



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Theme: Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Tuesday, 5 July 2022

**Tuesday, 5 July 2022, 9:00 AM-10:00 AM, General Assembly Hall
(Overflow room: Conference Room 4)**

Opening

The theme for the 2022 United Nations high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) and ECOSOC is ***“Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”***.¹

With 2022, we have entered the third year of the COVID-19 pandemic, that has inflicted unprecedented human suffering. With its combined social, economic and health impact, the pandemic has outpaced any other major crisis in recent history. The 2022 HLPF will take stock of the impact of COVID-19 and the other ongoing crises on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The forum will provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations on how to advance the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda during the Decade of Action and Delivery, as part of ensuring sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery from the pandemic, leaving no one behind.

The HLPF in 2022 will also conduct an in-depth review of Sustainable Development Goals 4 on quality education, 5 on gender equality, 14 on life below water, 15 on life on land, and 17 on partnerships for the Goals. The forum will take into account the different and particular impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic across all SDGs and the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the Goals. It will also launch preparations for the mid-term review of the SDGs and the 2023 SDG Summit

Provisional agenda and documentation (E/HLPF/2022/1)

Chair:

- **H.E. Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile**, President of the Economic and Social Council

Opening remarks:

- **H.E. Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile**, President of the Economic and Social Council

Keynote and remarks:

- **Ms. Amina J. Mohammed**, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations (*Main messages from the Voluntary National Reviews*)

¹ GA resolution 75/290 B



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- **Mr. Nicholas Stern**, Professor of Economics and Government and Chair of the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment at the London School of Economics, United Kingdom
- **H.E. Mr. Suriya Chindawongse**, Vice President of Economic and Social Council (*Messages from ECOSOC Coordination Segment*)
- **Mr. Qu Dongyu**, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization
- **Ms. Mari Pangestu**, Managing Director of Development Policy and Partnerships, World Bank Group
- **Mr. Kailash Satyarthi**, SDG Advocate, 2014 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, India
- **Ms. Valentina Munoz Rabanal**, SDG Advocate, youth feminist activist and digital rights advocates, Chile

Messages and performance:

- K-pop girls' group **aespa**

Tuesday, 5 July 2022, 10:00 AM-1:00 PM, General Assembly Hall

(Overflow room: Conference Room 4)

(Townhall meeting)

Building back better and advancing the SDGs

What has been the impact of COVID-19 on the SDGs? Are our recovery measures advancing the 2030 Agenda? What should we do differently? Are we leaving no one behind and addressing trade-offs? How can we address the challenges of Middle-income Countries and Countries in Special Situation? What lessons have we learned from the 2022 VNRs and other countries and stakeholders?

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused extensive suffering and death around the world. Beyond the many millions who have lost loved ones to COVID-19, billions of people have had their lives, livelihoods, education, physical and mental health disrupted. Large-scale economic disruption has increased the poverty, hunger and economic vulnerability of hundreds of millions of people.

The pandemic has set back progress towards many SDGs almost everywhere and slowed implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. At the same time, historic progress was made in some areas such as use of ICT for public services. The 2021 UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) also made major advances with the adoption of the Glasgow Climate Pact. Today's global challenges, such as climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic and the major food, energy and financial crises triggered by the war in Ukraine, along with the deteriorating humanitarian situation, require extraordinary efforts to address the major risks we are facing, with 1.2 billion people living how to make up lost ground and accelerate progress. To some degree, extraordinary measures have been taken by governments in the wake of the pandemic to cushion the impact on the poor and vulnerable populations. Yet, inequalities across countries translate into wide discrepancies in the affordability of emergency health, social protection and economic measures. Moreover, for while addressing risks and shocks, we must also reflect on complex geopolitical situation has further contributed to food insecurity, fuel shortages, spiking inflation and refugee crisis. Countries differ widely in their ability to cushion employment and income shocks through stimulus packages, social protection measures.



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Inequalities in access to financial resources and the vaccine have hindered the recovery of many. Moreover, many developing countries, the loss of vital sources of foreign exchange – due for example to the near total shutdown of international tourism and travel for many months – has contributed to debt distress and the need for debt relief.

This session at the HLPF in the format of a townhall meeting. This means that the first speakers have been identified but any other participant can then intervene from the floor. The townhall will take stock of where countries and the international community are with regard to implementation of the 2030 Agenda, considering the serious systemic and emerging challenges and setbacks caused by COVID-19, the impacts of the war in Ukraine, the deteriorating humanitarian situation and the risk of a decrease in resources dedicated to development. It will also identify opportunities for “building back better”. In this regard, it will focus on deep structural shifts to make economies more socially equitable and environmentally sustainable. It will look at whether the measures that are being put in place are really advancing the 2030 Agenda, implementing the structural changes it requires, and addressing synergies and trade-offs across the SDGs, while leaving no one behind. It will consider whether these measures take into account the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on vulnerable populations. This session will also address countries at various levels of development identifying impact, but also actions that need to be taken to address the impacts of the food, energy and financial crises and to advance towards a sustainable recovery in countries in special situations and looking at special challenges of middle-income countries.

Proposed guiding questions:

- With less than eight years to achieve the SDGs, how can recovery from the pandemic be used to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the SDGs? What lessons learned and opportunities exist to galvanize the political commitment to make the structural reforms we need, and mobilize the financial resources required for a sustainable recovery that advances the SDGs?
- How can we limit the negative impacts of the on-going food, energy and financial crises on the SDGs? How can we keep momentum on development while addressing humanitarian needs?
- How can synergies be best maximized, and trade-offs minimized to advance accelerated actions to achieve the SDGs, step up climate action and leave no one behind?
- Are the emergency social protection and health measures implemented in response to COVID-19 leading to durably strengthening social protection and health systems? Are resources for recovery invested in an environmentally friendly, climate neutral way? How can we ensure that recovery measures are gender-responsive?
- How can we address the food security situation, including by building on the outcomes of the Secretary-General’s Food System Summit?
- What targeted measures need to be undertaken for countries in special situations to ensure that policies and strategies are advancing the implementation of the SDGs? How can we address the challenges faced by middle-income countries?
- What policies, measures and innovations have emerged during the pandemic that hold promise for inclusive and sustainable recovery and how can they be scaled up?

Chair:

- **H.E. Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile**, President of the Economic and Social Council



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Presentation:

- **Mr. Liu Zhenmin**, Under-Secretary-General of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations, presentation of the report of the Secretary-General on the progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (E/2022/55²)

Followed by a townhall style meeting

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

Moderator:

- **Mr. Nikhil Seth**, Executive Director of UNITAR

Lead speakers:

- **H.E. Ms. Marta Lucía Ramírez**, Vice-President and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia
- **Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana**, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific
- **Ms. Linda Yueh**, Fellow in Economics, St Edmund Hall, University of Oxford, Adjunct Professor of Economics, London Business School, and Visiting Professor, IDEAS, London School of Economics and Political Science, United Kingdom
- **Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**, Director-General of the World Health Organization
- **H.E. Ms. Li Andersson**, Minister for Education of Finland
- **H.E. Mr. Anar Karimov**, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Protection of Population of Azerbaijan
- **Dr. Natalia Kanem**, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund
- **Mr. J. Jaime Miranda**, Co-chair of the Independent Group of Scientists for 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report, Research Professor at the School of Medicine and Director of the CRONICAS Center of Excellence in Chronic Diseases, Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Peru
- **H.E. Ms. Hala El-Said**, Minister of Planning and Economic Development of Egypt
- **Mr. António Vitorino**, Director General of the International Organization for Migration
- **Ms. Najat Maalla M'jid**, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children
- **Mr. George Gyan-Baffour**, Chairman of the Government Planning Commission and Senior Policy Advisor to the Minister of Finance of Ghana
- **Ms. Vera Katalinić Janković**, Special adviser of the Croatian Minister of Health for the Public Health and One Health Approach, Croatia
- **Ms. Lynrose Jane D. Genon**, Member of the Executive Council of Young Women + Leaders for Peace, Philippines

² <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N22/335/13/PDF/N2233513.pdf?OpenElement>



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- **Mr. Ambuj Sagar**, Member of the Independent Group of Scientists for 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report, Vipula and Mahesh Chaturvedi Professor of Policy Studies and founding Head of the School of Public Policy at the Indian Institute of Technology, India
- **Gabriela Zavaleta Vera**, Political Advocacy Coordinator, Mas Igualdad Peru (MGoG)
- **Mr. Seth Berkley**, CEO of GAVI Alliance

Interventions of other Ministers and participants (3 minutes each)

Messages and performance:

- **Mr. Vieux Farka Touré**, Malian singer and guitarist

Tuesday, 5 July 2022, 3:00 PM-6:00 PM, Conference Room 4

SDGs in focus:

SDG 17 and interlinkages with other SDGs

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

(Panel)

Financing a robust crisis response and investing in the SDGs

What did ECOSOC Financing for Development Forum call for and how can we follow-up on its recommendations?

