



ECOSOC

2025 ECOSOC High-level Segment

Morning session

Theme: *“UN at 80: the role of ECOSOC in leading action for a stronger and more effective multilateral system”*

Thursday, 24 July 2025

10:30 am – 1:00 pm, ECOSOC CHAMBER

Concept Note

Background

2025 marks a milestone year, as the United Nations celebrates its 80th anniversary. Amid unprecedented global challenges on inequality, poverty and hunger, climate change and conflicts, this moment calls for deep reflection on the future of multilateralism, humanity and solidarity. It is a critical opportunity for Member States to look back on 80 years of the UN’s remarkable and impactful work; to recognize its contributions to international peace and development; and to uphold its central role in fostering global cooperation to confront crises and in shaping a shared future for all humanity.

In March 2025, the Secretary-General launched the UN80 Initiative, recognizing the UN’s 80th anniversary as a timely opportunity to assess the organization’s fitness for purpose. As the implementation of the *Pact for the Future* gets underway and the 2030 deadline for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is fast approaching, the Secretary-General seeks to accelerate efforts to modernize the UN to ensure that the organization can respond to the challenges of an increasingly complex world.

In an era of heightened political, economic and social uncertainty, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) plays a pivotal role in coordinating global responses and advancing multilateralism and cooperation. ECOSOC’s unique mandate to ensure coordinated responses by the UN system as well as facilitate contributions from different stakeholders in support of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, is key to promoting approaches that are agile, effective, just, inclusive, and networked.

ECOSOC will celebrate its 80th anniversary in January 2026. This milestone, along with the General Assembly’s review of ECOSOC and the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) during its 80th session, and the Council’s upcoming assessment of the 2022 review on strengthening its Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies during its 2025-2026 session, presents important opportunities to align and solidify UN80 priorities in close collaboration with the UN membership.



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Objective

This morning session of the ECOSOC High-Level Segment will build on the outcomes of the 2025 ECOSOC segments, forums, and special meetings, seizing the momentum of ongoing initiatives and processes in the context of the UN at 80. It will provide an opportunity for open dialogue between Heads of UN entities and Heads of Government, Ministers, and other high-level participants to reflect on and explore how the Council can revitalize and strengthen its leadership and functions as a UN Charter body.

The discussion will aim to enhance international development cooperation and make the Council more effective, dynamic, and action-oriented in advancing multilateral solutions to global challenges in an increasingly complex and rapidly evolving international context.

Proposed guiding questions:

- As the United Nations commemorates its 80th anniversary, what opportunities and challenges lie ahead for ECOSOC in reinforcing its leadership and core functions?
- How can ECOSOC and its subsidiary machinery deliver more transformative solutions to strengthen multilateral cooperation, enhance global solidarity, and effectively address emerging global challenges?
- Looking at strengthening ECOSOC during the intergovernmental review exercise to be undertaken by the General Assembly at its 80th session and the Council's upcoming assessment on strengthening its Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies, how can ECOSOC discharge its functions more effectively in addressing complex challenges in uncertain times?

Outcome

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

Programme

The programme for this session of the ECOSOC High-level Segment will be made available [here](#).

The overall programme for the 2025 High-level Political Forum and the ECOSOC High-level Segment, including on 24 July, can be accessed [here](#).