



## HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

***Theme: 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***

**Tuesday, 6 July 2021**

**Tuesday, 6 July 2021, 9:00 AM-10:00 AM**

### **Opening**

General Assembly Hall

#### **Background of the session:**

The theme for the 2021 United Nations high-level political forum on sustainable development (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>

With the pandemic still raging in many parts of the world, the degree to which the SDGs have been knocked further off track is not yet fully known. As the Secretary-General report on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) shows, however, it is clear that the pandemic has already had a very significant impact in a number of areas, undermining decades of development efforts<sup>2</sup>.

The HLPF will review the situation regarding all SDGs and discuss in depth Sustainable Development Goals 1 on no poverty, 2 on zero hunger, 3 on good health and well-being, 8 on decent work and economic growth, 10 on reduced inequalities, 12 on responsible consumption and production, 13 on climate action, 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions, and 17 on partnerships and their interlinkages with each other and with other SDGs.

Learning from the 42 Voluntary National Reviews that will be presented this year, the HLPF will allow peer learning and reflect on the kind of policies that are being implemented to respond to the pandemic and its impacts and the extent to which they support SDG progress..

The HLPF will provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations on the kind of policies and cooperation that are necessary to both overcome 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.

#### **Chair:**

- **H.E. Mr. Munir Akram (Pakistan)**, President of Economic and Social Council

<sup>1</sup> GA resolution 74/298

<sup>2</sup> [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/27610SG\\_SDG\\_Progress\\_report\\_2021.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/27610SG_SDG_Progress_report_2021.pdf)



## HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### Opening remarks:

- **H.E. Mr. Munir Akram (Pakistan)**, President of Economic and Social Council

### Presentation:

- **H.E. Mr. Juan Sandoval Mendiola (Mexico)**, Vice President of Economic and Social Council, on messages from the Integration segment of ECOSOC to the HLPF thematic review

### Keynote addresses:

- **H.E. Mr. Macky Sall**, President of Senegal
- **Dr. Tedros Adhanom**, Director-General, World Health Organization
- **Ms. Kristalina Georgieva**, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund
- **Ms. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala**, Director-General of the World Trade Organization
- **Mr. Michael Kremer**, Professor in Economics and the College and the Harris School of Public Policy at the University of Chicago, Founding Director of the Development Innovation Lab at the Becker Friedman Institute for Economics, Nobel Laureate 2019

**Tuesday, 6 July 2021, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM**

### **The SDGs in time of crisis: A sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery from COVID-19 as an opportunity to realize the SDGs**

Where do we stand on the SDGs given the dramatic impacts of COVID-19? Discussion based on the SG's SDG progress report and experiences of countries at various development levels, including Middle Income Countries and other actors? What kind of policies can address COVID-19's impacts while putting us on track to realize the SDGs? This session will discuss resilience of health systems, equitable access to vaccine; emergency social protection measures; challenges with learning/education; impacts on gender and economic dimensions

General Assembly Hall

The COVID-19 pandemic has an important impact on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, undermining decades of development efforts. In 2020, millions of people were pushed back into poverty and hunger; an equivalent of 255 million full-time jobs were lost; and an additional 101 million children and youth fell below the minimum reading proficiency level, wiping out the education gains achieved over the last two decades. Violence against women and girls has intensified and child marriage is also expected to increase. The economic slowdown associated with COVID-19 has done little to slow the climate crisis. Instead it has reinforced and exacerbated existing inequalities and threatened the achievements of the SDGs.

At the same time, the pandemic led to scientific breakthroughs with the development of effective vaccines, demonstrating the power of science, innovation, and public-private partnerships. Yet, developing countries' equitable access to vaccines remains a major challenge due to political, systemic,



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technical and logistical hurdles. This has elicited strong calls for COVID-19 vaccines to be a global public good. Vaccine equity remains a prerequisite for a sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery from COVID-19 everywhere.

Countries are still struggling to find the appropriate response to the pandemic and its social and economic impacts. While important stimulus packages have been implemented, the measures taken so far have often fallen short of the response required to overcome the impacts of the pandemic and move to a track to realize the SDGs. They have not boosted long-term investments in the SDGs, nor created enough new jobs or sufficiently supported transitions to carbon neutrality and environmental sustainability and supported the furthest behind.

Economic resilience with new fiscal and debt sustainability frameworks, societal resilience with universal social protection schemes and climate resilience with greater investments in sustainable development overall, including in sustainable infrastructure, are key building blocks of a resilient recovery. Such efforts need to be bolstered by international solidarity and universal access to the vaccine so that the world can move to the trajectory of sustainable development.

The HLPF reviews shall take into account the different impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic across all Sustainable Development Goals, consider progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda in its entirety and address the interlinkages between Goals, to promote integrated actions cutting across economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. It will thus discuss actions that can create co-benefits, address synergies and trade-offs and meet multiple objectives in a coherent manner, leaving no one behind. The review shall also cover the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals with a 2020 timeline.

The pandemic has put a spotlight on the poor and most vulnerable, including women, older people, young people, children, low-wage earners, informal workers, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, people in situations of conflict, refugees and migrants. Countries need to enhance social protection and access to essential services for the poor and most vulnerable to ensure an inclusive recovery and that no one will be left behind.

Achieving the SDGs will depend on the collective response over the coming 18 months; whether the COVID-19 crisis serves as a much-needed wake-up call that spurs a decade of truly transformative action that delivers for people and planet is still to be seen. Countries in special situations, including LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, as well as middle-income countries, would require a tailored approach that takes into account their needs and priorities. The 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs is still the best available blueprint for a sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and to profoundly improve the lives of all and transform our world for the better.

### **Proposed guiding questions:**

- Where do we stand on the SDGs given the dramatic impacts of COVID-19?
- What can we learn from the different country experiences in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic?
- What mix of policies have been more effective in addressing COVID-19's impacts while putting countries back on track to realize the SDGs?



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- What are immediate actions that countries should consider for addressing the socio-economic impact of the pandemic on the most vulnerable?
- What should be done to ensure the availability of timely and reliable data and improve the resilience of the statistics offices/operations to make informed decisions for recovering from COVID-19 and achieving the SDGs?

### Chair:

- **H.E. Mr Munir Akram (Pakistan)**, President of Economic and Social Council

### Presentation:

- **Mr. Liu Zhenmin**, Under-Secretary-General of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations, UNDESA, presentation of the report of the Secretary-General on the progress towards SDGs and measures to realize the SDGs at the time of COVID-19 pandemic

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. Achim Steiner**, Administrator of UNDP

### Lead speakers:

- **H.E. Ms. Sania Nishtar**, Federal Minister and Special Assistant on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety to the Prime Minister of Pakistan
- **H.E. Ms. Marsha Caddle**, Minister of Economic Affairs and Investment of Barbados
- **H.E. Ms. Claudine Uwera**, Minister of State in charge of Economic Planning of Rwanda
- **H.E. Mr. Tariq Ahmad**, Minister of State for South Asia and the Commonwealth, United Kingdom
- **H.E. Mr. Isaac Alfie**, Director of the Office of Planning and Budget of Uruguay
- **H.E. Ms. Birgitta Tazelaar**, Deputy Vice-Minister for International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Netherlands
- **Ms. Henrietta H. Fore**, Executive Director of United Nations Children's Fund
- **Ms. Rola Dashti**, Executive Secretary of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)
- **Mr. Jomo Kwame Sundaram**, Visiting Senior Fellow at Khazanah Research Institute, Visiting Fellow at the Initiative for Policy Dialogue, Columbia University, and Adjunct Professor at the International Islamic University in Malaysia
- **Mr. Dominic Waughray**, Managing Director, Centre for Global Public Goods, Member of Managing Board, World Economic Forum
- **Ms. Sofia Sprechmann Sineiro**, Secretary General of Care International



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Followed by interventions of Member States

**Tuesday, 6 July 2021, 12:00 PM-1:00 PM**

### **Ensuring that no one is left behind**

How do we protect the poorest and most vulnerable from the crisis  
and empower them to realize the SDGs?

General Assembly Hall

When Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, they pledged that no one would be left behind, and that they would endeavour to reach the furthest behind first. They committed themselves to achieving sustainable development for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society.

While progress was made in economic and social development over the past decades, it has been uneven among countries and among various social groups. Poverty is still ravishing the lives of over 1 billion people, a number that has increased with the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. The impact of the pandemic has laid bare lack of social protection and access to healthcare services, discrimination and human rights neglects. It also increased global inequalities between people and countries based on their level of access to good health and sanitation services, and increasingly importantly, quick and safe vaccinations.

The pandemic has thus exposed and worsened high levels of vulnerability, and unprecedentedly high demand for social protection measures. At the same time, the pandemic has also added urgency to close the digital gaps. The digital divide has given a new face to inequality, as digital access has become one of the critical determinants of livelihoods, well-being and recovery with digital technologies increasingly used for public service delivery, facilitating of work-family balance and supporting e-learning.