The global economy is facing multiple interlinked crises that are putting the achievement of the SDGs at risk. The protracted COVID-19 pandemic, the growing climate crisis and the spillover effects from the war in Ukraine have reversed hard-won development gains and put immense pressure on already limited fiscal space in developing countries. The burden is even more acute for countries with high levels of debt. In this difficult context, the international community must simultaneously strengthen its emergency response and tackle structural issues to scale up of investments in the SDGs.

The 2022 ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development (FFD) made key advances to address these issues. The Forum featured clear calls to support those who are at greatest risk of being left behind by fulfilling official development assistance (ODA) commitments, increasing grant and highly concessional financing mechanisms, boosting domestic resource mobilization and international tax cooperation and expanding climate finance. The Forum's outcome document, which was adopted by consensus, made important strides in advancing commitments on social protection, concessional and grant finance, debt treatments and other key areas.

This session will provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations to advance the gains of the 2022 ECOSOC FFD Forum against the backdrop of interconnected crises.



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Proposed guiding questions:

- In the 2022 ECOSOC FFD Forum outcome document, Member States committed to enhance developing countries' access to financing for crisis prevention and response. How has the financing for development landscape changed as a result of the interlinked crises? What innovative financing policies, tools and mechanisms can countries and the international community adopt to address the immediate socio-economic impact of the crises in the most vulnerable countries?
- Member States resolved to strengthen their social protection systems and to continue to scale-up investments in climate action in the outcome of the 2022 ECOSOC FFD Forum. With limited fiscal space, what tools and resources are available to low -and middle-income countries to invest in job-rich growth, social protection and a sustainable and just transition to a net-zero emissions future?
- To advance the 2022 ECOSOC FFD Forum's call to take concrete steps to incentivize and scale-up long-term affordable private finance for investments that contribute to and align with the SDGs and the Paris Agreement, what public policies and regulatory frameworks are needed? What are the most urgent actions necessary to take this forward?
- Member States committed to enhance the sustainability and resilience of supply chains that foster the sustainable integration of developing countries in the outcome of the 2022 ECOSOC FFD Forum. How can developing countries leverage financing instruments (e.g., trade credit and insurance) to support supply chain resilience and risk management?

Chair:

- President or Vice President of ECOSOC

Keynote address:

- **Mr. Jeffrey Sachs**, SDG Advocate, Director of Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University

Highlights:

- **Ms. Vera Songwe**, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (*on regional commonalities and differences*)
- Highlights of the report of the Secretary-General on progress towards the SDGs – SDG 17 on partnerships for the Goals
Ms. Yongyi Min, Statistics Division of UNDESA

Interactive panel discussion

Moderator:

- **Mr. Homi Kharas**, Senior Fellow in Global Economy and Development Center for Sustainable Development, Brookings Institution



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Resource Persons:

- **Mr. Rémy Rioux**, CEO of Agence Française de Développement, Chairman of International Development Finance Club (IDFC) and Chairman of the Finance in Common Executive Board
- **Mr. Lino Briguglio**, Professor, Islands and Small States Institute of the University of Malta
- **Ms. Leila Fourie**, CEO of Johannesburg Stock Exchange, South Africa, and Co-Chair of the Global Investors for Sustainable Development (GISD) Alliance
- **Mr. Ulrich Volz**, Professor of Economics and Director of the Centre for Sustainable Finance, SOAS University of London, United Kingdom

Lead Discussants:

- **Ms. Paola Simonetti**, Director of the Equality Department, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)
- **Ms. Chenai Mukumba**, Policy Research and Advocacy Manager, Tax Justice Network Africa (MGoS)

Respondent:

- **H.E. Ms. Matilda Ernkrans**, Minister for International Development Cooperation of Sweden

Interventions of other Ministers and participants (3 minutes each)

Tuesday, 5 July 2022, 4:30 PM-5:30 PM, Conference Room 4

(Panel)

Mobilizing and sharing science, technology and innovation for an SDG driven recovery

COVID-19 has shown the huge potential of science, technology and innovation (STI) for responding to crises and realizing the SDGs. It also showed the impact of inequalities in the ability to access and use STI. Building on the outcome and recommendations of the 7th ECOSOC Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology, and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (5-6 May 2022) and considering the recommendations contained in the co-chairs' Summary of the STI Forum, this session aims to further advance progress in gearing STI towards the SDGs and in maximizing benefits from the Technology Facilitation Mechanism created by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and other related UN processes.

The session will discuss the main challenges and opportunities for mobilizing STI and strengthening the science-policy-society interface. Views, suggestions, and current achievements are expected to be shared by practitioners, policymakers, and experts based on their most recent experiences and research.



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Proposed guiding questions:

- What are examples/good practices of use of technologies and innovations during the COVID-19 crisis to tackle inequalities affecting vulnerable groups, including by ensuring equal access to quality healthcare, education, and finance? How can these be shared and scaled up?
- Proactive STI policy measures are needed to stimulate research efforts, focus investments, and inspire coordination. How can countries' science, technology and innovation (STI) roadmaps or action plans contribute to a more cost-effective SDGs-focused STI development?
- 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 4 on quality education, SDG 5 on gender equality, SDG 14 on life below water, and SDG 15 on life on land? Taking into consideration the strategies that did not work to meet the SDG targets, how could these barriers be overcome in the near future?
- How can we further strengthen international cooperation on science, technology, and innovation for an SDG driven recovery, building on the 2030 Agenda?

Chair:

- President or Vice President of ECOSOC

Keynote/Presentation:

- **H.E. Mr. Sergiy Kyslytsya**, Co-Chair of the 2022 STI Forum, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations

Interactive panel discussion

Moderator:

- **H.E. Mr. Kennedy Gastorn**, Co-Chair of the 2022 STI Forum, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Tanzania to the United Nations

Resource Persons:

- **Ms. Quarraisha Abdool Karim**, Associate Scientific Director of the Centre for AIDS Research Programme in South Africa, and UNAIDS Special Ambassador for Adolescents and HIV
- **Mr. Jiahua Pan**, Member of the Independent Group of Scientists for the 2030 Global Sustainable Development Report, Member of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Director of the Institute of Eco-civilization Studies and Professor of Economics, Beijing University of Technology, China
- **Mr. Mario Cimoli**, Acting Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
- **Mr. Lawrence Banks**, Director General of the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB)



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Lead Discussants:

- **Mr. Chris Sharrock**, Head of the UN Affairs Office of Microsoft
- **Mr. Charles Mwangi Research**, Education and Outreach Lead, Kenya Space Agency
- **Ms. Violet Shivutse**, Shibuye Community Health Workers and Huairou Commission, Kenya (MGoG)

Respondent:

- **H.E. Mr. Jitendr Singh**, Minister of Science and Technology of India

Interventions of other Ministers and participants (3 minutes each)

Tuesday, 5 July 2022, 5:30 PM-6:00 PM, Conference Room 4

(Fireside Chat)

Capacity development and partnerships to maximize the benefits of science, technology and knowledge for sustainable development

SDG17, on strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development is the only Sustainable Development Goal that is reviewed annually by the HLPF (A/RES/70/299).

This session will focus on two critical elements of SDG 17, namely capacity building, and multi-stakeholder partnerships as key building blocks in an enhanced global partnership for sustainable development.

Participants will reflect on capacity development to realize the SDGs, including in the area of science and technology and evidence and knowledge-based policy and law making.

They will highlight lessons learned, challenges and emerging issues and explore ways to maximize benefits of multistakeholder partnerships, and capacity building -- including through using science, technology and innovation -- as the world is slowly emerging from the devastating effects of the Covid-19 pandemic amidst a new global crisis in the area of food, energy and finance.

Proposed guiding questions:

- How has the Covid-19 pandemic affected global solidarity and capacity building activities in areas related to sustainable development and the elaboration of related policies and legislation?
- What type of capacity building and partnerships work best according to acquired experience for mobilizing evidence, data, technologies and knowledge to realize the SDGs?
- How can multistakeholder partnerships be mobilized or re-energized towards achieving other goals under review at the 2022 HLPF (on education, gender, life on land and life under water)



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and ensure developing countries' access to science, technology, and innovation in a post-Covid setting?

- How can the private sector be encouraged to increase its engagement in partnerships?

Chair:

- President or Vice President of ECOSOC

Fireside chat

Moderator:

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

Speakers:

- **H.E. Mr. Rustam Karimjonov**, Deputy Minister of Public Education of Uzbekistan
- **Mr. Raymond Saner**, Titular Professor at Economics Department of Basle University and on environmental sciences at Lüneburg University, Germany
- **Mr. Patrick Wood Uribe**, CEO of Util (*A financial tech company that uses machine learning and massive evidence to measure how companies contribute to the SDGs*)
- **Mr. Alexander Buck**, Executive Director of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations
- **Ms Wezzie Chimwala**, Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO) (MGoS)

Wednesday, 6 July 2022

Wednesday, 6 July 2022, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Conference Room 4
(Panel)

SDGs in focus:

SDG 4 and interlinkages with other SDGs - Quality education

How has COVID-19 impacted education and what are the lessons learned? What kind of responses can support access to quality education and life-long learning for everyone? What are key issues for the September 2022 Transforming Education Summit?

