

Statement by the Commonwealth Medical Trust to ECOSOC High-level Segment 2021

Strengthening ECOSOC at its 75th anniversary for sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 and advancing the 2030 Agenda

Friday, 16 July 2021, 10:30 am - 1:00 pm

Thank you, Mr President / Chair

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen

I speak on behalf of the Commonwealth Medical Trust (and 'x' other organizations in consultative status)

Civil society actors are crucial in ECOSOC's activities to support the peoples of the world in peace, dignity, and equality.

Through its NGO consultative status modality, ECOSOC has engaged civil society in its work since the beginning.

The mechanisms for civil society engagement in the 2030 Agenda processes, however, are even more inclusive and flexible allowing greater consultation and practical collaboration. The benefits are clear and have been demonstrated during this year's HLPF process.

The 2030 Agenda is built on three pillars. The weakness of its growth from Rio+20 is that there is still a greater focus on the environment and development pillars, to the detriment of the social pillar. (If it was a three-legged stool, it would fall over.) COVID-19 has made clear how civil society actors can and do help in implementing the social pillar. The familiar cry from this HLPF session has been '**need to**'. CSOs are ready to move matters into '**are doing**'.

The following actions could be taken by the Council to increase CSO involvement:

- Ensuring greater CSO participation by urging the inclusion of marginalized groups and young people on national delegations
- Holding dialogues between Chairs and CSOs in advance of sessions of the Council, its commissions and committees, as was the case for this year's Commission on Population and Development
- Increasing opportunities for CSOs to provide '**on the ground**' experiences in the preparation of the Secretary-General's background documents and in thematic sessions

We appreciate our consultative status and are willing to do even more in strengthening the role of ECOSOC, given the opportunity.

Thank you.