



# HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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## Information note on the arrangements for the 2021 High-level Political Forum and the High-level Segment of the Economic and Social Council

(6-16 July 2021)

Version as of 2 July

*(Logistical and technical arrangements are addressed in paragraph 34 onward)*

### I. Programme and format

#### High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

1. The meetings of the 2021 high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) will take place from Tuesday, 6 July to Thursday, 15 July 2021 under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). This includes the three-day Ministerial meeting of the forum to be held from 13 to 15 July as part of the High-level Segment of the Council.

2. The theme for the 2021 HLPF and ECOSOC is “*Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development*”.<sup>1</sup>

3. The 2021 HLPF, without prejudice to the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), shall discuss Goals 1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 12, 13, 16 and 17 in depth. It will also review the targets of the SDGs with a 2020 timeline.<sup>1</sup>

4. In the 2021 HLPF, participants will be able to explore various aspects of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the kind of measures and international cooperation that can control the pandemic and its impacts and put the world back on track to achieve the SDGs by 2030, within the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development.

5. The programme of the 2021 HLPF and the High-level Segment of ECOSOC and the concept note are available on the HLPF website at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2021#programme>. The annotated programme with speakers is also available at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2021#programme>.

<sup>1</sup> A/RES/74/298





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6. All meetings of HLPF and High-level Segment of ECOSOC will be held as fully virtual informal meetings *except* the opening meeting of the HLPF on 6 July from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., the opening of the High-level Segment of ECOSOC and the Ministerial Segment of the HLPF on 13 July from 9 to 10:30 a.m., the meeting of the HLPF from 3-3:40 p.m. on Thursday, 15 July, and the meeting of the High-level Segment of ECOSOC from 3-4:30 p.m. on Friday, 16 July, which will be held as informal meetings with in-person and virtual participation (“hybrid”). In addition, the meeting for the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration and closing of the HLPF on 15 July from 3:40 to 5 p.m. and the meeting for the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration and closing of the High-level Segment of ECOSOC on 16 July 2021 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. will be held as in-person formal meetings. Any statements to be delivered in connection with the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration will need to be made in the in-person meeting.

7. Ministerial or higher-level participation is encouraged throughout the HLPF. Countries are encouraged to present their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) at a ministerial or higher-level and to include representatives of various ministries and sectors in their delegations, which will be facilitated by the virtual and “hybrid” arrangements.

## *Thematic sessions*

8. Thematic sessions of the HLPF will be held from 6 to 12 July 2021. The thematic sessions will be conducted in different formats, such as moderated thematic panel or townhall meeting or fireside chat.

9. The sessions on the SDGs under review have been prepared through virtual expert group meetings led by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and UN system organizations and other partners. Background notes outlining the expected focus and guiding questions for each thematic session (including sessions on the SDGs, on specific themes or countries in special situation) are posted online on the HLPF website at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2021#docs> and in the annotated interactive programme.

10. 64 functional commissions of ECOSOC and other intergovernmental bodies and forums, as well as other actors have provided inputs to the thematic review of the HLPF and the synthesis of these inputs is available at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2021#docs>.

## *Voluntary National Reviews*

11. From 12 to 15 July 2021, the HLPF will hear presentations of Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) by 43 countries, including 8 countries presenting for the first time, 25 second timers and 10 third timers.

12. As in previous years, the first timers will have 15 minutes for their presentation and 15 minutes for Q&A. The first timers will choose whether to present in an individual format or in a panel with other countries. The second and third timers will have 10 minutes for their presentation and 10 minutes for



*Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development* **2**



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Q&A and will present in a panel format. More information on VNRs is available at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/>.

13. A schedule of the presentations will be available as part of the updated HLPF programme to be posted on the 2021 HLPF website. All VNR reports are being posted online at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/> as they are received.

14. A compilation of main messages for the 2021 VNRs is available on the HLPF website at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2021#docs>.