Access to quality education and lifelong learning is a means for escaping poverty and an enabler of progress across the 2030 Agenda. Empowered learners can lead the way in achieving the SDGs and in tackling the critical challenges of our time including the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution; social unravelling due to mistrust, hate and violence; and pressures against multilateralism and global citizenship. When SDG 4 was reviewed in 2019, the world was off track to meet the education commitments by 2030. It was facing a learning crisis due to shortcomings



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in education quality, equity and inclusiveness particularly for girls, the poor and conflict-affected populations. Then COVID-19 further disrupted learning and exacerbated educational inequalities across the world. Temporary closure of schools impacted more than 91 per cent of students worldwide with 1.6 billion children out of school including nearly 369 million children who rely on school meals for daily nutrition.

This session will explore lessons learned during the COVID-19 crisis and how responses can be directed toward the provision of quality education and lifelong learning for everyone. It will consider how innovations in learning that emerged during the crisis, including through digital technologies, can boost access and quality rather than exacerbate inequalities. This session will consider the co-benefits SDG 4 can have with other Goals and contribute an interlinked perspective to the Summit for Transforming Education.

Proposed guiding questions:

- What are the major impacts of COVID-19 on education and lifelong learning that risk pushing back progress towards SDG 4 and other SDGs?
- How can recovery from the pandemic be used to accelerate progress in education in ways that contribute to all three pillars of sustainability – economic, social and environmental? Are there strong examples of how education and training systems are supporting just transitions to green economies?
- What innovations have emerged during the pandemic that hold promise for inclusive education, including those that address challenges for girls, and how can they be scaled up?
- How should the education sector be transformed to better contribute to building aware and engaged global citizens who can be change-makers? How can education contribute to building trust in science and in institutions?
- What opportunities does the Transforming Education Summit offer for overcoming barriers to accessing quality education and life-long learning for everyone? What are some policy changes that can happen now, what actions could be taken over the next year, and what are some longer-term commitments that need to be started now?

Chair:

- President or Vice President of ECOSOC

Keynote addresses:

- **Ms. Audrey Azoulay**, Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- **Mr. Leonardo Garnier**, Secretary-General's Special Adviser for the Transforming Education Summit

Highlights:

- Highlights of the report of the Secretary-General on progress towards the SDGs – SDG 4 on Quality education:
Ms. Haoyi Chen, Statistics Division of UNDESA



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Presentations on innovations on education featured in the Voluntary National Reviews:

- **Ms. Joy-Marie King**, Director of International Trade, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Immigration, Antigua and Barbuda
- **Ms. Natia Tsikaradze**, Acting Head of the Strategic Planning and Coordination Unit, Policy Planning and Coordination Department, Administration of the Government of Georgia, National Coordinator of Sustainable Development Goals

Interactive panel discussion

Moderator:

- **Ms. Stefania Giannini**, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Education (*Leading the Secretariat for the Transforming Education Summit*)

Resource Persons:

- **Mr. Omar Abdi**, UNICEF Deputy Executive Director for Programmes
- **Ms. Sheam Satkuru**, Executive Director of the International Tropical Timber Organization
- **Mr. Charles North**, Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Global Partnership for Education
- **Ms. Susan Hopgood**, President of Education International
- **Ms. Doris Mwikali**, SDG4 Youth Network representative to the SDG 4 Education 2030 High-level Steering Committee Sherpa Group

Lead Discussants:

- **Ms. Koumbou Boly Barry**, Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education
- **Ms. Victoria Huallpa Mamani**, member of ATD Fourth World in El Alto, Bolivia
- **Ms. Madeleine Zuniga**, Vice President and founding member of Foro Educativo, Peru (MGoG)

Respondents:

- **H.E. Mr. David Moinina Sengeh**, Minister of Basic Education of Sierra Leone, and Co-chair of the Advisory committee for Transforming Education Summit
- **H.E. Ms Li Andersson**, Minister for Education of Finland
- **H.E. Ms. Sahondrarimalala Marie Michelle**, Minister of Education of Madagascar
- **H.E. Mr. José Mauricio Pineda**, Minister of Education of El Salvador ad interim
- **H.E. Mr. Ishikane Kimihiro**, Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations, and Chair of the Group of Friends for education

Interventions of other Ministers and participants (3 minutes each)



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Wednesday, 6 July 2022, 12:00 PM -1:00 PM, Conference Room 4

(Panel)

Acting at local level

How can we bolster local action to achieve the SDGs and respond to COVID-19? What can we learn from the increasing number of Voluntary Local Reviews and inform Voluntary National Reviews?

Local action is required in order to build back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Indeed, it is estimated that at least 100 of the 169 SDG targets will not be reached without proper engagement and co-ordination with local and regional governments. This has been recognized by Member States, which have emphasized the critical role of local and regional governments in SDG implementation and committed to empowering and supporting cities, local authorities and communities in pursuing the 2030 Agenda (3).

As part of their efforts to localize the 2030 Agenda, local and regional governments are increasingly engaging in reviews of their SDG implementation, also called Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs). VLRs can be a powerful accelerator of SDG implementation. They have the potential to contribute to the collection and analysis of timely, accurate and disaggregated data at the local level; to bring all stakeholders, including those in vulnerable situations, closer to decision-making processes that impact their lives and livelihoods, including access to quality public goods and services. They can also strengthen multilevel governance, foster local planning and inform the elaboration of Voluntary National Reviews. VLRs also promote the adoption of local and regional approaches for the design and implementation of policies that reflect local, regional, national and international contexts and respond, as appropriate, to the specific needs of local communities and geographical areas and institutional settings. VLRs represent a unique tool to foster the link between the SDGs and COVID-19 recovery efforts while providing evidence for the design of COVID-19 recovery plans and priority interventions both at local and national levels. The practice of carrying out VLRs is being taken up not only by capital and large cities but also smaller cities, provinces, and districts, including in rural areas. Member States are also increasingly benefitting from VLRs in their national level reviews. In 2021, they contributed to the preparations of the VNRs of countries including Cabo Verde, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Malaysia, Mexico, Indonesia, Japan, Thailand, and Zimbabwe.

The Ministerial declaration of the 2021 high-level political forum on sustainable development noted that the VLRs are a useful tool to show progress and foster exchange in local implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. In his recent Report on Our Common Agenda, the Secretary-General further stated that: "The role of parliaments, cities and other subnational authorities is particularly being recognized in inclusive approaches, with, for example, Voluntary Local Reviews of Sustainable Development Goal implementation providing a model on which to build. Cities, local authorities and specifically VLRs are key actors and processes to advance sustainable development and inclusive multilateralism"⁴. The present session will explore the important and growing role of VLRs in SDG localization and provide an opportunity for the sharing of key lessons from processes to date.

³ A/RES/74/4, para. 27 (e).

⁴ UN Secretary General Report on Our Common Agenda <https://www.un.org/en/content/common-agenda-report/>



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Proposed guiding questions:

- What are some of the main challenges and bottlenecks for effective implementation of the SDGs at local level? What type of capacity building and support is required to ensure that cities, local authorities and communities are empowered and equipped to implement the SDGs?
- What innovative approaches have been taken to raise awareness on and demystify the SDGs at local level?
- How can the VLRs bolster local action to achieve the SDGs and respond to COVID19?
- What can we learn from the increasing number of VLRs being carried out?
- What positive examples exist in terms of VLR processes fostering participatory approaches to SDG implementation and to leaving no one behind or gathering data relevant to the SDGs at local level?
- How do Voluntary Local Reviews and Voluntary national Review inform and strengthen each other?
- What positive examples exist of dialogue between the national and local levels in terms of SDG implementation?

Chair:

- President or Vice President of ECOSOC

Interactive panel discussion

Moderator:

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

Panellists/Resource Persons:

- **Mr. Juan Schiaretti**, Governor of Córdoba Province, Argentina
- **Ms. Elizabeth Naa Kwatsoe Tawiah Sackey**, Mayor of Accra, Ghana
- **Ms. Rose Keffas**, Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs, Nigeria
- **Mr. Ville Taajamaa**, focal point for SDG work in the City of Espoo, and Editor in Chief for Espoo VLR2020, Finland

Lead Discussants:

- **Mr. Mustafa Uzbaş**, Deputy Mayor of Konya Metropolitan Municipality, Türkiye

Respondents:

- **Mr. Peter Danielsson**, Mayor of Helsingborg, Sweden
- **Mr. Ashok Kuman Byanju**, Mayor of Dhulikel, Nepal

Interventions of other Ministers and participants (3 minutes each)



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Wednesday, 6 July 2022, 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM, Conference Room 4
(Panel)

African countries, Least Developed Countries and Landlocked Developing Countries:

Ensuring equal access to vaccines and resources in the poorest countries

How far have we progressed in ensuring equitable access to vaccines and enabling LDCs, LLDCs and African countries to sustainably recover from the pandemic? How can we address these countries' needs for financial resources and other support? What new measures are needed to implement the Doha Programme of Action for the LDCs?

