towards achieving the SDGs, highlighting successful examples of local SDG implementation that can be replicated in other regions.
- **Perspectives from major groups and other stakeholders:** This session will be organized by the major groups and other stakeholders (MGoS). It will look at how the insights gained from the work of MGoS can be applied to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs and the strategies needed to bolster the engagement of MGoS for further action.

An annotated programme that includes the background, format, key questions and speakers for each session will be prepared and made available on the HLPF website: <https://hlpf.un.org/2025/programme>

C. Voluntary National Reviews

Thirty-seven countries will conduct Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) of their implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Of these, 10 countries are presenting for the second time, 23 for the third time, and 4 countries are presenting for the fourth time. The VNRs will be presented from 18 to 23 July 2025. More information about the VNRs is available on the HLPF website at <https://hlpf.un.org/vnrs>

D. General debate

A general debate of the ministerial days of the HLPF and the High-Level Segment of ECOSOC will take place in person, in parallel with the VNR presentations, from 21 to 23 July 2025. The debate will focus on the theme “**UN@80: Catalyzing change**”. The general debate is open to ministers and other high-level representatives of Member States, intergovernmental organizations with observer status, entities of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations with consultative status, and major groups and other stakeholders. The list of speakers will be opened closer to the date of the meeting.

E. Last Day of the ECOSOC High-Level Segment

The last day of the ECOSOC High-Level Segment will be held on Thursday, 24 July 2025, following the conclusion of the HLPF. It will include two sessions:

- Session one will focus on collaborative, science-driven and evidence-based actions to accelerate the SDGs toward 2030 while leaving no one behind.
- Session two will focus on current global trends and their impacts: international cooperation in a fracturing world.

The discussions at the ECOSOC High-Level Segment will be informed by the Secretary-General's reports on (i) the theme of the 2025 HLPF and ECOSOC; and (ii) the long-term impact of current trends on the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals. The report of the Committee on Development Policy will also contribute to the discussions.

F. Format

All official meetings of the 2025 HLPF and the High-Level Segment of ECOSOC will be held in person at the UN headquarters in New York. All official meetings will also be webcast.

Participating States are invited to include Ministers from various sectors on sustainable development in their delegations, including during the first five days of the HLPF. In previous years, ministerial participation has been consistently ensured throughout the HLPF.

In keeping with the past practice and guidance from the President of ECOSOC, countries are expected to present their VNRs at the ministerial level.

Representatives of major groups and other stakeholders will also participate and are encouraged to engage speakers from all sectors, backgrounds and walks of life, from the local to the global levels.

Due to time constraints, there will be time limitations for speakers, which will be announced in advance. All efforts will be made to ensure that all participating States and other stakeholders have the opportunity to intervene.

Logistical information will be available at: <https://hlpf.un.org/2025/participation>

G. HLPF preparations

Several meetings and events are being organized by the United Nations system, as well as other international and regional organizations, to prepare for the 2025 HLPF thematic reviews of the SDGs (see [2025 HLPF roadmap](#)). These include the annual regional forums on sustainable development convened by the United Nations regional economic commissions. Additionally, several expert group meetings have been organized with the support of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and United Nations system entities to discuss the SDGs under review and their interrelations. More information can be found at <https://hlpf.un.org/2025/preparation>.

UN DESA and UN regional commissions are also organizing global and regional workshops to support countries that will present their VNRs. More information is available at <https://hlpf.un.org/2025/vnrs>

The Group of Friends of VNRs, co-chaired by the permanent representatives of Morocco and the Philippines to the United Nations, will assist countries conducting VNRs by pairing them with other countries to prepare for their interactive discussions at the HLPF.

H. Documentation and outcomes

The HLPF and ECOSOC HLS will be informed by several documents, including the Secretary-General's annual report on Progress towards the SDGs, which provides a statistical snapshot of progress. The forum will also benefit from the Secretary-General reports on the theme of the 2025 HLPF and ECOSOC, the long-term impacts

of current trends on the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as inputs from stakeholders, ECOSOC functional commissions and the United Nations system, reports from the regional forums on sustainable development, the report of the Economic and Social Council Forum on Financing for Development follow-up, the Co-Chairs' summary of ECOSOC Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, the Progress Report on the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, and the Report of the Committee for Development Policy.

Background notes will be prepared for each thematic session, with longer briefs provided on the SDGs under review. The documentation will be available at: <https://hlpf.un.org/2025/documentation>

The HLPF and ECOSOC High-Level Segment will result in the adoption of a negotiated Ministerial Declaration at the end of the ministerial days. Information on the intergovernmental negotiation of the Ministerial Declaration is available on the HLPF website: <https://hlpf.un.org/2025/outcomes>

The President of ECOSOC will also prepare a summary including key policy messages and deliberations.

I. Special events, side events, VNR Labs and exhibitions

As in previous years, UN DESA is planning to organize a number of high-profile special events in collaboration with UN system partners and other actors. These events aim to galvanize the engagement of key sectors of society around the implementation of the SDGs and follow up to the Summit of the Future. UN DESA will also coordinate programmes of side events, VNR Labs and exhibitions. The deadline for submission of proposals for side events and exhibitions is 9 May 2025. More information is available at: <https://hlpf.un.org/2025/events>