This session will examine these new dimensions of the global commitment to ensuring that no one is left behind, and the challenges towards protecting and empowering vulnerable groups towards increased resilience and recovery in the years ahead. The discussions will highlight changes in the well-being of women, households, families and various social groups, including older persons, children, young people, low wage earners, informal workers, persons with disabilities, migrants, refugees, people in situation of conflict and those facing digital exclusion. It will also seek ways to restore comprehensive policies and strategies towards inclusion and reverting back to the vision of the 2030 Agenda.

#### **Proposed guiding questions:**

- What are the lessons from the pandemic in deploying social and economic measures and policies to cope with vulnerability and disadvantage and its diverse effects on various groups in society?



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- How can we progress to the SDGs be resumed quickly and sustainably for the furthest behind, building back from addressing the setback in poverty, unemployment, human rights and exclusion caused by the pandemic?
- What lessons can be learned from the current crisis to formulate more inclusive economic and social policies for the post-pandemic world, while still facing the environmental challenges and climate change?
- How can we monitor recently enacted social protection and digital inclusion measures for their effectiveness and their ability to reach the furthest behind?

### Chair:

- **H.E. Ms. Pascale Baeriswyl (Switzerland)**, Vice President of ECOSOC

Interactive panel discussion

### Moderator:

- **Ms. Jane Barratt**, Secretary General, International Federation on Ageing (IFA)

### Panelists/Resource Persons:

- **Ms. Michelle Bachelet Jeria**, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- **Ms. Jane Coffin**, Senior Vice President of Internet Society
- **Mr. Joshua Phoho Setipa**, Managing Director of the Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries
- **Mr. Fabio Veras**, Senior research coordinator at the International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth (IPC-IG) and the Institute of Applied Economic Research (IPEA) researcher

### Lead discussants:

- **Mr. Saad Alfarargi**, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to development
- **Mr. Antonio Vitorino**, Director-General of International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- **Ms. Beena Pallical**, Executive Director at the Asia Dalit Rights Forum (Communities Discriminated by Work and Descent Stakeholder Group)

### Respondent:

- **H.E. Ms. Sarah Adwoa Safo**, Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection of Ghana



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Tuesday, 6 July 2021, 3:00 PM-5:00 PM

### **Building resilience against future shocks through structural changes and investment in sustainable infrastructure**

How can we restructure our social and economic systems and develop the sustainable infrastructure we need (transport, water and sanitation, energy, ICT, urban systems, and social infrastructure) to build resilience and achieve the SDGs?

The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged our society's resilience. The sheer magnitude of the crisis was, in most cases, beyond our society's capacity to cope. Along with tragic losses of human life, the economic and social impacts of the pandemic could last for an extended period, decades in some countries. Resilience is critical to softening the impacts of such shocks on individuals, households, communities and countries, including the poorest and most vulnerable. Since the onset of the pandemic, we have witnessed various policy and societal responses to the crisis. We have seen multiple dimensions of the resilience of people and societies.

The recovery should be used to increase resilience. It should trigger and accelerate the transition towards a more prosperous and more inclusive world; where economic security and people's well-being are ensured, where no one is left behind, where sustainable development can proceed based on sustainable infrastructure and a world better equipped to deal with environmental crises, including climate change and biodiversity loss. This session will focus on two important dimensions of the reforms we need, namely the reform of our social protection systems and the mobilization of investment in sustainable infrastructure, including social infrastructure, which is a critical way to support the transformations we need.

The reforms, policies and investments we implement today to restructure and strengthen our social protection systems will impact on our economic, social, and environmental trajectories for the years to come and build resilience for future generations. So the emergency social measures implemented to contain the social impacts of COVID-19 should be maintained and evolve into efforts to achieve universal social protection throughout the life cycle, including for the poorest and most vulnerable.

Sustainable infrastructure has multiple benefits for social development and people's well-being as well as for economic development. Infrastructure investments are catalysts for the economic recovery from the pandemic and for job creation, thus reducing economic insecurity. Sustainable infrastructure can also increase productive capacity, propel climate action and expand biodiversity protection, while strengthening resilience to withstand risks and shocks. Many developing countries however lack adequate health and education infrastructure as well as hard infrastructure in transport, water, sanitation, energy, ICT, roads and urban systems. Investment in sustainable infrastructure thus need urgent attention in the global strategy for recovering from COVID-19. The vast majority of developing countries do not have the public resources to finance infrastructure investments, nor the capacity to borrow at the low interest rates available to the advanced economies. They will have to find ways to mobilize expanded external financing, including private finance. The international community's resolve to achieve the SDGs requires new efforts and the improvement of mechanisms to mobilize resources for supporting investment in sustainable infrastructure, including social infrastructure, in all countries, especially developing countries. Strategies to mobilize sustainable infrastructure investment aligned



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with the guideposts provided by the SDGs, will be instrumental to realize the 2030 Agenda to support socio-economic development and build resilience.

### Proposed guiding questions:

- How can we restructure our social protection systems to ensure universal social protection and build resilience against future shocks?
- What areas of infrastructure investment should be prioritised in the context of the global recovery drive and to maximize impacts on social and economic development?
- What are the crucial policy measures for mobilizing resources for sustainable infrastructure?
- In what areas are international cooperation and coordination needed the most to build resilience through investment in social protection and in sustainable infrastructure as well as to match resources and needs? What is the role of the United Nations?
- What kind of reforms, systems and transformations are needed to mobilize resources for sustainable infrastructure investment in developing countries?

### Chair:

- **H.E. Mr. Munir Akram**, President of Economic and Social Council

Interactive panel discussion

### Moderator:

- **Mr. Atif Kubursi**, Professor emeritus, McMaster University, Canada

### Panellists/Resource Persons:

- **Ms. Isabelle Durant**, Acting Secretary-General of UNCTAD
- **Ms. Vera Songwe**, Executive Secretary of ECA
- **Mr. Erik Berglof**, Chief Economist of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)
- **Mr. Gavin Power**, Executive Vice President and Chief of sustainable development and international affairs, PIMCO
- **Mr. Jim Hall**, Professor of Climate and Environmental Risks and former Director of the Environmental Change Institute, Oxford University
- **Ms. Isabel Ortiz**, Director, Global Social Justice Program Initiative for Policy Dialogue (IPD)
- **Mr. Stephen Devereux**, Professorial Fellow, Co-Director, Centre for Social Protection Institute of Development Studies (IDS)

### Lead discussants:

- **Ms. Mami Mizutori**, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and Head of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
- **Mr. Francesco La Camera**, Director General of IRENA



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- **Mr. Yannick Glemarec**, Executive Director of the Green Climate Fund
- **Mr. Andre Zhu**, Senior Vice President of Global Affairs and General Counsel, Pinduoduo, China
- **Mr. Refat Sabbah**, President of the Global Campaign for Education (GCE) and the General Director and founder of the Teacher Creativity Center, Palestine (Education & Academia Stakeholder Group)
- **Mr. Suran Maharjan**, Volunteers Major Group

### Respondents:

- **H.E. Mr. Valdis Dombrovskis**, Executive Vice President of the European Commission
- **H.E. Mr. Eamon Ryan**, Minister for Transport and Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications of Ireland

## Wednesday, 7 July 2021

Wednesday, 7 July 2021, 9:00 AM - 12:15 PM

### **SDGs in focus:**

How do we get on track to end poverty and hunger, and transform towards inclusive and sustainable economies?  
(SDGs 1, 2, 8, 17 and interlinkages among those goals and with other SDGs)

*(Meeting break 11:00 AM - 11:15 AM)*

Poverty and hunger are on the rise after years of decline, a trend exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, and past progress in many areas of eliminating poverty in all its dimensions is facing headwinds. As many as 132 million additional people went hungry in 2020 because of the COVID-19 crisis, and it is projected that as many as 163 million additional people could be pushed into extreme poverty through 2021. The livelihoods of people living in poverty and informal workers are at risk without social protection to cope in many countries, with women particularly impacted. At the same time shrinking fiscal space in many countries further restricts options.

In the recovery from COVID-19 and its negative impacts, economic growth is necessary to lift people out of poverty, yet it needs to be much more inclusive. The critical role of social protection needs to be reinforced, while also addressing the inequalities that have been exacerbated by the pandemic including gender inequality. The loss of jobs must be urgently addressed. Additional actions are needed to transform economies and food systems to deliver on the interlinked SDGs in an integrated manner especially in growing sectors, such as green jobs and service provision, and with investments in climate-friendly agriculture and low-carbon infrastructures as well as in ICT. Scaling up successful initiatives and investments for systemic transformations is needed to eradicate poverty and hunger advancing good health while building resilience for the future. This session will examine the challenges



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and opportunities for ending poverty and hunger and transforming towards inclusive and sustainable economies.