As reducing global inequalities remains a prerequisite to build a better world post-COVID-19, development partners and the United Nations must boost cooperation with African countries, Least Developed Countries and Landlocked Developing Countries to ensure access to the resources these countries need for COVID-19 response and recovery plans. This includes ensuring equal access to vaccines, for all countries and populations. It also calls for increased targeted support to the implementation of national strategies to achieve the SDGs and mobilization of adequate financial resources.

This session will address a number of priority areas defined by these countries as essential to ensure economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Those include food security, access to the vaccine, effective fiscal and debt management, financing for development, capacity building, trade, access to digital technologies, investment in green economy initiatives, sustainable industry and infrastructure, and the mobilization of domestic resources for climate resilience and sustainable food systems. In doing so, measures that prioritize the needs of women and those of other disadvantaged social groups will be considered to ensure concrete benefits to the population, while leaving no one behind.

The session will discuss solutions for addressing those priorities and reducing inequalities in all dimensions, within and between countries; investing in sound institutions to ensure the resilience of financial frameworks to future shocks; integrating national planning processes with national and external financing strategies, including through integrated national financing frameworks; as well as domestication of the SDGs and their alignment with national development plans. It will also reflect on the Doha Programme of Action adopted in March 2022, and how best to support its implementation as an integral part of the recovery from COVID-19 and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

Proposed guiding questions:

- What are the economic and social impacts of limited access to vaccines in LDCs, LLDCs and African countries?
- How far have we progressed in ensuring equitable access to vaccines and enabling LDCs, LLDCs and African countries to sustainably recover from the pandemic?
- What are the most appropriate national policy frameworks to reverse the negative impact of the pandemic on the SDGs and engage in a sustainable and resilient development process?
- How can the international community best respond to these countries' needs for financial resources and other support?



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- What new policy measures, means of implementation and support architecture are needed to implement the Doha Programme of Action for the LDCs in a timely manner?
- What kind of partnerships do LDCs, LLDCs and African countries need to operationalize global commitments?

Chair:

- President of Vice President of ECOSOC

Interactive panel discussion

Moderator:

- **H.E. Ms. Rabab Fatima**, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations, Co-chair of LDC V Prepcom

Resource Persons:

- **H.E. Ms. Maha El Rabbat**, WHO Director-General's Special Envoy on COVID-19 Preparedness and Response, former Minister of Health and Population of Egypt
- **Mr. Taffere Tesfachew**, Acting Managing Director of the UN Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries, Member of the Committee on Development Policy (CDP)
- **Ms. Preeti Sinha**, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Capital Development Fund
- **Mr. Farid Fezoua**, Global Director for Health and Education, International Finance Corporation (MGoS)

Lead Discussants:

- **Mr. Mihir Kanade**, Member for the Asia-Pacific region of the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development, Academic Director of the University for Peace (UPEACE), Head of Department of International Law and Human Rights and Director of the UPEACE Human Rights Centre
- **Ms. Ugoji Adanma Eze Esq**, CEO and Founder of Engr. Aja Eze Foundation (*on women and children in conflict zones*)
- **Ms. Fatimé Zara HAROUN**, Super Banats, Chad (*a child-led programme to empower girls*)

Interventions of Ministers and participants (3 minutes each)



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Thursday, 7 July 2022

Thursday, 8 July 2022, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Conference Room 4
(Panel)

SDGs in focus:

SDG 5 and interlinkages with other SDGs - Gender equality

What are the most promising strategies and actions today for overcoming gender inequality and discrimination? How can the empowerment of women and girls accelerate SDG progress and recovery from COVID-19?

The last time SDG 5 – achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls – was reviewed at the High-level Political Forum in 2017, there was evidence of some progress being made to advance gender equality, including legal reforms, more girls in school, and fewer child marriages. The percentage of women serving in parliament had increased. Nevertheless, the pace of change was not fast enough and discriminatory laws, social norms, gender stereotypes and violence against women remained pervasive, and women continued to be underrepresented at all levels of decision-making processes and political leadership.

The socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 have added to this, disproportionately affecting women and girls, and threatening to push back recent progress and further entrench persistent gender inequalities. Disproportionate job and livelihoods losses, derailed education, increased burdens of unpaid care work, and increased rates of gender-based violence are among the struggles women and girls have faced with greater intensity since the onset of the pandemic. ⁵ During the pandemic women have been more exposed, making up 70 per cent of health care workers, and more likely to leave the labour market altogether. Negative impacts are compounded for women and girls who are marginalized based on multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination based on race, ethnicity, age, income, geography, disability, or other characteristics. Women migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, as well as forcibly displaced women living in humanitarian crises, are also at heightened risk.

Gender equality has critical interlinkages with all 17 SDGs. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development cannot be fully achieved unless gender inequality is addressed. As countries respond to and recover from COVID-19, this requires addressing the root causes of gender discrimination through promotion of gender-responsive laws, policies, institutions, programming, and budgeting across sectors. As it stands, only about 40 percent of national-level policy measures are designed to respond to gender-specific risks and challenges. This session will focus on concrete policies and actions that can ensure an equitable recovery from COVID-19 that accounts for the needs of women and girls at all

⁵<https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2020/Gender-equality-in-the-wake-of-COVID-19-en.pdf>; see also <https://data.unwomen.org/publications/whose-time-care-unpaid-care-and-domestic-work-during-covid-19>



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

levels of decision-making. It will also consider actions to advance gender equality and empower women and girls in the context of advancing progress across the 2020 Agenda.

Proposed guiding questions:

- What is the current status of progress and trends on the SDG 5 indicators and gender equality more broadly?
- How has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted progress on SDG 5, particularly considering groups of women and girls facing multiple forms of discrimination?
- How can we redirect financing towards advancing the implementation of SDG 5, including through gender-responsive budgeting, economic access, and international trade? How can gender data help inform this transition?
- In building a gender-equitable recovery from COVID-19, what are some key barriers, opportunities and promising practices in the areas of social protection, health systems, reproductive rights, and economic opportunities, particularly as it pertains to employment opportunities and the care burden?
- Considering the interlinkages between SDG 5 and other SDGs, what are the main barriers and opportunities for advancing gender equality in the areas of climate resilience, natural resources, technology and infrastructure?

Chair:

- President of Vice President of ECOSOC

Keynote address:

- **Dr. Denis Mukwege**, Gynecologist and Human Rights Activist, 2018 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, DRC

Highlights:

- Highlights of the report of the Secretary-General on progress towards the SDGs – SDG 5 on Gender equality
Mr. Paul Pacheco, Statistics Division of UNDESA

Interactive panel discussion

Moderator:

- **Ms. Peggy Clark**, CEO and President for the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)

Keynote remarks:

- **Her Royal Highness Princess Dina Mired of Jordan**, Global Advocate for cancer control and Non-Communicable Diseases



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Resource Persons:

- **Dr. Denis Mukwege**, Gynecologist and Human Rights Activist, 2018 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, DRC
- **Ms. Rola Dashti**, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
- **Ms. Margaret Greene**, Senior Fellow of Promundo, United States
- **Ms. Nadine Gasman**, President of the National Women's Institute of Mexico

Lead Discussants:

- **Mr. Victor Madrigal-Borloz**, Chair of the Coordination Committee of the Special Procedures on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity
- **Ms. Samra Filipović-Hadžiabdić**, Director of the Agency for Gender Equality, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Ms. Frida Ravn Rosling**, Danish Youth Delegate to the UN on Democracy and Partnerships
- **Ms. Pille Tsopp-Pagan**, Women's Support and Information Centre NPO, Estonia (MGoG)

"Lightning talk" (interspersed through the discussion):

- **Ms. Tofara Lindsay Chokera**, Founder of Tofara Online, Zimbabwe (*an initiative to empower MSMEs and women to adopt digital marketing and emerging technologies for international trade*)
- **Mr. Vikrant Pandey**, Founder and Managing Director, Fightback, Nepal (*An innovation that prevents gender-based violence*)
- **Mr. Innocent Menyo**, Team Lead & Co-Founder, Mobile Scan Solutions Uganda (*A mobile ultrasound device to detect pregnancy complications in low-resources settings in Uganda*)

Respondents:

- **H.E. Ms. Jutta Urpilainen**, European Commissioner for International Partnerships
- **H.E. Ms. Maite Nkoana-Mashabane**, Minister in the Presidency for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, South Africa
- **H.E. Ms. Seiko NODA**, Minister of State for Gender Equality of Japan

Interventions of Ministers and participants (3 minutes each)

Thursday, 7 July 2022, 12:00 PM-1:00 PM, Conference Room 4
(Fireside Chat)

Working towards the 2023 SDG Summit

Launching preparations for the mid-term review of the SDGs and the September 2023 SDG Summit



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The second “SDG Summit” - the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development under the auspices of the General Assembly will be convened in September 2023 during the General Assembly high-level week in New York⁶. The Summit will mark the mid-point in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The world is trying to embark on a sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that advances the SDGs, amidst the impacts of the current geo-political situations. At the Summit, the Heads of State and Government will comprehensively review progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, and provide political guidance for the way forward and new science-based solutions for accelerating the full implementation of the SDGs in the remaining years towards 2030.