15. Given the virtual and “hybrid” nature of the meetings, VNR countries will be presenting via livestreaming.

16. During the allotted time for questions and answers, there will be an opportunity for a limited number of questions and comments by participating States and stakeholders. At the end of the session, the VNR countries will be given a few minutes to respond to the interventions made. In case of lack of time, written responses can also be provided if decided by the VNR country. Those will be made available at the VNR country page in the HLPF VNR online data base at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/>.

17. Following the practice introduced at the 2019 HLPF, the President of ECOSOC has encouraged countries to participate in the Group of “Friends of VNRs” to prepare HLPF discussions on each VNR. The Chair of the Group of Friends is the Deputy Permanent Representative of Mexico (please contact the focal point at the Mexican mission at e-mail [2conu1@sre.gob.mx](mailto:2conu1@sre.gob.mx)). This arrangement does not preclude States that do not participate in the Group of Friends from requesting the floor following any VNR.

18. Major Groups and other stakeholders will self-organize to intervene during the VNR sessions.

## **High-Level Segment of ECOSOC**

19. The last day of the High-level Segment of ECOSOC will be on Friday, 16 July 2021. It will include two sessions. The first session will be a high-level discussion on “*Strengthening ECOSOC at its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary for sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 and advancing the 2030 Agenda*”. Delegations are invited to indicate their interest to speak through an expression of interest on the e-deleGATE platform by 3 p.m. on Friday, 9 July 2021. The list of speakers will be prepared taking into account the level of representation and the order of inscription. Participation is encouraged at ministerial level.

20. The second session on 16 July will be dedicated to Scenarios and possible medium and long-term trends related to the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the achievement of SDGs “”. This is consistent with the mandate contained in General Assembly resolution 72/305. There is no pre-inscription for this meeting and thus no pre-recorded statements. Requests for the floor should be made





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during the meeting through the link to the speaker request form (available in the chat board) for virtual participants and by pressing the microphone button for those joining in-person.

21. Two reports of the Secretary-General have been prepared for the High-level Segment of ECOSOC and can be found [here](#). They are (i) report of the Secretary-General on sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development (E/2021/62) ; and (ii) report of the Secretary-General on the long-term impact of current trends in the economic, social and environmental areas on the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals ( E/2021/61).

## General debate

22. Due to the virtual and hybrid nature of the HLPF and the High-level Segment of ECOSOC, participating States and other participants are invited to provide general statements through a pre-recorded video or in writing for posting on the ECOSOC and HLPF websites and in e-deleGATE. All prerecorded video general statements must be uploaded no later than 16 July 2021 using the following link: <https://www.dropbox.com/request/47RLz1ZXzP2CIVriVSR5>. All written general statements should also be uploaded by 16 July 2021 through the following link: <https://www.dropbox.com/request/6oAWv5gcD5HkLp86TePp>

23. The length of the statements should be consistent with previous time limits of 6 minutes for statements on behalf of groups and 4 minutes for individual statements.

## II. Outcome

### *Ministerial Declaration*

24. The co-facilitators of the Ministerial Declaration, His Excellency Jukka Salovaara, Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations, and His Excellency Mohammed Hussein Bahr Aluloom, Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations, are in the process of facilitating informal consultations on the Ministerial Declaration of HLS/ECOSOC and the HLPF in accordance with the timeline provided in the [letter of the co-facilitators](#), dated 19 February 2021. It is expected that the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration will take place at the closing of the HLPF on 15 July 2021 and at the closing of the





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High-level Segment of ECOSOC on 16 July 2021, which will be held as in-person formal meetings. Only delegates present in the room will be able to intervene during the closing session.

## *Summary of the President of ECOSOC*

25. Following the HLPF/HLS, the President of ECOSOC will also prepare a summary to capture the key messages of the discussions of the HLPF and the High-level Segment of ECOSOC, to be issued after the meeting.

