



ECOSOC

2025 ECOSOC High-level Segment

Afternoon session

Theme: *“Globalization and international cooperation in a transforming world”*

Thursday, 24 July 2025

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm, ECOSOC CHAMBER

Concept Note

Background

The Economic and Social Council and the ECOSOC system has regularly drawn the attention of Member States to the distributional effects of unregulated economic globalization, both within and between countries, as well as the environmental impacts.

The form, speed and geographical scope of globalization have changed, accelerated and expanded tremendously over time, driven by continuous advances in technology and the policy choices of governments and decisions by businesses and individuals. Many developing countries have benefited greatly from economic integration in the past three decades and the global poverty rate has declined markedly. However, there is also recognition that economic integration has outpaced efforts to cushion its negative effects.

As a result, the strong political commitment of governments to trade liberalization, particularly since the 1990s, has given way to a more cautious outlook, influenced by rising geopolitical tensions that have recently intensified with the introduction of tariffs and retaliatory measures by major actors in the global trading system.

If the prevailing geopolitical fissures in the global trading system are not addressed, it could impact the support of states for multilateral cooperation and institutions, including the implementation of important global frameworks that were created to mitigate the economic, social and environmental costs of globalization. These frameworks include the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third Conference on Financing for Development, the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the Global Digital Compact. The overarching objective of such global frameworks is to help ensure that globalization works for all. The world needs more – not less – globalization, but a globalization that is embedded in the principle of leaving no one behind and governed by multilateral rules and collective action.



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The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is at the heart of the current global framework to make globalization more equitable, inclusive and sustainable. Through the 2030 Agenda, its SDGs and other globally agreed policy frameworks, the United Nations provides opportunities for achieving a fair and inclusive globalization, the realization of which requires national and global policy actions.

At the global level, the ECOSOC segments, forums and expert bodies have an important role in the follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the global framework.

As the United Nations celebrates its 80th Anniversary, the Economic and Social Council stands before the challenge of strengthening globalization and international cooperation so that they are governed by multilateral rules and collective action and embedded in the principle of leaving no one behind.

Proposed guiding questions:

- What are the likely impacts of the current trends in globalization on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals?
- How can the Economic and Social Council rise to the challenge of strengthening a rules-based, fair, equitable and pro-sustainable development globalization and international cooperation that works for all?
- What renewal is needed for the Council and the ECOSOC system to address the current challenges related to globalization and multilateralism and look beyond, towards the future, as the United Nations celebrates its 80th Anniversary?

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](#).