This session will launch the preparations for the mid-term review of the SDGs and the September 2023 SDG Summit. Speakers will discuss the focus and expected outcomes from the Summit, the comprehensive preparations for the Summit and how they can accelerate the implementation of the SDGs at the national, regional and global levels, and ways to strengthen coordination and synergies with relevant intergovernmental processes.

Proposed guiding questions:

- What should be the main focus and expected outcomes of the September 2023 SDG Summit, for it to support the kind of recovery from COVID-19, climate and other crises that advances the implementation of the 2030 Agenda?
- How can we best prepare the Summit at the national, regional and global levels with ownership by all Member States and engagement of all stakeholders? How can we best use the findings from the 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report?
- What kind of achievements could countries, international institutions and other stakeholders deliver by the time of the Summit? Which countries, network or organization can advocate for the delivery of new policies or initiatives and for new ambitious action pledges and commitments to be made at the Summit? How can countries use the Summit’s preparations to accelerate progress towards the SDGs at national level?
- How can we generate processes that further align the private sector with the SDGs and mobilizes engagement and action of all stakeholders, revamping the sense of ownership and enthusiasm that characterized the elaborations of the 2030 Agenda, despite the on-going crises?
- How can we make the Summit unique and how can we bring the voices of women, and people including the most vulnerable groups such as youth and children, and grass roots community representatives?
- How can we best coordinate the SDG Summit with other relevant processes, including Our Common Agenda, the Transforming Education Summit, the Summit of the Future, the mid-term review of the Sendai Framework, and the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development also planned for September 2023?

⁶ GA resolutions 67/290, 70/299, 75/290B



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Chair:

- **H.E. Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile**, President of the Economic and Social Council

Fireside chat

Moderator:

- **Mr. Nikhil Seth**, Executive Director of UNITAR

Speakers:

- **H.E. Mr. Macharia Kamau**, Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kenya, Co-Chair of the General Assembly open working group on the SDGs and co-facilitator of the 2030 Agenda process
- **H.E. Mr. David Donoghue**, Distinguished Fellow of ODI, Co-Chair of the General Assembly open working group on the SDGs and co-facilitator of the 2030 Agenda process
- **H.E. Ms. Jutta Urpilainen**, European Commissioner for International Partnerships
- **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 (UNDRR)
- **Ms. Paula Caballero**, The Nature Conservancy's (TNC), Regional Managing Director for Latin America
- **Ms. Åsa Persson**, Member of the Independent Group of Scientists for the 2030 Global Sustainable Development Report, Research Director and Deputy Director of the Stockholm Environment Institute
- **Ms. Daisy Ndikuno Owomugasho**, Regional Director for The Hunger Project in East Africa
- **Ms. Margaret Olabisi Mekwuye**, Civil Society Coalition on Sustainable Development, Nigeria (MGoS)

Thursday, 7 July 2022, 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM, Conference Room 4
(Panel)

SDGs in focus:

SDG 14 and interlinkages with other SDGs – Life below water

Building on the Ocean Conference, what actions and partnerships can build synergies among COVID-19 recovery, economic development and ocean health? How best can we use the momentum from the Ocean Conference to strengthen the science - policy interface to support sustainable ocean management?

The 2017 HLPF – when SDG 14 was last reviewed – highlighted the multiple impacts of human pressures, including climate change, ocean acidification, overfishing and marine pollution, on coastal and marine ecosystems. These pressures were seen as compromising the gains made in the sustainable management of ecosystems and in conservation efforts, including the effectiveness of marine protected areas. While positive gains for oceans and communities had been achieved locally, global



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trends in rising pressures largely overshadowed those gains. Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic in many ways has added to the pressures including through the surge of biomedical plastic waste [e.g., masks] and disposable single-use plastics utilized to minimize exposure to the virus.

Against this background and building on the outcomes of the Ocean Conference in Lisbon, the discussions at the HLPF SDG 14 session will aim to reinvigorate commitment and action towards achieving SDG 14, and to set the foundation for collaborative framework that is innovative and well supported financially and otherwise.

Proposed guiding questions:

- What has changed since the SDG was last reviewed in 2017 including in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic?
- What are the next steps regarding SDG 14 targets that have now expired?
- How can we best utilize the momentum from the Ocean Conference to strengthen the science - policy interface to support sustainable ocean management?
- Building on the UN Ocean Conference, what are the interlinkages with other SDGs and opportunities to leverage synergies and minimize trade-offs?
- What are the key actions, partnerships, and financing frameworks for enhancing COVID-19 recovery, sustainable economic development and ocean health?
- How can ocean action better support gender equality?

Chair:

- President or Vice President of Economic and Social Council

Keynote address:

- **Ms. Sylvia Earle**, Marine Biologist and Explorer-in-Residence at the National Geographic Society

Highlights:

- Highlights of the report of the Secretary-General on progress towards the SDGs – SDG 14 on Life below water
Ms. Heather Page, Statistics Division of UNDESA

Interactive panel discussion

Moderator:

- **Mr. Angus Friday**, Blue Economy Director, Waitt Institute

Resource Persons:

- **H.E. Mr. Peter Thomson**, United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean
- **Mr. J. Charles Fox**, Executive Director of Oceans 5



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- **Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana**, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
- **Mr. Vladimir Ryabinin**, Executive Secretary, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO
- **Ms. Sanda Ojiambo**, CEO & Executive Director, United Nations Global Compact

Lead Discussants:

- **Ms. Valerie Hickey**, Manager for Advisory and Operations, Climate Change Group, World Bank Group
- **Mr. Martin Visbeck**, Head of research unit Physical Oceanography at GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel and professor at Kiel University, Germany (MGoS)

Respondent:

- **H.E. Ms. Tamar Zandberg**, Minister of Environmental Protection of Israel

Interventions of other Ministers and participants (3 minutes each)

Monday, 11 July 2022

Monday, 11 July 2022, 9:00 AM-9:10 AM, Conference Room 4

Introduction of the report on the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP)

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:

- President or Vice President of ECOSOC

Presentation:

- **Mr. Irfan Tariq**, 10YFP / One Planet Network Chair, Director General of Environment and Climate Change, Ministry of Climate Change of Pakistan



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Monday, 11 July 2022, 9:10 AM-12:00 PM, Conference Room 4

(Panel)

SDGs in focus:

SDG 15 and interlinkages with other SDGs – Life on land

What concrete measures can help reshape the human-nature relationship and set development on a more sustainable path? How can we build momentum for action around the post-2020 global biodiversity framework?

Nature and nature's contributions to people are essential for human existence and good quality of life, and none of the global goals for the protection of life on Earth and for halting the degradation of land and oceans have been fully met. Many are trending in the wrong direction. To build back better following the global COVID-19 pandemic, progress under SDG 15 needs to shift from incremental to transformative change, with multi-sector, multi-stakeholder collaboration.

Proposed guiding questions:

- What concrete measures can help reshape the human-nature relationship and accelerate the shift of development to a more sustainable path?
- What are the main governance, regulatory and market failures that need to be overcome in this decade, and which policy area and actions are necessary to activate a system-wide shift to better value for nature and to integrate nature protection in decision making?
- What opportunities do the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, the land degradation neutrality target, the Global Forest Goals of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests, and the Paris Agreement implementation processes offer to promote more impactful, large-scale change for the protection and sustainable management of terrestrial ecosystems, biodiversity and land resources?
- Where are opportunities to ensure fair, effective, inclusive, and transparent participation of rights holders, especially women and Indigenous peoples, civil society, and other stakeholders in the SDG 15 process?