## *SDG Acceleration Actions*

26. The 2021 HLPF will also be used as an opportunity to share information about new and ambitious SDG acceleration actions and initiatives by participating States, including the VNR countries, the UN system and other stakeholders, as was done at the 2019 SDG Summit and the 2020 HLPF. New Acceleration Actions can be submitted on UN DESA's online [SDG Acceleration Actions platform](#) which collects and shares information about such new voluntary initiatives.

## **III. Documentation**

27. All official documents will be available for download and review from the HLPF website at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2021#docs> and will be available on the UNODS site ([documents.un.org](https://documents.un.org)) in all official languages prior to the meeting.

28. Documentation includes notably:

- Provisional agenda (E/HLPF/2021/1)
- Report of the Secretary-General on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals
- Report of the Secretary-General on sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development
- Report of the Secretary-General on the long-term impact of current trends in the economic, social and environmental areas on the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals.





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- Synthesis of voluntary submissions by the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and other intergovernmental bodies and forums
- Compilation of the main messages of the 2021 voluntary national reviews
- Reports of the regional forums on sustainable development (E/HLPF/2021/3)
- Discussion papers on the theme of the high-level political forum on sustainable development submitted by major groups and other stakeholders (E/HLPF/2021/2)
- Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the progress report on the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Report of the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up on its 2021 session, including the intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations of the forum (E/FFDF/2021/3)
- Summary by the President of the Economic and Social Council of the 2021 Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up
- Summary of the President of the Economic and Social Council on the 2021 Development Cooperation Forum
- Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2021

Co-Chairs' summary of the 2021 multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals<sup>29</sup>. VNR reports submitted by countries presenting a Voluntary National Review are being posted on the VNR database (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/>) as they become available. They represent the views of the VNR countries.

30. Background notes and other background materials developed by the Secretariat through the preparatory process and a background note on the synthesis of main messages from VNR countries (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/>) are available at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2021#docs>.

## IV. Related events

### VNR Labs

31. A set of informal VNR Labs will be held virtually from 6 to 15 July 2021 under the theme of the HLPF. A programme of VNR Labs will be available on the HLPF website at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2021#labs>. Some Labs will deepen the discussion on the VNR of specific countries while others will address themes cutting across several VNRs.





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## *Side events and exhibitions*

32. Side events and exhibitions will be organized virtually on the margins of the HLPF. The information including calendar of HLPF events are available on the HLPF website (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2021#other>, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2021#exhibit>).

## *Special events*

33. UN DESA is organizing a number of high-profile special events in collaboration with key UN partners and other actors, to galvanize the engagement of key sectors of society around SDG implementation and broaden ownership and engagement with the 2030 Agenda. The special events planned for 2021 include: a Local and Regional Governments Forum; the SDG Learning, Training and Practice workshop series; an event with higher education institutions and universities; an event with Chief Sustainability Officers and other private sector champions; and the SDGs in Action Film Festival. The special events are expected to be conducted mainly virtually, however, some in-person engagement might be considered conditions permitting. More information will be available at the HLPF website <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2021#other>.

## V. Logistical and technical arrangements

### In-person participation

#### *Venue*

34. The in-person informal meeting with virtual participation (“hybrid” meeting) on Tuesday, 6 July from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., on Tuesday, 13 July from 9-10:30 a.m., and the in-person informal meetings with virtual participation (“hybrid”) followed by the formal meetings on the afternoon of Thursday, 15 July, will be held in the General Assembly Hall, and on the afternoon of Friday, 16 July, will be held in the combined Conference Rooms 1,2 and 3.



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## **The following precautionary measures aimed at mitigating the spread of COVID-19 are in place:**

- In addition to the listed entry requirements in the attached mitigation guidelines, attendees confirm on entry to the UN complex that they have met any quarantine requirements of New York State regarding travel in the last 14 days from countries or US States considered high risk;
- To ensure the effectiveness of physical distancing in the General Assembly Hall/combined Conference Rooms 1,2 and 3 only two delegate(s) per participating State and two delegate(s) from the European Union will be allowed in the Hall/Conference Rooms;
- The seating plan has been amended to ensure physical distancing – please refer to the seating charts to be circulated in advance of the meetings.
- Any statements or interventions delivered by delegations present in the GA Hall/combined Conference Rooms 1,2 and 3 will be made from the national seat.
- The proceedings of the meetings will be webcast live and on demand on UN Web TV, allowing to follow the proceedings through webcast.