### Proposed guiding questions:

- What have been the key trends regarding SDGs 1, 2 and 8, and relations with SDG 17?
- How can increasing poverty and hunger be tackled while transforming economies and food systems towards increased resilience and lowered climate/environmental impacts?
- How can economic recoveries be shaped to ensure more inclusive and sustainable patterns of growth that generate decent jobs, ensure equal access to basic services and social protection, and support carbon-neutrality and a better balance with nature?
- How can food systems be transformed to deliver better nutrition for all, while improving their balance with nature?
- What are the opportunities to be realized (and pitfalls to be avoided) in the immediate and medium terms towards these ends? What kind of international cooperation is needed to provide the necessary support?
- What are ways to combat poverty and hunger and respond to the COVID-19 crisis and its impacts that enable more inclusive, equitable, resilient and sustainable development?
- How can policies in those areas support gender equality?

### Chair:

- **H.E. Mr. Munir Akram (Pakistan)**, President of Economic and Social Council

### Keynote address:

- **H.E. Ms. Sania Nishtar**, Federal Minister and Special Assistant on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety to the Prime Minister of Pakistan

### Highlights:

- **Ms. Maria-Francesca Spatolisano**, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, UNDESA, presentation of Good Practices in the implementation of SDGs
- Presentation of the report of the Secretary-General on progress towards the SDGs - Goals 1, 2, 8 and 17: **Ms. Yongyi Min**, Chief of SDG Monitoring Section, Statistics Division of UNDESA

Interactive panel discussion

### Moderator:

- **Ms. Gerda Verburg**, Coordinator at Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement

### Panellists/Resource persons:

- **Mr. Gilbert F. Hougbo**, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development



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- **Mr. Guy Ryder**, Director General of the International Labour Organization
- **Mr. Aloysius Ordu**, Head of Africa Growth Initiative, Brookings Institution, Former Vice President of the African Development Bank
- **Ms. Katherine Richardson**, Professor, Biological Oceanography Globe Institute, Leader Sustainability Science Centre, University of Copenhagen

### Lead discussants:

- **Mr. Maximo Torero**, FAO Chief Economist
- **Mr. Olivier De Schutter**, UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights
- **Mr. Eric Manzi**, Deputy General Secretary of the African Regional Organisation of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC-Africa), Rwanda (Workers & Trade Union Major Group)
- **Ms. Ruramiso Mashumba**, Director and Founder of Mnandi Africa, Zimbabwe (Business & Industry Major Group)

### Respondents:

- **H.E. Mr. Lassané KABORE**, Minister of Economy, Finances and Development of Burkina Faso
- **H.E. Ms. Meryame Kitir**, Minister for Development Cooperation of Belgium
- **H.E. Ms. Silvana Eugenia Vargas Winstanley**, Minister of Development and Social Inclusion of Peru
- **H.E. Mr. Thanawat Tiensin**, Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security, Permanent Representative of Thailand to the Rome agencies,

**Wednesday, 7 July 2021, 12:15 PM -1:15 PM**

### **Looking at the 2020 targets: implementation and review**

How are we doing on the 2020 targets and their interrelations? How can we keep reviewing them while keeping track of ongoing intergovernmental processes to keep the level of ambition of those targets?

When the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development was negotiated, Member States decided that certain targets within the SDGs should be achieved with an accelerated timeline, including those agreed in other intergovernmental processes such as the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and others. These “shared” targets have a completion date of 2020 in those parallel processes, and by carrying over this deadline to the SDGs, Member States effectively raised the ambition of the 2030 Agenda as a whole. There are 21 targets meant to mature in 2020, representing “shared” targets and others designated by the Member States: 2.5, 3.6, 4.b, 6.6, 8.6, 8.b, 9.c, 11.b, 12.4, 13.a, 14.2, 14.4, 14.5, 14.6, 15.1, 15.2, 15.5, 15.8, 15.9 and 17.11 and 17.18. None of these targets were achieved in 2020.

The Secretary-General’s SDG Progress report of this year shows that there has been some progress in some of these targets, but nowhere is the progress adequate. There has been, for instance, a decline



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in road traffic injuries (though this is still the leading cause of death globally for young people); an increase of ODA for scholarships; an increase in the number of countries that have developed youth employment strategies and national urban policies; an increase in climate-specific financial support; a strong increase of key biodiversity, marine, freshwater and terrestrial legally protected areas from 2000 to 2019; a slowing-down of deforestation; and progress in instruments and policies to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and to address invasive alien species. On the other hand, many local livestock breeds are deemed at risk of extinction, the world's river basins and wetlands are under increased threat, youth unemployment has increased significantly, mobile-broadband networks and e-waste recycling are progressing much too slowly, the proportion of overexploited fish stocks continues to increase, and species extinction risk has worsened by about 10 per cent over the last three decades. In addition, bilateral investment treaties with LDCs have slowed in 2020, and after an initial increase in support to high-quality, timely and reliable data especially in LDCs, this is now faltering due to the pandemic.

So, though 2020 has passed for these targets, now is the time to intensify efforts to achieve them, keeping in mind that many of them, especially those related to biodiversity, are being reviewed and likely made more ambitious through their own parallel processes. This session will thus provide the opportunity to discuss how to accelerate achievement of these targets and how best to reflect the increased ambition coming from related intergovernmental processes while maintaining the integrity of the 2030 Agenda.

### Proposed guiding questions:

- What would be the best ways to accelerate achievement of the 2020 targets?
- What would be the best way to update the targets?
- What role should General Assembly and the HLPF play in keeping the ambition of the 2020 targets?

### Chair:

- **H.E. Mr. Juan Sandoval Mendiola (Mexico)**, Vice President of ECOSOC

### Highlights:

- **Ms. Olga Algayerova**, Executive Secretary of UNECE, Presentation of regional dimensions

Interactive panel discussion

### Moderator:

- **Mr. Manish Bapna**, Interim President and CEO, World Resources Institute

### Panellists/Resource persons:

- **H.E. Mr. David Donoghue**, Distinguished Fellow of ODI, former co-facilitator of the negotiations on the elaboration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



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- **H.E. Mr. Peter Thomson**, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean
- **Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema**, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity

### Lead discussants:

- **Mr. Jean Todt**, United Nations Special Envoy for Road Safety
- **Ms. Alice Ruhweza**, Africa Region Director for the World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
- **Mr. Javier Surasky**, Professor and Chair of the International Cooperation Department of the Institute of International Relations at the La Plata National University, Argentina (Together 2030 Stakeholder Group)

**Wednesday, 7 July 2021, 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM**

### **SDGs in focus**

How do we revamp and transform consumption and production  
and address and mitigate climate change?

(SDGs 12, 13, 17 and interlinkages among these goals and with other SDGs)

Climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste are three interlinked emergencies driven by human activities. Despite a temporary reprieve due to the pandemic, preliminary data shows that greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions continued to grow in 2020, and that 2015-2020 was the warmest six-year period on record. Domestic material consumption per capita and total global material footprint as well as food waste and e-waste all continue to rise around the world. Addressing these crises will require major structural transformations in the way people live, work, produce and consume.

Experts estimate that global emissions must fall by 45% from 2010 levels by 2030 in order to limit global warming to 1.50C. At the same time, countries must take aggressive action to reduce resource use per unit of GDP, enhance the sustainable use of natural resources, and address all forms of pollution and waste in order to achieve the sustainable consumption and production (SCP) targets contained in SDG 12. This is also necessary to bend the development curve toward a version of society where people live in a more balanced and harmonious relationship with nature. Such efforts must include proactively managing novel pollutants, and resource demands associated with new products and materials.

The necessary transformations are deep and far-reaching, and they need to take place on an accelerated timeline. Many of these transformations are technically feasible but difficult to implement if left entirely to the market. The pandemic recovery period may provide an unprecedented opportunity to overcome inertia if governments respond with the requisite political will and direct recovery investments toward renewable energy, sustainable infrastructure, nature-based solutions, and green jobs, as well as international cooperation for a truly global impact. SDGs 12 and 13 can be achieved only with a strengthened global partnership (SDG 17), the private sector's genuine commitment to shift to sustainable production practices, and changes in consumption patterns. This session will address progress towards SDGs 12 and 13 and the interlinkages with other SDGs notably SDG 17. It will also discuss concrete policies and actions needed to make meaningful progress in



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sustainable consumption and production and in combatting climate change. It will explore the vital and interrelated roles of governments, business, communities, civil society and the multilateral system.