Chair:

- President or Vice President of ECOSOC

Highlights:

- Highlights of the report of the Secretary-General on progress towards the SDGs – SDG 15 on Life on land
Mr. Yuxi Zhang, Statistics Division of UNDESA

Interactive panel discussion

Moderator:

- **Mr. Nigel Sizer**, Executive Director of the Preventing Pandemics at the Source initiative with Dalberg Catalyst



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Resource Persons:

- **Mr. Bruno Oberle**, Director General of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- **Ms. Olga Algayerova**, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission of Europe and Coordinator of the Regional Commissions
- **Ms. Julie Nash**, Senior Program Director, Food and Forests, Ceres
- **Mr. Uyunkar Domingo Peas**, Ecuador's Achuar people, and representative for the Confederation of Indigenous Nations of the Ecuadorian Amazon
- **Ms. Ajanta Dey**, Joint Secretary and Programme Director, Nature Environment and Wildlife Society

Lead Discussants:

- **Mr. Ralph Chami**, Head of Regional Surveillance for Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia, International Monetary Fund
- **Mr. Daniel Samuelsson**, Youth representative of Sweden to the HLPF 2022
- **Mr. Paul Divakar Namala**, Convenor, Global Forum of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent (MGoS)

Respondents:

- **H.E. Mr. Philda Nani Kereng**, Minister of Environment, Natural Resources Conservation and Tourism of Botswana
- **H.E. Mr. Zéphyrin Maniratanga**, Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations, Chair of the eighteenth session of the UNFF (UNFF18)

Interventions of other Ministers and participants (3 minutes each)

Monday, 11 July 2022, 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM, Conference Room 4

Voluntary National Reviews

As part of its follow-up and review architecture, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development encourages Member States 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 expected to serve as a basis for the regular reviews by the HLPF, meeting under the auspices of ECOSOC.

As stipulated in paragraph 84 of the 2030 Agenda, 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 accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The VNRs also seek to strengthen policies and institutions of governments and to mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation of the SDGs.



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

44 countries will conduct VNRs at the 2022 HLPF. 11 countries will present for the 1st time, 28 for the 2nd time, 3 for the 3rd time, and 2 countries for the 4th time.

Chair: President or Vice President of ECOSOC

2 VNRs: Panel: **Tongo, Uruguay**

Monday, 11 July 2022, 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM, Conference Room 4

(Panel)

Small Island Developing States

Building back better in vulnerable situations

How can we build international consensus on the uptake and use of the Multi-Dimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) to give SIDS access to the support they need to build forward better in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic?

The COVID-19 pandemic and its effects in SIDS illustrate how vulnerability to shocks combined with low resilience can have a severe and long-lasting detrimental effect on economic growth and sustainable development. It also reminds us that shocks have economic, social and environmental impacts, are often interconnected, and that structural factors lead to a high sensitivity and exposure to exogenous shocks. 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 how economic growth and human development are threatened by exogenous shocks of various origins. This is why the fight against vulnerability must be at the heart of international policy aiming at supporting SIDS (and other vulnerable developing countries).

COVID-19 may have opened the way for a paradigm shift in development cooperation in SIDS, to make resilience building a more central concern. In this regard a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) meeting certain specific criteria and supported by international consensus would be a powerful tool in directing international effort towards integrating vulnerability more centrally into global strategies of UN institutions, international financial institutions, and the work of international development partners. At the request of the General Assembly, a high-level panel of experts appointed by the President of the General Assembly is working to finalize an MVI by the end of 2022.

Proposed guiding questions:

- How is the elaboration of an MVI by the high-level panel of experts created by President of the General Assembly progressing?
- How do we build international consensus for the use of an MVI?
- How can official financing strategies and mechanisms used to support SIDS, better include vulnerabilities?
- How can resilience building and the development of proactive preventive strategies become more central in the international strategies pursued in development cooperation?



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Chair:

- President or Vice President of ECOSOC

Keynote addresses:

- **H.E. Mr. Gaston Browne**, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, and Co-Chair of the MVI Panel
- **Mr. Gene Leon**, President of the Caribbean Development Bank

Moderator:

- **Ms. Heidi Schroderus-Fox**, Acting High Representative, United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS)

Resource Persons:

- **Ms. Natalie Cohen**, Assistant Secretary for Development Strategy, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia, MVI Panel Member
- **H.E. Mr. José Luís Rocha**, Ambassador, Cabinet of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cabo Verde, MVI Panel Member
- **Mr. Louise Fox**, Non-resident Senior Fellow of the African Growth Initiative, Global Economy and Development, Brookings Institute, MVI Panel Member

Lead Discussant:

- **Ms. Tamisha Lee**, Jamaica Network of Rural Women Producers (MGoS)

Respondent:

- **H.E. Ms. Amanda Milling**, Minister for Asia and the Middle East of the United Kingdom

Interventions of other Ministers and participants (3 minutes each)

Tuesday, 12 July 2022

**Tuesday, 12 July 2022, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM, Conference Room 4
(Panel)**

Vision of civil society:

Leaving no one behind in recovering better

How can we identify those left behind and how can we provide social protection and other measures to contribute to more equal societies and build resilience?



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The role of the Major Groups and Other Stakeholders (MGoS) in the implementation, follow-up and review of the Sustainable Development Goals was established by the General Assembly in its resolution 67/290 and in paragraph 89 of the 2030 Agenda. The role of civil society in ensuring that no one is left behind cannot be underestimated. This session, organized by the Coordination Mechanism of the MGoS, will discuss pathways for moving forward in the post COVID-19 recovery and advancing the 2030 Agenda. It will address the urgent need for expansion of policy and fiscal space of developing countries through systemic reforms and financing policies that can ensure better alignment between social, ecological, economic and climate priorities.

Proposed guiding questions:

- The large recovery gaps between countries urgently require the expansion of policy and fiscal space of developing countries. Which systemic reforms and financing policies can ensure better alignment between social, ecological, economic and climate priorities?
- How can governments effectively dedicate more resources - fiscal and human - to quality and inclusive public services for education, health, social protection?
- How can governments uphold the “Right to Development” as a fundamental framework for implementing the 2030 Agenda and tackling inequalities between and within countries, in order to leave no one behind based on human rights and gender perspectives?

Chair:

- **H.E. Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile**, President of the Economic and Social Council

Opening remarks:

- **Mr. Liu Zhenmin**, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations
- **Ms. Mabel Bianco**, President of the Fundación para Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer, Co-Chair of the Coordination Mechanism of Major Groups and other Stakeholders (MGoS)

Interactive discussion

Moderator:

- **Mr. Ajay Jha**, Director of the Centre for Community Economics and Development Consultants Society (CECOEDECON), India, Co-Chair of the MGoS Coordination Mechanism

Resource Persons:

- **Ms. Wezzie Chimwala**, Monitoring and Evaluation Manager, Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO), Malawi
- **Mr. Wali Haider**, Joint Director of Roots for Equity, Focal Point for Farmers' Major Group at UNEP, and co-chair of Asia Pacific CSO Regional Engagement Mechanism (APRCM)
- **Ms. Emilia Reyes**, Programme Director, Policies and Budgets for Equality and Sustainable Development, Equidad de Género: Ciudadanía, Trabajo Familia



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- **Ms. Svetlana Slesarenok**, Founder and Director, Black Sea Women's Club, Odessa, Ukraine

Lead Discussants:

- **Mr. Saad Alfarargi**, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development
- **Mr. Denison Jayasooria**, Head of the Secretariat for the All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia on Sustainable Development Goals (APPGM-SDG)

Open dialogue

Interventions of Ministers and participants (3 minutes each)

Tuesday, 12 July 2022, 11:00 AM - 1:05 PM, Conference Room 4

Voluntary National Reviews

Chair: President or Vice President of ECOSOC

5 VNRs: Panel: **Argentina, Ghana, Latvia, Philippines, Switzerland**

Tuesday, 12 July 2022, 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM, Conference Room 4

Voluntary National Reviews

Chair: President or Vice President of ECOSOC

7 VNRs:

1st Panel: **Eswatini, Gambia, Belarus**

2nd Panel: **Greece, Mali, United Arab Emirates**

Individual: **Eritrea**



Theme: Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Wednesday, 13 July 2022

Wednesday, 13 July 2022, 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. Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile**, President of the Economic and Social Council

Performance

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

Opening remarks:

- **H.E. Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile**, President of the Economic and Social Council
- **Mr. António Guterres**, Secretary-General of the United Nations
- **H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid**, President of the General Assembly

Keynote and remarks:

- **H.E. Mr. Mokgweetsi Masisi**, President of the Republic of Botswana
- **H.E. Mr. Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa**, President of Portugal, Co-host of the UN Ocean Conference
- **H.E. Ms. Nadia Calvino**, Chair of the International Monetary and Financial Committee, First Vice President and Minister of the Economy and Digitalization of Spain
- **H.E. Mr. Don Pramudwinai**, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Thailand
- **H.E. Mr. Huang Runqiu**, President of COP 15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Minister of Ecology and Environment of China
- **H.E. Mr. Alok Sharma**, President of COP 26 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Minister of State at the Cabinet of Office of the United Kingdom
- **Ms. Sima Sami Bahous**, Executive Director of UN Women

Youth representatives (messages on behalf of youth)

- **Mr. Khaled Emam**, Organizing Partner of the Major Group for Children and Youth
- **Ms. Anja Fortuna**, Vice President of the European Youth Forum



Wednesday, 13 July 2022, 10:40 AM-1:00 PM, Conference Room 4

HLPF

Voluntary National Reviews

Chair: President or Vice President of ECOSOC

4 VNRs:

Panel: **El Salvador, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia**

Individual: **Dominica**

Wednesday, 13 July 2022, 3:00 PM-6:00 PM, Conference Room 4

HLPF

Voluntary National Reviews

Chair: President or Vice President of ECOSOC

4 VNRs:

Individual: **Djibouti, Suriname**

Panel: **Equatorial Guinea, Tuvalu**

Thursday, 14 July 2022

Thursday, 14 July 2022, 9:00 AM-10:30 AM, Conference Room 4

HLPF

Messages from the regions

This session will focus on regional action and leveraging regional frameworks to support countries on the road to recovery and rebuilding from the devastating impacts of the pandemic.