## **Contact tracing**

35. To assist with contact tracing in case of need, Participating States and UN staff supporting the meeting are kindly requested to swipe their UN ID badges at the card readers located in the entrances to the Hall/Conference Rooms.

**PLEASE REFER TO THE ATTACHED “GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR MITIGATION OF COVID-19 EXPOSURE DURING MEETINGS IN THE UNHQ COMPLEX” WHICH CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION RELATING TO PARTICIPATION IN THE IN-PERSON MEETINGS.**

## **Virtual Participation**

36. The virtual informal meetings of the HLPF and the High-level Segment of ECOSOC will be held on the Zoom virtual platform with remote simultaneous interpretation.

37. The in-person informal meetings with virtual participation (“hybrid”) on Tuesday, 6 July, from 9 a.m. to 1.00 p.m., on Tuesday, 13 July, from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., on Thursday, 15 July, from 3 to 3:40 p.m., and





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on Friday, 16 July from 3 to 4:30 p.m., will also take place using the Zoom virtual platform with remote simultaneous interpretation for those joining virtually.

38. Only the members of the delegation who intend to speak during the virtual meetings should log into the virtual platform. Other members of the delegation may view the proceedings on UN WebTV [LINK: <http://webtv.un.org/>], Facebook [[@UNwebTV](#)], or YouTube: [[@UNwebTV](#)] and would not need to join the virtual platform.

### *Access and participation on the virtual platform*

39. The link to the meetings on the virtual platform will be made available on the “ECOSOC meetings” page in the e-deleGATE Portal. Participants without access to the e-deleGATE portal will receive the link through a separate communication prior to the meetings. Since the capacity of the platform is restricted, delegates should limit their participation on the platform to 1 or 2 delegates at a given time. For security reasons, the meeting link should not be shared or forwarded except within a delegation.

40. A guidance note on the required set up for virtual meetings is attached ([https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/28179Required\\_set\\_up\\_for\\_virtual\\_meetings\\_HLPF\\_HLS.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/28179Required_set_up_for_virtual_meetings_HLPF_HLS.pdf)). Guidelines on participating in meetings of the HLPF/HLS on the Zoom virtual platform are also attached for reference.

41. When connecting, delegates will be requested to enter their name. In order to assist the presiding officer in identifying participants on the virtual platform, participants are requested to follow the naming convention: Participants should insert the name of their delegation/organization/affiliation before entering their full name (i.e. first and last names). For example, under “Your name”, insert “{name of delegation/affiliation} + [ Full name]”. Failure to use the above name designation may impact access to the platform and ability to speak in the discussions.





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Zoom

## Join Meeting

Enter meeting ID or personal link name

[DELEGATION/AFFILIATION] [FULL NAME]

Remember my name for future meetings

Do not connect to audio

Turn off my video

Join Cancel

### *Familiarization “onboarding” sessions*

42. All participants who intend to take the floor during the virtual meetings or those joining the “hybrid” meetings virtually were strongly encouraged to attend a familiarization session held on 30 June in order to test their equipment and connection from the location at which they intend to intervene.

43. On the days of the meetings, participants intending to speak are strongly encouraged to join the virtual platform up to one hour in advance of the start time of the meeting in order to confirm that their equipment and connection is working properly.

### List of participants

44. Participating States and observers are invited to indicate the full composition of their delegation through the e-List of Participants module for the HLPF and the High-level Segment of ECOSOC, respectively, in the e-deleGATE portal by 7 July 2021. The e-list of Participants is now open.

45. Representatives of Intergovernmental organizations and the United Nations system, including funds, programmes, specialized agencies and regional commissions, that do not have access to the e-List of Participants module on the e-deleGATE platform should send their delegation lists in both Word and PDF format to Ms. Yasmine Laabas ([laabas@un.org](mailto:laabas@un.org)).