### Proposed guiding questions:

- What have been the trends on SDG 12 and 13?
- What broad-based economic and social transformations are needed to make consumption and production systems more sustainable, to arrest climate change, reduce waste, and restore the relationship between human society and nature?
- How can transformations towards carbon neutrality also promote sustainable consumption and production, including with new materials and products?
- How can these transformations also promote gender equality and ensure that no one is left behind?
- 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 support?

### Chair:

- **H.E. Ms. Pascale Baeriswyl (Switzerland)**, Vice President of ECOSOC

### Remarks:

- **H.E. Mr. Malik Aslam**, Minister for Climate Change and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister of Pakistan

### Highlights:

- Presentation of the report of the Secretary-General on progress towards the SDGs - Goals 12, 13 and 17: **Ms. Heather Page**, Statistician, SDG Monitoring Section, Statistics Division of UNDESA
- Video of children and youth climate activists

Interactive panel discussion

### Moderator:

- **Ms. Jennifer Morris**, CEO, The Nature Conservancy

### Panellists/Resource persons:

- **Mr. Bruno Oberle**, Director General of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- **Ms. Patricia Espinosa**, Executive Secretary of UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
- **Ms. Olga Algayerova**, Executive Secretary of ECE
- **Mr. Nikhil Hirdaramani**, Director, Hirdaramani International Group, Sri Lanka



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### Lead discussants:

- **Ms. Ligia Noronha**, Assistant Secretary-General and Head of UNEP New York Office
- **Ms. Louise Mabulo**, Chef, Farmer, Entrepreneur, UN Young Champion of the Earth, Philippines
- **Mr. Kossivi Adessou**, Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR)'s West and Central Africa Regional Coordinator, Togo (Sendai Stakeholder Mechanism)

### Respondents:

- **H.E. Mr. Virginijus Sinkevičius**, European Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries
- **H.E. Ms. Annika Jacobson**, State Secretary to Minister for Environment and Climate and Deputy Prime Minister Per Bolund of Sweden
- **H.E. Mr. Rodrigo Rodriguez Tornquist**, Secretary of Climate Change, Sustainable Development and Innovation, Argentina Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, and Chair of the 10YFP Board
- **H.E. Mr. Alexandre Leitão**, Special Envoy for Climate Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Portugal

**Thursday, 8 July 2021**

**Thursday, 8 July 2021, 9:00 AM - 12:15 PM**

### **SDGs in focus:**

How do we get on track for building more peaceful, equal and inclusive societies (SDGs 3, 10, 16, 17 and interlinkages among those goals and with other SDGs)

*(Meeting break 11:00 AM - 11:15 AM)*

Globally, as of 25 June 2021, there have been 179,686,071 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 3,899,172 deaths, reported to WHO. As of 24 June 2021, a total of 2,624,733,776 vaccine doses have been administered. At the same time, past progress in many areas of health and well-being including in maternal mortality and childhood vaccinations stand to be reversed. The continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic also risks increasing inequality both within and among countries along many dimensions. Income inequalities within countries have widened, with lower income households bearing a disproportionate burden of the pandemic in terms of lost jobs or greater exposure to the virus. Across countries, differences in recovery trajectories – due to unequal fiscal resources and also unequal access to COVID-19 vaccinations – threaten to further widen gaps in per capita incomes between developed and most developing economies.



## HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Forms of inequality that pre-date COVID-19, including unequal care burdens at home and the digital divide, now stand to set women, school aged children and rural communities back decades. Along with the health impacts of the pandemic, all of these heightened social tensions and polarization and weaken social cohesion. At the same time, in many cases, institutions intended to promote more peaceful, just and inclusive societies have fallen short, including during COVID-19 related lockdowns, increasing risks of unrest, conflict and violence. The stresses being experienced could also however motivate new partnerships and initiatives to reduce inequalities, advance well-being and promote justice and inclusive, effective and accountable institutions. This session will explore the situation and interlinkages among SDGs 3, 10, 16 and 17 and identify ways forward toward more peaceful, equal and inclusive societies.

### Proposed guiding questions:

- What are the next steps in the health response to the pandemic and how can we protect past advances in the area of health?
- What has the pandemic revealed about how deep-seated inequalities determine lifetime opportunities and outcomes including in good health and well-being?
- Has the pandemic introduced new forms of inequality within and across countries that now also need to be addressed?
- How can countries make effective and enduring changes towards more equitable, inclusive and just societies?
- 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 support?

### Chair:

- **H.E. Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile (Botswana)**, Vice President of ECOSOC

### Highlights:

- Presentation of the report of the Secretary-General on progress towards the SDGs - Goals 3, 10, 16 and 17  
**Ms. Haoyi Chen**, Coordinator, Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys, Statistics Division of UNDESA

Interactive panel discussion

### Moderator:

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

### Panellists/Resource persons:

- **Ms. Armida Alisjahbana**, Executive Secretary of ESCAP
- **Ms. Gabriela Bucher**, Executive Director of Oxfam International
- **Ms. Sarah Cliffe**, Director, NYU Center on International Cooperation



## HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- **Ms. Quarraisha Abdool Karim**, Associate Scientific Director, Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research (CAPRISA), and Professor of Clinical Epidemiology, Columbia University
- **Mr. James K Boyce**, Senior Fellow at the Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts Amherst

### Lead discussants:

- **H.E. Ms. Marina Sereni**, Vice Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy
- **Ms. Najat Maalla M'jid**, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children
- **Dr. Nata Menabde**, Executive Director, WHO Office at the United Nations
- **Ms. Valentina Bodrug-Lungu**, Associate Professor, Moldova State University (Women's Major Group and ECE Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism)

### Respondents:

- **H.E. Mr. Francisco André**, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Portugal
- **H.E. Mr. Mohamed Fathi Ahmed Edrees**, Chair of Peace Building Commission, Permanent Representative of Egypt to the UN
- **Mr. Jorge Bermudez**, Comptroller General of Chile
- **Ms. Irma Pineda Santiago**, Member of Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Mexico
- **Ms. Margit Kraker**, Secretary-General of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI)

**Thursday, 8 July 2021, 12:15 PM-1:15 PM**

### **Going local**

How can we support local authorities in implementing the SDGs  
and how can we best build on voluntary local reviews?

The SDGs provide an unprecedented opportunity to align global, national and subnational priorities and engage all stakeholders at the local level in efforts towards sustainable development. If current trends continue, by 2050 cities will host approximately 70 per cent of the world's population and produce 85 per cent of global economic output. Urbanization is not only a demographic or spatial phenomenon but a force which, if steered and deployed correctly, can help the world overcome some of its major global challenges. Urban policy decisions can have extraordinarily far-reaching impacts across all the SDGs, including poverty alleviation and reduction of inequalities, climate mitigation and adaptation, promotion of safety and good governance and in ensuring access to energy, transportation, waste management, food supply, water and sanitation, education, health care, technology infrastructure including broadband and online public services, and others, not just for urban populations but also for the surrounding peri-urban and rural areas.



## HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In the Political Declaration adopted at the 2019 SDG Summit, Member States reaffirmed the critical role of cities, local authorities and communities in implementing and realizing the SDGs and committed to empowering and supporting them in pursuing the 2030 Agenda. An increasing number of national governments are already supporting the localization of the SDGs in cities and regions, both through technical co-operation and financial support, but more support is needed. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has only added unprecedented challenges for cities, including pressure on their health care, education and safety systems, and disproportionately affected the most vulnerable groups of the society.

Local and regional governments are increasingly engaging in subnational reviews of SDG implementation, including by preparing Voluntary Local Reviews (VLR). These reviews, modelled after the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), have proven useful for local governments to foster SDG localization and to demonstrate their capacity and commitment towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Local governments in all regions of the world have already prepared such reviews with many more currently going through the process, resulting in tangible benefits to SDG implementation at large. Several Voluntary National Review countries have also integrated findings from VLRs in their national level reviews.

### Proposed guiding questions:

- What are some of the main challenges and bottlenecks for effective SDG localization? 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?
- How can the Voluntary Local Reviews benefit SDG implementation at large? How can they be used as an effective tool for multilevel governance and dialogue between different levels of government?
- In what ways can the Voluntary Local Reviews be used to ensure a better recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic locally, nationally and globally?
- How could the Voluntary Local Reviews feed into the Voluntary National Reviews? What modalities have worked for fostering effective dialogue between these two levels of reviews?
- What arrangements are needed to ensure that findings and good practices from the local level are disseminated and utilized? What role can the United Nations, including the Regional Commissions, play in this?