The 2030 Agenda stresses the importance of the regional and sub-regional dimensions in the follow-up and review of the Agenda. Since the creation of the HLPF, 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 HLPF discussions. Their importance was recognized in the Political Declaration of the SDG Summit in September 2019 and in the 2021 General Assembly review of the HLPF.

The session will discuss the findings and recommendations from the Regional Forums on Sustainable Development. It will include interventions by the Ministerial Chairs of the Regional Forums, the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions and representatives of regional organizations, followed by an interactive discussion with participants.

As we approach the halfway mark between the adoption and finish line of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we must accelerate progress or reverse current trends to achieve its 2030 ambitions. While the recovery from the COVID-19 crisis is still under way, the impacts of the war in Ukraine threaten to further reverse development gains, leading to worldwide disruptions in food, energy and finance systems that are triggering increases in poverty and hunger and threatening political stability.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the impacts of the war in Ukraine are global crises that require unity, solidarity, and renewed multilateral cooperation.

Against this background, the session will highlight regional situations and ways in which Regional Commissions are contributing to addressing these crises through mobilizing regional action and leveraging regional frameworks.

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?
- Which policy actions should be taken in areas such as social protection and education to ensure that they are inclusive and sustainable, grounded in human rights, focused on the vulnerable and on empowering women and girls?
- How can investments be scaled up to accelerate the transition to inclusive and green economies, preserve ecosystems and promote just transitions in digital connectivity, energy and food systems?
- What reforms are required for the global financial architecture to effectively address the large economic, social and environmental gaps and asymmetries between countries and within countries in the various regions?

Chair:

- President or Vice President of ECOSOC

Remarks:

- **Ms. Olga Algayerova**, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe and Coordinator of the Regional Commissions

Video: Snapshots from stakeholders from the regions

Presentations and interactive discussion

Speakers:

Chairs of the Regional Forums on Sustainable Development:

- **H.E. Mr. Don Pramudwinai**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand

- **H.E. Mr. Edil Baisalov**, Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic
- **H.E. Mr. Arnoldo André Tinoco**, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica
- **H.E. Mr. Uzziel Ndagijimana**, Minister of Finance and Economic Planning of the Republic of Rwanda
- **H.E. Mr. Nasser Shraideh**, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation of Jordan

Lead Discussant:

- **Ms. April Porteria**, Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD), Philippines (MGoG)

Interventions from other Ministers and high-level representatives (3 minutes each)

(Member States, regional organizations and other stakeholders will be given the floor to express their views on the regional dimension of COVID-19 recovery and accelerating SDG progress and the follow-up to the outcomes of the Regional Forums.)

Wrap up and concluding observations

- **Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana**, Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
- **Ms. Rola Dashti**, Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
- **Ms. Vera Songwe**, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa
- **Mr. Mario Cimoli**, Acting Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
- **Ms. Olga Algayerova**, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission of Europe and Coordinator of the Regional Commissions

Thursday, 14 July 2022, 10:30 AM-10:45 AM, Conference Room 4

HLPF

Outcomes of 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.

The resumed fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly was held from 28 February to 2 March 2022, in Nairobi under the theme “Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”. UNEA-5 was followed by a Special Session of the UN Environment



Assembly, UNEP@50, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the creation of UNEP in 1972. The special session was held in Nairobi, 3-4 March 2022, under the overall theme of "Strengthening UNEP for the implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

Chair:

- **H.E. Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile**, President of the Economic and Social Council

Keynote speaker:

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

Thursday, 14 July 2022, 10:45 AM-1:00 PM, Conference Room 4

HLPF**Voluntary National Reviews**

Chair: President or Vice President of ECOSOC

4 VNRs:

Individual: **Grenada**

Panel: **Gabon, Guinea Bissau, Netherlands**

Thursday, 14 July 2022, 2:30 PM-4:30 PM, General Assembly Hall

(Parallel)

HLPF**Ministerial roundtable:**

Accelerating the achievement of the SDGs by 2030: addressing on-going crises and overcoming challenges

Even before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, progress towards the SDGs was not at the pace required to achieve the goals by 2030. Actions, including actions to address the climate change crisis, were not ambitious enough. The September 2019 SDG Summit launched a Decade of Action to accelerate progress towards the SDGs. But the COVID-19 pandemic that struck the world late 2019 has reversed years and sometimes decades of progress on many SDGs. The war in Ukraine is now generating crises of historical proportion. The Secretary-General's Global Crisis Response Group stated that an "estimated 1.6 billion people are exposed to at least one dimension of the food, energy or financial crisis. About 1.2 billion of them live in 'perfect-storm' countries severely vulnerable to all

three dimensions – food, energy and finance”. The Secretary-General’s progress report on the SDGs estimates that these combined crises will lead to an additional 75 million to 95 million people living in extreme poverty in 2022, compared to pre-pandemic projections. The benefits we were expecting from the fragile global economic recovery are being severely undermined by the impacts of the triple crises and outburst of the pandemic, while inflation, disrupted supply chains and other factors weighed in on economic growth.

At the same time, policies matter. Comprehensive stimulus packages have been implemented during the pandemic to protect jobs and ensure social protection. Important international initiatives have been taken to ensure access to the vaccine, address unsustainable debt of developing countries and mobilize financial resources. But we must do much more. Equal access and effective distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine, along with developing countries’ equal access to financial resources are essential for recovering from the pandemic. We must also pursue the SDGs as an integral part of our recovery policies, as the theme of the HLPF reminds us. Much more comprehensive, transformative and innovative policies are now needed to keep the focus on the SDGs in the current environment, recover better from the pandemic, avert famine, ensure access to energy and reign in the financial crisis. International solidarity is essential in all those areas. The Secretary-General and many countries, organizations, think tanks, NGOs and others have made proposals to reinforce multilateral cooperation in the current context. The preparations for the SDG Summit and the complementary Summit of the Future are the opportunity to take further action in this direction and to turn the tide and move on to a track of accelerated SDG progress.

This roundtable will bring together ministers from different portfolios to share their various perspectives, vision and experiences on steps that can be taken to address on-going crises and challenges at national, regional and global level, guided by the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

Delegations whose Ministers wish to speak in the ministerial dialogue should register through the e-speakers module on the e-deleGATE portal (edelegate.un.int). Participation in the dialogue will be in person only and will be limited to ministers or, time permitting, vice-ministers. In order to hear as many statements as possible within the limited time available, a time limit of three minutes per statement will be strictly implemented. A provisional list of Ministers that have expressed an interest in speaking during the ministerial dialogue will be circulated in the week of 5 July.

Proposed guiding questions:

Of the current crises and challenges that have emerged this past year, which one is having the largest impact on building back better and SDG achievement in your national context? What immediate measures are being taken at the national level to address these impacts?

What can we learn from the different country experiences in implementing long-term plans and measures for the SDGs when confronted with unforeseen events, crises and challenges?

What immediate measures are needed at the international level to address the crises and challenges that have emerged during the past year, including increased global food insecurity, rising energy costs and insecurity, inflation, and increased CO2 emissions?

What measures are needed to assist developing countries, including countries in special situations as well as Middle Income Countries, to address the emerging crises and challenges?

What are the next steps and actions to be undertaken and implemented during the year ahead in the social, economic and environmental areas with a view to recover, build back better and bring



about the transformations needed to rescue and advance the SDGs leading up to the SDG Summit in September 2023?

What needs to be done to ensure that plans for addressing crises better incorporate measures for reducing inequalities, advancing climate action, protecting the environment and promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns over the immediate and long-term?

