



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, with 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. The forum 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 Economic and Social Council

Opening remarks:

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

Presentation:

- **H.E. Mr. Suriya Chindawongse**, Vice President of Economic and Social Council, on messages from the Coordination Segment and forums under ECOSOC on the theme

¹ GA resolution 75/290 B



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Keynote address

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? Lessons 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 at the 2021 UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) with the adoption of the Glasgow Climate Pact. Today's global challenges, such as climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic and the deteriorating humanitarian situation, require extraordinary efforts 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, 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. 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 a format of a townhall meeting. This means that the first speakers will be identified but any other participant can then intervene from the floor. It 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 deteriorating humanitarian situation and the risk of a decrease in resources dedicated to development but also identifying opportunities for “building back better”. In this regard, it will focus on deep structural shifts to make economies more socially equitable and environmentally sustainable and looking whether the measures that are being put in place are really advancing the 2030 Agenda, implementing the structural changes it requires, 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



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for 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 are lessons learned and what 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 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 Economic and Social Council

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 SDGs

Followed by a townhall style meeting

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 FFD Forum call for and how can we follow-up on its recommendations?



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The global economy is facing multiple interlinked crises that are putting the achievement of the SDGs at risk. The protracted COVID-19 pandemic and the growing climate and other crises 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. As a result, the pre-pandemic SDG financing gap of \$2.5 trillion annually is likely to go up significantly – with some estimates suggesting an increase of up to 70%. Therefore, there is an urgent need to mobilize financing at scale from all sources in a speedy and sustainable manner.

The 2022 ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development (FFD) made key gains to address the SDG financing shortfall. 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 take forward the outcomes of the FFD Forum to provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations on the policies, forms of cooperation and other tools necessary to mobilize finance for a global recovery, tackle the climate crisis and achieve the SDGs.

Proposed guiding questions:

- How has the financing for development landscape changed as a result of the interlinked crises? What has the impact been on the achievement of the SDGs?
Building on the FFD Forum outcome document:
- What innovative policies, tools and mechanisms can countries and the international community adopt to address the immediate socio-economic impact of the crises and scale up financing for the SDGs?
- What public policies and regulatory frameworks would facilitate more private sector investments in the SDGs?
- What financing priorities will accelerate a just transition toward environmentally sustainable economies?

Chair:

- President or Vice President of ECOSOC

Interactive panel discussion

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



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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 under 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.

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. Does your country have a science, technology and innovation (STI) roadmaps or action plans and how can this 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

Interactive panel discussion

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

(Fireside Chat)

Other aspects of SDG 17 including capacity development and partnerships

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). Three of the key areas of SDG 17, namely finance, trade, science and technology,



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will be highlighted in two sessions in the afternoon of 5 July, building on ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development and ECOSOC Multistakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI).

This session will focus on two other 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 focus on capacity development in the area of statistics, technology, law-making, notably and on partnerships in these and other areas.

In the discussion, lessons learned, challenges and emerging issues in these areas will be briefly highlighted by speakers. Interventions will also outline current challenges to maximizing benefits of multistakeholder partnerships, and capacity building -- including through using science, technology and innovation as well as policies or law making -- 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 access and other aspects.

Proposed guiding questions:

- How has the Covid-19 pandemic affected global solidarity and capacity building activities in areas related to sustainable development and elaboration of related legislation?
- What type of capacity building and partnerships work best according to acquired experience in national statistical offices to improve high-quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data?
- 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) 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

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



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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 Sept. 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 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 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 at the HLPF 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

Interactive panel discussion



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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 National 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 (2).

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”³. 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.

² A/RES/74/4, para. 27 (e).

³ 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

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 to enable 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 back 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,



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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:

- How far have we progressed in ensuring equitable access to vaccines and to enable LDCs, LLDCs and African countries to sustainably recover from the pandemic?
- What is the economic impact of limited access to vaccines in LDCs, LLDCs and African countries?
- How can the international community best respond to these countries' needs for financial resources and other support, and what are the changes needed in the international financial and economic systems to that end?
- What are the most appropriate national policy frameworks to reverse the negative impact of the pandemic on the SDGs and engage these countries in a sustainable and resilient development process guided by the 2030 Agenda?
- What new measures are needed to implement the Doha Programme of Action for the LDCs?

Chair:

- President of Vice President of ECOSOC

Interactive panel discussion

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?



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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. ⁴ 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 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 women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination?
- How can we redirect more financing towards advancing the implementation of SDG 5, including through gender-responsive budgeting, access to economic opportunities, 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,

⁴<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>



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economic opportunities, particularly as pertains to employment opportunities and the care burden?