### Chair:

- **H.E. Mr. Sergiy Kyslytsya (Ukraine)**, Vice President of ECOSOC

Interactive panel discussion

### Moderator:

- **Mr. Tony F. Pipa**, Senior Fellow, Global Economy and Development, Brookings Institution



## HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### Panellists/Resource persons:

- **Ms. Noraini Roslan**, Mayor of Subang Jaya, Malaysia (VLR city)
- **Mr. Jan Vapaavuori**, Mayor of Helsinki, Finland

### Lead discussants:

- **H.E. Mr Nikolai Astrup**, Minister of Local Government and Modernisation of Norway
- **Mr. Bjorn Arild Gram**, President of the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities
- **Ms. Cllr Thembisile Nkadimeng**, President of the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) (Local Authorities Major Group)

### Respondents:

- **Ms. Arantxa Tapia**, President of Regions4 (VLR region)
- **Ms. Penny Abeywardena**, New York City's Commissioner for International Affairs
- **Mr. Kenji Kitahashi**, Mayor of Kitakyushu City, Japan

Thursday, 8 July 2021, 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

### Restoring the conditions for SDG progress in African countries, Least Developed Countries and Landlocked Developing Countries

While some progress has been made toward the SDGs in African countries, Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), even before the COVID-19 pandemic many countries were not on track to achieve the SDGs, and in some cases were regressing. The pandemic has exposed vulnerabilities and structural inequalities, adversely impacting human health, economies, and education. Debt levels are rising. Resilience is threatened by inequality and unemployment across populations. Social inequalities are widening, and disproportionately affecting women and girls. The pandemic has paralyzed key sectors including tourism, and the devastating effects of climate change are hindering recovery efforts.

LDCs and LLDCs are characterized by undiversified economies, weak public health services, low productive capacities, inadequate digital connectivity, and limited resources to mitigate the spread and impact of COVID-19. Of the 46 countries classified as LDCs, 33 are in Africa; half of the 32 LLDC countries are also located in this region.

While cases of COVID-19 had previously remained low in many of these countries, they are currently on the rise in Africa and in some LLDCs. Although the vaccine is starting to be distributed in many countries, rollout has been very slow. A minuscule proportion of vaccinations have been made in low income countries and a number of LDCs have not yet been able to begin vaccinating at all.



## HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Both LDCs and LLDCs are severely affected by the global recession as a result of the pandemic, and many are in need of debt relief. Limited export diversification has heightened the vulnerability of LDCs to the impact of the pandemic on global trade. LLDCs have been impacted by cross-border restrictions and border closures, given their lack of direct access to seaports and dependency on transit transport to access international markets. Urgent and effective debt relief is needed, beyond debt servicing suspension. Bridging the digital divide is also more important than ever, to ensure a sustainable recovery and restore conditions for progress.

Preparations are currently underway in advance of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5), which will convene from 23 to 27 January 2022 in Doha, Qatar, and is expected to adopt a new ambitious 10-year programme of action for the LDCs.

This session will address the challenges and opportunities common to these groups of countries amidst the pandemic and discuss the conditions necessary to overcome the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 and embark on a track to realize the SDGs.

### Proposed guiding questions:

- How can COVID-19 stimulus packages be designed and directed at supporting a sustainable and resilient recovery in Africa, and in LDC and LLDCs outside the region? How can they be bolstered by the international community?
- How could longer-term economic and fiscal policies and measures mitigate the social and economic effects of the pandemic, without increasing debt levels?
- What is being done to prioritize the needs of women, children, refugees, displaced persons, and other vulnerable populations? How are women and youth being engaged in sustainable recovery efforts?
- Where can we point to examples of innovative partnerships in critical sectors such as trade, investment, technology capacity building, food security, grants and concessional financing?
- What role can the UN play in ensuring a coordinated and comprehensive response to the ongoing crisis? How can we ensure access to the vaccine in these countries?
- What critical new commitments should be included in the outcome of LDC 5?

### Chair:

- **H.E. Ms. Pascale Baeriswyl (Switzerland)**, Vice President of Economic and Social Council

### Highlights:

- **Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana**, Executive Secretary of ESCAP, presentation of regional dimensions

Interactive panel discussion



## HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### Moderator:

- **Mr. Courtenay Rattray**, UN High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

### Panellists/Resource persons:

- **Mr. Ali Al-Dabbagh**, Deputy Director General of planning at the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD)
- **Ms. Sheila Oparaocha**, Executive Director of ENERGIA International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy
- **Mr. Pa Ousman Jarju**, Director of Green Climate Fund's Country Programming Division

### Lead discussants:

- **Mr. Chiagozie Udeh**, Global Focal Point SDG7 Youth Constituency
- **Mr. Basiru Isa**, Network of Indigenous and Local Communities for the Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa (REPALEAC) (Indigenous Peoples' Major Group)

### Respondents:

- **H.E. Mr. Mukhtar Tleuberdi**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Kazakhstan, Chair of LLDC Group
- **H.E. Mr. Eisenhower Mkaka**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malawi, Chair of the Group of LDCs
- **H.E. Mr. Tandi Dorji**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bhutan
- **Ms. Margaret Kobia**, Professor and Cabinet Secretary for the Public Service and Gender Affairs, Kenya
- **Mr. Michael Lodge**, Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority (ISA)

**Friday, 9 July 2021**

Friday, 9 July 2021, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM

**Coming together to help Small Island Developing States to get on a path to realize the SDGs**

*(Meeting break 11:00 AM - 11:15 AM)*



## HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The challenges and vulnerabilities of Small Island Development States (SIDS) have been exacerbated by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This has highlighted the urgent need for decisive actions for sustainable and climate resilient recovery. Only a handful of bilateral and multilateral institutions have supported SIDS in mitigating the impact of the pandemic, with only 4% of available COVID-19 funding for developing countries being spent on SIDS. The economic fall-out suffered globally and by these countries in particular has shown the urgent need to reset the agenda so that it better reflects the challenges faced by SIDS and better enables the international community to find viable solutions to address these challenges. The persistent use of historical measures of GDP per capita for accessing concessional funding captures neither who is most affected, nor who is least able to respond to the pandemic. New consensus needs to be built about what constitutes vulnerability, in order to encompass the multiplicity of inter-linking challenges with which every state now has to deal, so that eligibility for resources such as concessional finance is no longer solely dependent on narrow measures such as GDP per capita.

There has actually been growing acceptance of the need for donors and multilateral organisations to consider factors other than GDP when addressing the vulnerabilities of developing countries and in particular SIDS. Recent experiences of consequences arising from the COVID-19 pandemic have raised awareness and deepened appreciation of the pressing urgency for action to be taken. In this regard the latest United Nations General Assembly mandate, in its resolution 75/215, on the potential development, use, finalization and coordination of work within the UN system on a multidimensional vulnerability index (MVI) of SIDS is an important step in this direction

This session will focus on the theme: A Multidimensional Vulnerability Measure for SIDS. It will be in a format of a Fireside Chat among Heads of Government and Institutions.

### Proposed guiding questions:

- What type of resources are currently available to SIDS to enable them to recover from the COVID pandemic? Can all SIDS benefit from these resources?
- What principles or key elements should underpin the development of a multidimensional vulnerability measure for SIDS?
- What kinds of vulnerabilities should be reflected in a framework? Should resilience also be reflected?
- What can a multi-dimensional measure be used for?
- How can a multidimensional vulnerability index be used by international financial institutions and the UN system?

### Chair:

- **H.E. Mr. Sergiy Kyslytsya (Ukraine)**, Vice President of ECOSOC

### Highlights:

- **Ms. Mafalda Duarte**, CEO of the Climate Investment Funds (CIF)



## HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Fireside chat

**Moderator:**

- **H.E. Mr. E.P. Chet Greene**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Immigration and International Trade, Antigua and Barbuda

**Speakers:**

- **H.E. Mr. Wavel RamKalawan**, President of Seychelles
- **H.E. Mr. Ashni K. Singh**, Senior Minister, Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, Guyana
- **H.E. Ms. Mereseini Vuniwaqa**, Minister for Women, Children and poverty Alleviation of Fiji
- **H.E. Mr. Simon Stiell**, Minister within the Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Climate Resilience and the Environment of Grenada
- **H.E. Ms. Patricia Scotland**, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth of Nations

**Lead discussants:**

- **Mr. Courtenay Rattray**, UN High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
- **Ms. Emeline Siale Iloahia**, Executive Director of the Pacific Islands Associations of Non-Governmental Organisations (PIANGO), Fiji (NGO Major Group)

**Friday, 9 July 2021, 11:15 AM - 1:15 PM**

**Mobilizing science, technology and innovation**  
**and strengthening the science-policy-society interface**

How do we ensure that science and technology support the realization of the SDGs for all and how do we bridge the digital divide? This session will include a dialogue with scientists preparing the Global Sustainable Development Report-GSDR

One of the key functions entrusted to the HLPF by Rio+20 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is to strengthen the science-policy interface, including through the Global Sustainable Development Report and the Technology Facilitation Mechanism. Progress in science, technology, and innovation (STI) continues to accelerate, promising significant benefits but also risks to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as they impact the economy, society and environment. Despite the potential for STI in helping to realise the 2030 Agenda, challenges abound. Alignment between STI and SDGs remains weak. STI can reproduce and even amplify social and economic inequalities due to challenges in access and design.