Thursday, 14 July 2022, 3:00 PM-6:00 PM, Conference Room 4

(Parallel)

HLPF

Voluntary National Reviews

Chair: President or Vice President of ECOSOC

7 VNRs: Andorra, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Senegal, Sudan

Friday, 15 July 2022

Friday, 15 July 2022, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM, Conference Room 4

HLPF

Voluntary National Reviews

Chair: President or Vice President of ECOSOC (9:00 AM-11:00 AM)

9 VNRs: Italy, Jamaica, Lesotho, Liberia, Luxembourg, Malawi, Montenegro, Sri Lanka, Pakistan

Friday, 15 July 2022, 3:00 PM-4:00 PM, Conference Room 4

HLPF

Voluntary National Reviews

Chair: President or Vice President of ECOSOC

2 VNRs: Botswana, Cameroon



Friday, 15 July 2022, 4:00 PM-6:00 PM, Conference Room 4

Closing of the HLPF

Chair: H.E. Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile, President of the Economic and Social Council

Adoption of the Ministerial Declaration

Closing remarks:

Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile, President of the Economic and Social Council

Conclusion of the HLPF



Theme: Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Monday, 18 July 2022

High-level Segment of ECOSOC

(Continued)

Monday, 18 July 2022, 9:00 AM -9:30 AM, ECOSOC Chamber

**Introduction of the Secretary-General's reports
on the theme of HLPF and ECOSOC
and on long-term future trends and scenarios: impacts on the realization of
the Sustainable Development Goals**

Introduction of the report of the Committee on Development Policy

Chair:

- **H.E. Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile**, President of Economic and Social Council

Presentations:

- **Mr. Liu Zhenmin**, 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 2022 (E/2022/57)⁷ and on long-term future trends and scenarios: impacts on the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (E/2022/58)⁸
- **Mr. José Antonio Ocampo**, Chair of the Committee on Development Policy (CDP), introduction of the CDP report

⁷ <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/SG%20report%20on%20the%20theme.pdf>

⁸ <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/SG%20report%20on%20longterm%20scenarios.pdf>



Monday, 18 July 2022, 9:30 AM -1:00 PM, ECOSOC Chamber
(Panel and interventions by Ministers and other participants)

Future proofing multilateralism for a resilient and inclusive recovery

What are some lessons learned about multilateralism from the response to the COVID-19 pandemic? How can multilateral collaboration be reimagined to be more effective in the future? How can we make multilateralism more inclusive and engaging to deliver a sustainable recovery for people most left behind? What are the urgent measures that the multilateral system could undertake to tackle the impact of debt, rising inflation pressures and other financial developments in developing countries?

Multilateralism is being tested with the ongoing crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic, the climate crisis, biodiversity loss and pollution, as well as the increasing conflicts. The response to COVID-19, especially in its early phases, showed grave shortcomings in multilateralism and international solidarity.

On-going global challenges are putting at risk the already fragile economic recovery around the world. Rising global inflation, driven by recent higher energy and food prices as well as persistent supply chain disruptions and tighter labor markets in many countries, are sending alarming waves in developing countries and are creating additional challenges to policymakers. Many of the needed transformations to recover and build back better and respond to other crises require strengthened multilateral cooperation, collaboration, solidarity and dialogue among multiple stakeholders. It is critical to ensure international solidarity with the poorest and most vulnerable countries and people, and with those most affected by crises.

The Secretary-General, in his report on Our Common Agenda, made proposals to improve multilateralism and make it more inclusive, networked and effective. The Committee for Development Policy has proposed the design of a new multilateralism for a resilient recovery, where action is urgently needed in four areas: the public health response to the pandemic; finance and debt relief; climate change and social protection, including labor rights and education.

Proposed guiding questions:

- What are some lessons learned about multilateralism from the response to the COVID-19 pandemic?
- How can multilateral collaboration be reimagined to be more effective in the future?
- How can we make multilateralism more inclusive and engaging to deliver a sustainable recovery for people most left behind?
- What are the urgent measures that the multilateral system could undertake to tackle the impact of debt, rising inflation pressures and other financial developments in developing countries?

Chair:

- **H.E. Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile**, President of Economic and Social Council



Keynote address:

- **H.E. Danilo Türk**, former President of the Republic of Slovenia, and President of the Club de Madrid

Interactive discussion:

Moderator:

- **Mr. Rajesh Mirchandani**, Chief Communications Officer at the United Nations Foundation

Speakers:

- **H.E. Ms Rania A. Al Mashat**, Minister of International Cooperation of Egypt
- **H.E. Mr. Gabriel Ferrero**, Ambassador at Large for Global Food Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain, and Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security
- **Ms. Chido Mpemba**, Special Envoy on Youth of the African Union
- **Mr. Apostolos Xyrafis**, Secretary General of the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions (AICESIS)
- **Dr. Shyam Bishen**, Head of Health and Healthcare, Member of the Executive Committee, World Economic Forum

Intervention of other Ministers and high-level representatives

Monday, 18 July 2022, 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM, ECOSOC Chamber

(Panel)

Looking ahead: Acting today to secure a better future

What are scenarios for building back better from COVID-19? What current trends could greatly impact the future, and need to be changed or adapted? What trends and scenarios carry the greatest hope or the greatest risk towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda?

As decided by the General Assembly, the High-level Segment of ECOSOC shall focus on “future trends and scenarios related to the Council theme, the long-term impact of current trends, such as contribution of new technologies, in the economic, social and environmental areas on the realization of the SDGs.” The world continues to face serious challenges, from the COVID-19 pandemic to the climate crisis and growing inequality and divisions. The lasting effects of the pandemic continue to impact the world through the health, social and economic repercussions. After a brief respite, the environmental trends in climate change, biodiversity loss, desertification, deforestation, and pollution continue to be on the rise. The war



in Ukraine has also contributed to uncertainty about inflation, food security, energy and international stability.

Since the onset of the pandemic, various policy and societal responses have been implemented to recover and build back better. Many countries are implementing ambitious plans that invest in sustainable development. Some of these plans are based on strategic foresight, analyzing long-term trends and formulating scenarios to characterize and plan for the future.

The policies, reforms and investments implemented today to restructure and strengthen our economies and societies will impact economic, social, and environmental trajectories for years to come. In this context, strategic foresight can highlight opportunities for more sustainable and resilient trajectories that address existing and potential crises, reduce inequalities and achieve the SDGs.

This session will present different perspectives and experiences and engage participants in a dialogue on forward-looking policy approaches to building back better and investing in sustainable development. It will apply a forward-looking lens to analyse the long-term policies and multilateral collaboration needed to build back better, achieve the 2030 Agenda, and achieve and maintain sustainable development in the future beyond the year 2030. Countries will share their experience in elaborating long-term visions for their sustainable development paths and scenarios and how these are being impacted by ongoing crisis.

The discussion will be informed by Secretary-General's reports on this year's theme (E/2022/57) and on long-term future trends and scenarios (E/2022/58).

Proposed guiding questions:

- What significant trends are currently being observed that could greatly impact the future? What trends need to be changed or adapted? What current trends carry the greatest risk and opportunities towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda?
- What are different scenarios for a successful recovery and building back better from the COVID-19 pandemic? What steps need to be taken to achieve these scenarios?
- How can plans for building back better incorporate innovations for reducing inequalities and bridging the digital divide over the long-term?
- What strategies need to be adopted to ensure that financial stimulus packages are applied toward sustainable solutions for future resilience?
- What are examples of near-term decisions that can be made to ensure long-term positive outcomes, such as in the areas of food security and climate change?
- How can we achieve the best-case scenario whereby mobilization of technologies and other policies allows the world to realize the 2030 Agenda?
- What are the opportunities to be realized, and pitfalls to be avoided, in the immediate and medium terms towards these ends? How can international cooperation best provide support?

Chair:

- **H.E. Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile**, President of Economic and Social Council



Presentation:

- **Mr. Liu Zhenmin**, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations, on demographic and other scenarios and future trends

Interactive panel discussion

Moderator:

- **Mr. Dale Willman**, Associate Director, Resilience Fellowship Program, Columbia Climate School, United States

Resource Persons:

- **Ms. Jaana Tapanainen-Thiess**, Secretary General, Government Report on the Future and Government Foresight Group, Office of the Prime Minister of Finland
- **Ms. Tomoko Hasegawa**, Professor, College of Science and Engineering, Ritsumeikan University
- **Ms. Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani**, Founder Chairman of the Arab International Women's Forum, Fellow of the Harvard Advanced Leadership Initiative and Commissioner on the ILO Global Commission on the Future of Work
- **Mr. Edward Paice**, Director of the Africa Research Institute

Lead discussants:

- **Mr. Alfredo González Reyes**, Director of the National Council for Agenda 2030, Mexico
- **Ms. Kristel Van der Elst**, Co-Founder and CEO, The Global Foresight Group, Canada

Respondents:

- **H.E. Ms. Peggy Serame**, Minister of Finance and Economic Development of Botswana
- **H.E. Mr. Ossian Smyth**, Minister of State with responsibility for the Circular Economy at the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications of Ireland
- **H.E. Mr. Dato' Sri Saifuddin Abdullah**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia
- **H.E. Ms. Teresa Ribera**, Minister of the Ecological Transition for Spain

Interventions of other Ministers and participants (3 minutes each)



Monday, 18 July 2022, 5:00 PM -6:00 PM, ECOSOC Chamber
Conclusion of the High-level Segment of ECOSOC

Chair:

- **H.E. Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile**, President of Economic and Social Council

Adoption of the Ministerial Declaration

Closing remarks:

- **Mr. Liu Zhenmin**, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations
- **H.E. Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile**, President of the Economic and Social Council

Conclusion of the High-level Segment of ECOSOC