- Considering the interlinkages between SDG 5 and other SDGs, what are the main barriers and opportunities to advance gender equality in the areas of climate resilience, natural resources, technology and infrastructure?

Chair:

- President of Vice President of ECOSOC

Interactive panel discussion

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

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 York⁵. The Summit will mark the mid-point review of 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 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 the mid-term review of 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 would be the main focus and expected outcomes of the 2023 SDG Summit, for supporting the kind of recovery from COVID-19, climate and other crises in a way that advances the implementation of the 2030 Agenda?

⁵ GA resolutions 67/290, 70/299, 75/290B



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- How can we best prepare the Summit at the national, regional and global levels? How to better use the findings from the 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report?
- What kind of achievements can 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 commitments to be made at the Summit?
- How to make the Summit unique and how to bring the voices from people including the most vulnerable groups such as women, youth and children, and grass roots community representatives to the meeting and its outcomes?
- How to better 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?

Chair:

- President or Vice President of ECOSOC

Fireside chat

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 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.



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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

Interactive panel discussion

Monday, 11 July 2022

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

Introduction of report on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns

Sustainable Development Goal 12 established that sustainable consumption and production is key to realize all SDGs. 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, Environment and Climate Change, Ministry of Climate Change of Pakistan, on Progress report on the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns



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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 set development on 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 toward including the multiple benefits of nature 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, civil society (especially women and Indigenous peoples), and other stakeholders in the SDG 15 process? Are there any examples from global or national initiatives that could be replicated?

Chair:

- President or Vice President of ECOSOC

Interactive panel discussion

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



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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.

45 countries will conduct VNRs at the 2022 HLPF. 12 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: 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 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.

Proposed guiding questions:

- How do we build international consensus for the use of an MVI?



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- How can official financing strategies and mechanisms used to support SIDS, better include vulnerabilities?
- What is needed for acceptance of an MVI by International Financial Institutions and International Development Partners? What should the MVI include?
- How can resilience building and the development of proactive and preventive strategies become more central in the international strategies pursued in development cooperation?

Chair:

- President or Vice President of ECOSOC

Interactive panel discussion

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?

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 could governments effectively make more resources - fiscal and human - to quality and inclusive public services for education, health, and social protection?
- How could 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?



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Chair:

- President or Vice President of ECOSOC

Interactive discussion

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: 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: Belarus, El Salvador, Eswatini, Gambia, Greece, Mali, United Arab Emirates



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 HLPF

Chair:

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

Opening remarks:

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

Keynote address

Youth representatives (messages on behalf of youth)

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

HLPF

Voluntary National Reviews

Chair: President or Vice President of ECOSOC

4VNRs: Guinea-Bissau, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia

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

HLPF

Voluntary National Reviews

Chair: President or Vice President of ECOSOC

5 VNRs: Djibouti, Dominica, Equatorial Guinea, Suriname, 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 be 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

Presentations and interactive discussion

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

HLPF

Outcomes of 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 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: Eritrea, Gabon, Grenada, Netherlands

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

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 Economic and Social Council

Adoption of the Ministerial Declaration

Closing remarks:

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

H.E. Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile, President of 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 SG reports on the theme of HLPF and ECOSOC
and on scenarios and long-term impact of current trends on the SDGs
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 and on long-term future trends and scenarios – impacts on the realization of Sustainable Development Goals
- **Mr. José Antonio Ocampo**, Chair of the Committee on Development Policy (CDP), introduction of the CDP report

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 have we learned about multilateralism from COVID-19? How can we best support multilateralism and international cooperation for building back better? How can multilateral collaboration be reimagined to be more effective in the future? What are the key reforms needed in multilateral institutions that would allow for adequate representation of developing countries in international institutions?

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:

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

Interactive panel discussion

Interventions by Ministers and other participants

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

(Panel)

Looking ahead: Acting today to secure a better future

Future trends and scenarios for building back better from COVID-19 and their long-term impacts. What are different scenarios for building back better? What current trends could greatly impact the future, and which need to be changed or adapted? What trends and scenarios carry the greatest hope and 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. Recent developments have also contributed to uncertainty about inflation, food security 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 towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda?
- What can we learn from the different country experiences in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and the use of strategic foresight in the formulation of their plans to recover and build back better?
- 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 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 where mobilization of technologies and other policies allow the world to realize the 2030 Agenda? What are the opportunities to be realized, and pitfalls to be avoided, in the immediate- and medium-term towards these ends? How can international cooperation best provide support?

Chair:

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

Interactive panel discussion

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 Economic and Social Council

Conclusion of the High-level Segment of ECOSOC