Governments, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, need to accelerate efforts to close the digital divide and support the digital inclusion of disadvantaged and marginalized groups and communities,



## HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

by addressing the various factors behind the divide including, access to ICT infrastructure, affordability of the Internet and ICT device, digital and literacy skills, and awareness / relevance of online content.

Advances in STI should be harnessed to enhance equal opportunities and access to basic services, so that no one is left behind. Governments and the international community have a central role to play in providing directionality to innovation activities to ensure that STI is driven by considerations of inclusiveness and sustainability.

The COVID-19 pandemic has sparked innovations and new forms of collaboration. STI is playing an important role in understanding, responding to, and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. The crisis has been a wake-up call for a better science-policy-society interface, for more effective international technology cooperation, and for building public trust in science related to all areas of sustainable development.

The purpose of the session is to further advance progress on the implementation of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and other related UN processes. It will build on the outcome of the 6th Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology, and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (4-5 May 2021) and consider the recommendations contained in the co-chairs' Summary of the Forum.

The session will discuss the main challenges and opportunities for mobilizing science, technology, and innovation and strengthening the science-policy-society interface. Specific attention will be given to exploring the existing mechanisms and potential innovations in developing and deploying STI for responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, addressing emerging challenges and bridging the digital divide. 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 the most promising technology solutions, innovations, and transformative technology pathways towards achieving the SDGs?
- What are the challenges and opportunities faced in developing and deploying STI for emerging challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic?
- How can governments and other stakeholders work together to address the various causes of the digital divide (access, affordability, skills, relevance)?
- How can we mobilize science, technology, and innovation to improve the lives of those furthest behind and reduce inequalities, without perpetuating the digital divide, especially during rapid technological change?
- How can we strengthen international cooperation on science, technology, and innovation to better deal with sustainability challenges?

The President of the Economic and Social Council has transmitted to HLPF, the Co-Chairs' summary of the STI Forum. The Co-Chairs of the Forum will begin the session by presenting this Summary. The session will follow by panel presentations and then followed by interactive discussion with the participants.



## HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### Chair:

- **H.E. Mr. Sergiy Kyslytsya (Ukraine)**, Vice President of ECOSOC

### Keynote addresses:

- **H.E. Mr. Mohammad Koba**, Co-Chair of the 2021 STI Forum, Ambassador and Charge d'Affaires of the Permanent Mission of Indonesia to the United Nations
- **Mr. Houlin Zhao**, Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Interactive panel discussion

### Moderator:

- **H.E. Mr. Andrejs Pildegovičs**, Co-Chair of the 2021 STI Forum, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Latvia to the United Nations,

### Panellists/Resource persons:

- **Ms. Cherry Murray**, Co-Chair of the UN Secretary-General's 10 Member Group to Support the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, Professor of Physics and Deputy Director for Research, Biosphere 2, University of Arizona
- **Ms. Imme Scholz**, Co-Chair of the International Group of Scientists of the 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR), Deputy Director of the German Development Institute (DIE) and Honorary Professor of the Centre for Ethics and Responsibility at Hochschule Bonn-Rhein-Sieg,
- **Ms. Nnenna Nwakanma**, Chief Web Advocate, World Wide Web Foundation, Nigeria

### Lead discussants:

- **Ms. Sanja Nikolin**, member of UN Women Civil Society Advisory Group for Europe and Central Asia
- **Ms. Elenita Dano**, Asia Director of ETC Group (Action Group on Erosion, Technology and Concentration), Philippines (Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism and Science & Technology Major Group)

### Respondents:

- **H.E. Ms. Karen Abudinen**, Minister of Information and Communication Technologies of Colombia
- **H.E. Mrs. Ariunzaya Ayush**, Minister of Labour and Social Protection of Mongolia
- **H.E. Mr. Andrii Vitrenko**, Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine for European Integration, Ukraine



## HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- **Mr. Ahmed El – Magarmid**, Executive Director of Qatar Computing Research Institute, Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Qatar
- **Ms. Ismahane Elouafi**, Chief Scientist of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Friday, 9 July 2021, 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

### **Vision and priorities of civil society, the private sector and other major groups and stakeholders: realizing the SDGs during the COVID-19 recovery**

Major groups and other stakeholders were integral to the development and adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In light of the critical role that they played, the United Nations General Assembly established ambitious modalities for their participation at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), as outlined in A/RES/67/290 and in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development A/RES/70/1. Since then, the major groups and other stakeholders have worked tirelessly towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through their regular activities and by spear-heading projects and initiatives; highlighting issues through advocacy; knowledge-sharing; and by monitoring progress. There is no question that major groups and other stakeholder are, and will continue to be, crucial to the successful implementation, follow-up, and review of the 2030 Agenda.

In preparation for the 2021 HLPF, major groups and other stakeholders have contributed to review processes at all levels, through the Regional Forums on Sustainable Development as well as through national review mechanisms. This session, organised in collaboration with the 'HLPF Coordination Mechanism of the Major Groups and other Stakeholders' (MGoS-CM), will provide an opportunity for local, national, and regional voices to be heard on an international platform. Civil society, the private sector, and other major groups and stakeholders will have an opportunity to highlight their vision and priorities in realizing the SDGs during the COVID-19 recovery.

As we approach the 2021 HLPF, the world faces crisis after crisis, while still battling with the devastating effects that the global pandemic has had on people and societies. Ensuring civic participation is now proving to be more challenging than ever. Major groups and other stakeholders believe that it is essential to openly discuss effective ways to strengthen meaningful participation in official spaces with Member States and other actors. In particular, it is important to open channels of dialogue about processes and platforms facilitated by the United Nations. While decisions are being made for people, planet, and prosperity it is important to consider the mandates which guarantee the meaningful participation of non-state actors as part of the process.

The session will explore the vision and priorities of major groups and other stakeholders on how to advance an inclusive pathway to recovery, as well as possible reforms which strengthen the realization of political and social rights, so as not to leave anyone behind. The discussion will intersect and cross-fertilize other crucial agendas, such as those relating to gender equality, the fulfilment of human rights,



## HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

and the removal of systemic barriers to socio-economic transformation. The discussion will re-affirm the holistic integrity of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, while also exposing the critical potential of Regional Forums, to better connect regional and global levels policy-making.

### Proposed guiding questions:

- What challenges are faced by the plurality of actors in the civic space, in the context of the pandemic and post-recovery, with regard to the right to meaningful participation in global, regional and national agendas?
- What are the broader impacts of the shrinking of civil space during the pandemic in the overall implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs and their human rights dimensions?
- What are the collective commitments needed at all levels to ensure an inclusive and plural process for the implementation, monitoring and review of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs, with the aim to overcome systemic barriers and ensure gender equality, intersectionality and a holistic approach bearing in mind crosscutting issues?

### Chair:

- **H.E. Mr. Juan Sandoval Mendiola (Mexico)**, Vice President of ECOSOC

### Opening remarks:

- **Mr. Liu Zhenmin**, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations, UNDESA

Interactive discussion

### Moderator:

- **Dr. Mabel Bianco**, Co-Chair, HLPF MGoS Coordination Mechanism and Women's Major Group

### Resource persons:

- **Ms. Ruth Warick**, Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities
- **Dr. Kiran Rabheru**, Stakeholder Group on Ageing
- **Ms. Mariah Rafaella Silva**, LGBTI Stakeholder Group
- **Ms. Joan Carling**, Indigenous Persons' Major Group and Asia-Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism

### Lead discussants:

- **Mr. Sami Pirkkala**, Secretary General, National Commission on Sustainable Development / Prime Minister's Office, Finland
- **Mr. Volker Türk**, Assistant Secretary-General for Strategic Coordination in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General at the United Nations Headquarters in New York



## HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- **Dr. Nadine Gasman**, President of the National Women's Institute, Mexico
- **Ms. Geraldine Joslyn Fraser-Moleketi**, former Minister of Public Service and Administration of South Africa, Chair of Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA)

### Monday, 12 July 2021

Monday, 12 July 2021, 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

#### Investing in the SDGs

How can public and private financing be scaled up to unlock catalytic investments for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda?

Lack of fiscal space and the risk of sovereign debt distress have come into sharp focus as key stumbling blocks to achieving the 2030 Agenda as countries seek to invest in recovery, climate action and the SDGs while maintaining sustainable debt levels. The dedicated session on financing will be geared to advance the dialogue on how to achieve these policy objectives against the backdrop of the COVID-19 recovery and global efforts to get back on track in achieving the SDGs.

The session will explore concrete policy recommendations that can catalyse investments into the SDGs within the context of pressing debt sustainability challenges faced by developing countries across the globe.