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46. Representatives of major groups and other stakeholders (MGoS) should go to <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2020#stakeholders> and could sign up to the MGoS Coordination Mechanism mailing list if they have not yet done so.

## Interventions

47. In order to request the floor during interactive discussions at a given meeting, participants joining virtually will be invited to inscribe through an on-line speaker form. The Secretariat will provide a link to the speaker form to request the floor in the chat board of the virtual platform. The form will only be enabled at the start of a given meeting or discussion and it will not be possible to request the floor in advance of the meeting. Requests for taking the floor during the interactive discussions of the HLPF and the ECOSOC High-level Segment by virtual participants should be made through the speaker form. Delegations in the GA Hall/combined Conference Rooms 1,2 and 3 for the in-person or “hybrid” meetings on 6, 13, 15 and 16 July should press their microphone buttons in order to request the floor in accordance with established practice. The exception is the session of the high-level segment of ECOSOC on the Anniversary of ECOSOC in the morning on 16 July (see paragraph 19 above).

48. Given the limited time available and in order to allow the maximum number of participants to intervene, interventions in interactive discussions should be limited to no more than two minutes each. The time limit will be strictly implemented, including through the use of a timing device, sound alert and/or microphone cut off, as necessary. The Chair or moderator may intersperse the interventions of participating States with interventions by international organizations/observers, representatives of the UN system and major groups and other stakeholders.

## **IMPORTANT**

**Written copies of all statements delivered in the HLPF and the High-level Segment of ECOSOC should be sent to [estatement@un.org](mailto:estatement@un.org) at least two hours in advance of delivery in order to ensure proper interpretation. Interpretation for statements not sent in advance may be impacted or suspended including given the additional difficulties related to remote simultaneous interpretation. Statements submitted to [estatement@un.org](mailto:estatement@un.org) will be available in the entry for the relevant meeting in the UN Journal (<https://journal.un.org>). The subject line of the email should clearly identify the date and time of the meeting at which the intervention will be delivered.**

Remarks that are in the form of talking points or drafts may be submitted to IS-UNHQ [is-unhq@un.org](mailto:is-unhq@un.org). Remarks sent to the IS email address will not be published or shared.

To enable accurate interpretation, please ensure the speaker speaks clearly and at a moderate pace.





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## Webcast

49. All meetings of the 2021 HLPF and High-level Segment of ECOSOC will be broadcast on UN WebTV [LINK: <http://webtv.un.org/>], Facebook [@UNwebTV], and YouTube: [@UNwebTV].

## Accessibility

50. In an effort to ensure the 2021 HLPF and high-level segment is accessible for participants with disabilities, closed captioning (CART services) will be provided for all meetings (6-16 July). Additionally, international sign language will be provided for meetings on 6 and 12-16 July.

### CART services

- Virtual participants (for both hybrid and fully virtual meetings) can turn on or off the CART service by clicking the “Live Transcript” button on Zoom.
- Closed captions are displayed on the screens in the conference room for hybrid and in-person meetings.
- Participants on UN Webcast have the option to view the meeting with CART services.
- For all meetings, participants can view CART services on a separate device on this URL: <https://www.streamtext.net/text.aspx?event=CFI-UN>

### International sign interpretation (IS)

- IS will be provided for the opening meeting on 6 July and for all meetings between 12 and 15 July.
- Virtual participants (for both hybrid and fully virtual meetings) need to “pin” the international sign interpreter box to view the sign interpretation. Please see below steps for “pinning” a speaker:
  - i. Go to Gallery View (upper right side of the screen)
  - ii. Using your mouse, hover over the image of the Sign Interpreter
  - iii. Click three blue dots “...”
  - iv. Click the word “PIN”





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- IS is displayed on the screens in the conference room for hybrid and in-person meetings.
- Participants on UN Webcast have the option to view the meeting with IS, where available.



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