#### **Proposed guiding questions:**

- What innovative financing and debt instruments can unlock investment in the SDGs in the context of limited fiscal space, including in countries with special situations?
- What steps in addition to the G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative and Common Framework are needed to improve debt sustainability and free up resources for investments in the SDGs?
- What measures can strengthen global debt sustainability in the long term, including changes to the international debt architecture?
- What role can the private sector play to channel investments towards the investment in the SDGs and contribute to closing the financing gap in developing countries?

#### **Chair:**

- **H.E. Mr. Sergiy Kyslytsya (Ukraine)**, Vice President of ECOSOC

Interactive panel discussion



## HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### Moderator:

- **Mr. Homi Kharas**, Senior Fellow and Deputy Director for the Global Economy and Development program, Brookings Institution

### Panellist/Resource persons:

- **Ms. Alicia Bárcena**, Executive Secretary of ECLAC
- **Ms. Joyce Chang**, Managing Director and Chair, Global Research, JP Morgan
- **Ms. Anna Gelpern**, Professor at Georgetown University and a non-resident senior fellow at the Peter G. Peterson Institute for International Economics.

### Lead discussants:

- **Ms. Nina Angelovska**, global UNCTAD advocate for Women in eTrade and former Minister of Finance of North Macedonia
- **Mr. Jason Rosario Braganza**, Executive Director at The African Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD) (Civil Society Financing for Development Group)

### Respondents:

- **H.E. Ms. Jutta Urpilainen**, European Commissioner for International Partnerships
- **H.E. Ms. Rania Al-Mashat**, Minister for International Cooperation, Egypt
- **H.E. Mr. Naadir Hassan**, Minister for Finance, Economic Planning and Trade, Seychelles

**Monday, 12 July 2021, 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

### **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 and to mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation of the SDGs.

42 countries will conduct VNRs at the 2021 HLPF, including 8 first timers, 24 second timers, and 10 third timers.



## HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**Chair:** H.E. Mr. Sergiy Kyslytsya (Ukraine), Vice President of ECOSOC

**Remarks:**

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

*Third timers and One second timer*

**Panel:** Azerbaijan, Czech Republic, Egypt, Qatar

**Monday, 12 July 2021, 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM**

### **Voluntary National Reviews**

**Chair:** H.E. Mr. Juan Sandoval Mendiola (Mexico), Vice President of ECOSOC

*Third timers and One second timer*

**Panel:** Colombia, Niger, Uruguay

**Panel:** Cabo Verde, Guatemala, Mexico



## HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

*Theme: 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*

**Tuesday, 13 July 2021**

Tuesday, 13 July 2021, 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

**Opening of the High-level Segment of ECOSOC / Ministerial Segment of HLPF**

General Assembly Hall

**Chair:**

- **H.E. Mr. Munir Akram (Pakistan)**, President of Economic and Social Council

**Opening remarks:**

- **H.E. Mr. Munir Akram (Pakistan)**, President of Economic and Social Council
- **Mr. António Guterres**, Secretary-General of the United Nations
- **H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkir**, President of the General Assembly

**Keynote:**

- **H.E. Mr. Imran Khan**, Prime Minister of Pakistan
- **H.E. Mr. Joko Widodo**, President of the Republic of Indonesia
- **H.E. Ms. Marta Lucía Ramírez Blanco**, Vice President of Colombia
- **H.E. Mr. Sebastian Kurz**, Chancellor of Austria

**Youth representatives** (messages on behalf of youth):

- **Mr. Steve Lee**, Organizing Partner for the Major Group on Children and Youth
- **Ms. Melati Wijsen**, Co-Founder of Bye Bye Plastic Bags and YouthTopia

Tuesday, 13 July 2021, 10:30 AM-1:15 PM

**HLPF**

**Voluntary National Reviews**

*(Meeting break 11:00 AM - 11:15 AM)*



## HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**Chair: H.E. Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile (Botswana),** Vice President of ECOSOC

*First timers*

**Individual presentations:** Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, Bolivia, San Marino

**Tuesday, 13 July 2021, 3:00 PM-3:15 PM**

### **HLPF**

#### **Keynote by the President of UN Environment Assembly**

The UN Environment Assembly 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 his allocution, the President of the UN Environment Assembly, H.E. Mr. Sveinung Rotevatn, Minister of Environment and Climate of Norway, will convey the main messages of the UN Environment Assembly and present the contributions of the Assembly to the debates of the HLPF.

The first session of UNEA-5 (UNEA-5.1) was held online on 22-23 February 2021. A resumed in-person session of UNEA-5 will be held on 28 February – 2 March 2022 (UNEA-5.2)

**Chair:**

- **H.E. Mr. Munir Akram (Pakistan),** President of Economic and Social Council

**Keynote address:**

- **H.E. Mr. Sveinung Rotevatn,** President of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, Minister of Environment and Climate of Norway

**Tuesday, 13 July 2021, 3:15 PM-4:45 PM**

### **HLPF**

#### **Voluntary National Reviews**

**Chair: H.E. Mr. Munir Akram (Pakistan),** President of Economic and Social Council

*First timers*

**Individual presentations:** Nicaragua, Marshall Islands, Democratic People's Republic of Korea



## HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**Wednesday, 14 July 2021**

**Wednesday, 14 July 2021, 9:00 AM-10:30 AM**

**HLPF**

**Messages from the regions**

The 2030 Agenda stressed 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. Their importance was recognized in the Political Declaration of the SDG Summit in September 2019.

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 and the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions, followed by an interactive discussion with participants.

The session will take place at a decisive moment of crisis when priorities need to be reshuffled and development gains have to be protected and amplified to help member States recover from the COVID-19 crisis and address structural barriers to prosperity, equality, dignity, sustainability, and resilience. The session will highlight ways in which Regional Commissions are mobilizing regional action and leveraging regional frameworks on the road to 2030 and beyond.

**Proposed guiding questions:**

- As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact lives and livelihoods across the world, where do the five regions stand in advancing implementation of the SDGs? What are the priorities for action in each region?
- How are the efforts of the Regional Commissions, in collaboration with the UN system, making a difference and impacting development trajectories of the respective regions?
- How can regional work be enhanced? What regional and inter-regional success stories can be highlighted that promote coherence in methodologies and approaches across regions or between regions with common concerns and priorities?

**Chair:**

- **H.E. Mr. Munir Akram (Pakistan)**, President of Economic and Social Council

The session will include a short scene-setting video on the state of progress on the SDGs in the five regions.

**Moderator:**

- **Ms. Rola Dashti**, Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, and Coordinator of the Regional Commissions



## HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### Chairs of the Regional Forums on Sustainable Development:

- **H.E. Ms. Arlette Soudan-Nonault**, Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development and the Congo Basin, Republic of Congo, and Chair of the 7th Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development
- **H.E. Mr. Faisal Al Ibrahim**, Minister of Economy and Planning, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and Chair of the 2021 Arab Forum for Sustainable Development
- **H.E. Mr. Francisco André**, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Portugal, and **H.E. Mr. László Borbély**, State Counsellor to the Prime Minister, Romania, as co-chairs of the 2021 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE Region
- **H.E. Ms. Mereseini Rakuita Vuniwaqa**, Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Fiji, and Chair of the 8th session of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development
- **H.E. Mr. Rodolfo Solano Quirós**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica, and Chair of the 4th session of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development

### Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions as discussants:

- **Ms. Alicia Bárcena**, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
- **Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana**, Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
- **Ms. Olga Algayerova**, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission of Europe
- **Ms. Vera Songwe**, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa
- **Ms. Rola Dashti**, Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

### Interactive dialogue “Voices from the regions”:

- **H.E. Mr. Sergey Glazyev**, Member of the Board, Minister in Charge of Integration and Macroeconomics, Eurasian Economic Commission
- **Mr. Benedict Okey Oramah**, President and Chairman of the Board of Directors, Afreximbank
- **Ms. Nadia Al Saeed**, General Manager, Al Etihad Bank, Jordan
- **Mr. Christoph Steck**, Director, Public Policy and Internet, Telefonica S.A., Spain
- **Mr. Kofi Kankam**, President and Chief Executive Officer of Elizka Relief Foundation, Ghana, Co-Chair of the Africa Regional Mechanism for Major Groups and other Stakeholders
- **Ms. Wardarina**, Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Engagement Mechanisms (APRCM)
- **Mr. Salaheddine Jurchi**, President of the forum group 'Al-Jahez', Tunisia



## HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Wednesday, 14 July 2021, 10:30 AM-1:00 PM

**HLPF**

### **Voluntary National Reviews**

**Chair: H.E. Mr. Munir Akram (Pakistan)**, President of Economic and Social Council

*Second timers*

**Panel:** China, Afghanistan, Denmark

**Panel:** Thailand, Chad, Norway

Wednesday, 14 July 2021, 3:00 PM-5:00 PM

**HLPF**

### **Voluntary National Reviews**

**Chair: H.E. Ms. Pascale Baeriswyl (Switzerland)**, Vice President of ECOSOC

*Second timers and one third timer*

**Panel:** Bahamas, Tunisia

**Panel:** Dominican Republic, Sierra Leone

## Thursday, 15 July 2021

Thursday, 15 July 2021, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

**HLPF**

### **Voluntary National Reviews**

**Chair:**

9:00 AM – 10:20 AM

**H.E. Ms. Pascale Baeriswyl (Switzerland)**, Vice President of ECOSOC

10:20 AM-1:00 PM

**H.E. Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile (Botswana)**, Vice President of ECOSOC



## HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

*Second timers and one third timer*

**Panel:** Japan, Germany, Lao PDR, Malaysia

**Panel:** Cyprus, Indonesia, Iraq, Madagascar

**Panel:** Bhutan, Namibia, Spain, Zimbabwe

Thursday, 15 July 2021, 3:00 PM-3:40 PM

### HLPF

### Voluntary National Reviews

**Chair:** H.E. Mr. Juan Sandoval Mendiola (Mexico), Vice President of ECOSOC

**Panel:** Paraguay, Sweden

Thursday, 15 July 2021, 3:40 PM-5:00 PM

### Closing of the HLPF

General Assembly Hall

**Chair:** H.E. Mr. Munir Akram (Pakistan), President of Economic and Social Council

Adoption of the Ministerial Declaration

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

Closing remarks of **H.E. Mr. Munir Akram (Pakistan)**, President of Economic and Social Council

Conclusion of the HLPF



***Theme: 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***

**Friday, 16 July 2021**

**High-level Segment of ECOSOC**

*(Continued)*

**Friday, 16 July 2021, 10:00 AM -10:30 PM**

**Introduction of the reports of the Secretary-General on the theme of HLPF and ECOSOC, and on long term impact of current trends on the SDGs;**

**Introduction of the Report of the Committee on Development Policy**

**Chair:**

- **H.E. Mr. Munir Akram**, President of Economic and Social Council

**Presentations:**

- **Mr. Liu Zhenmin**, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations, UNDESA, introduction of the Secretary-General's reports on the theme of HLPF and ECOSOC 2021 and on long-term future trends and scenarios – impacts in the economic, social and environmental areas on the realization of the SDGs
- **Mr. José Antonio Ocampo**, Chair of the Committee on Development Policy (CDP), introduction of the CDP report

**Friday, 16 July 2021, 10:30 AM -1:00 PM**

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

The Economic and Social Council is celebrating its 75th anniversary. As the world is battling with the pandemic and progressing with rebuilding and recovery efforts, 75 years after its creation, ECOSOC's role and mandate are more relevant than ever in advancing the necessary committed global solidarity and cooperation to respond to COVID-19 and its impacts and avoid another catastrophic event with devastating impact. The meeting will provide the space for ECOSOC to elicit from its members and



observers some innovative ideas that could contribute to the reflection on how best to improve multilateralism in the area of sustainable development while celebrating the Council's achievements during its 75 years of existence and reflecting on maximizing its use and impact.

The further strengthening of the Council, on which the General Assembly recently adopted a resolution, is part of a larger effort to move towards a more inclusive, impactful and networked multilateralism in the area of sustainable development. The discussions will address ways to achieve this objective by introducing new dynamics and new ways of working in ECOSOC and among key UN system entities, intergovernmental and other bodies engaged in the policy dialogue and governance of sustainable development and its economic, social and environmental dimensions.

**Proposed guiding questions:**

- How can the ECOSOC be better equipped to ensure that it continues to support the peoples of the world in peace, dignity and equality, building on the recent reforms introduced by the General Assembly?
- How can we maximize the impact of the work of ECOSOC and its segments, forums and subsidiary bodies as well as its coordination role?
- How can we evolve towards the kind of multilateralism that can better respond to existential challenges to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, such as the current pandemic or the economic and social impact of climate change?
- What mechanisms are needed to make multilateralism more inclusive and more conducive to the policy coordination, international solidarity and delivery of global public goods?
- What should the multilateral architecture, including ECOSOC, look like to advance transformative actions for a more resilient, greener and sustainable recovery and for long-term sustainable development?
- How can ECOSOC offer meaningful engagement of youth and other marginalized groups to ensure that the United Nations advances a more inclusive multilateralism that would be relevant for youth and future generations?

**Chair:**

- **Mr. Munir Akram (Pakistan)**, President of Economic and Social Council

**Welcoming remarks:**

- **H.E. Mr. Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan

**Special remarks:**

- **Ms. Amina Mohammed**, UN Deputy Secretary-General



Fireside chat

**Moderator:**

- **Ms. Elizabeth Cousens**, President and CEO of the UN Foundation

**Speakers:**

- **H.E. Ms. Maria Fernanda Espinosa**, former Minister of Foreign Affairs and of Defense of Ecuador, former President of the 73rd Session of the UN General Assembly
- **H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki**, Chief Executive Officer of the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) and Co-Chair of FACTI Panel
- **Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake**, Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth
- **Mr. John Frank**, Vice President for UN Affairs of Microsoft
- **Mr. Jeffrey Schlagenhauf**, Deputy Secretary-General of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Statements from Member States

Friday, 16 July 2021, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

**Scenarios and possible medium and long-term trends related to the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the achievement of SDGs**

General Assembly Hall

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 response to the COVID-19 pandemic should not be guided only by emergency concerns. It is important to reflect on how the policy measures being taken today can shape a better future. However, there is need for more reflection on the long-term impact of policies to respond to COVID-19 and its impacts, especially on the SDGs. The vast majority of financial stimulus packages in response to the pandemic are not yet focused on longer-term measures and sustainable investments.

While the pandemic has accelerated digitalization, it has also amplified persistent technology divides due to underlying inequalities, excluding billions of people from reaping the benefits of digital technologies and innovations. Currently, the potential of digital consumer innovations in mobility, food, buildings, and energy services remains largely untapped. Those could be readily deployed worldwide to open up more feasible pathways towards the achievement of the SDGs, and ensure that no one is left behind. The report of the Secretary-General presents a “best case scenario” on how mobilizing these technologies can allow to realize the SDGs in 2030, despite the impacts of the pandemic.



This session will present economic, social and environmental strategies that promote a sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the achievement of the SDGs by 2030. An interactive panel discussion will explore cooperative, near-term actions for transforming service efficiencies; discuss application of new technologies that have potential long-term positive impacts; and highlight scenarios for achieving sustainable development in the long term within the context of the current pandemic.

The discussion will be informed by Secretary-General's reports on this year's theme (E/2021/62) and on long-term future trends and scenarios (E/2021/61).

**Proposed guiding questions:**

- How can national COVID-19 recovery plans incorporate innovations for reducing inequalities and bridging the digital divide over the medium and long-term?
- What strategies are being adopted to ensure that financial stimulus packages are applied toward sustainable solutions for a resilient recovery?
- What are some examples of national legal, policy and institutional measures that can enable better social protection and healthcare systems, as part of sustainable and resilient recovery strategies?
- What are examples of near-term decisions that can be made immediately to ensure long-term positive outcomes in areas of food security, education, energy and transport?
- How can we achieve the best-case scenario whereby mobilization of technologies and other policies allows the world to realize the SDGs by 2030?
- How can women be empowered to contribute to recovery strategies, so that gender perspectives are well represented?

**Chair:**

- **H.E. Mr. Munir Akram (Pakistan)**, President of Economic and Social Council

**Keynote address:**

- **Mr. Bertrand Piccard**, Founder and Chairman of the Solar Impulse Foundation

Interactive panel discussion

**Moderator:**

- **H.E. Ms. Daniella Tilbury**, Gibraltar's Commissioner for Sustainable Development and Future Generations

**Panellists/Resource persons:**

- **Mr. Keywan Riahi**, Director, Energy Programme, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Austria, and UN 10-Member-Group of High-level Representatives to support the Technology Facilitation Mechanism



- **Ms. Paula Caballero**, Managing Director, Lands for Life Program, Rare, USA
- **Mr. Debapriya Bhattacharya**, Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh, and UN Committee for Development Policy

**Lead discussant:**

- **Mr. Felix Dodds**, Adjunct Professor, Water Institute in the Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, University of North Carolina

**Respondents:**

- **H.E. Mr. Omar Razzaz**, former Prime Minister of Jordan
- **H.E. Ms. Arlette Soudan-Nonault**, Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development and the Congo Basin, Republic of Congo, and Chair of the Seventh Session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development
- **H.E. Mr. Dinesh Gunawardena**, Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka
- **H.E. Mr. Dag-Inge Ulstein**, Minister for International Development, Norway
- **H.E. Ms. Rita Schwarzeluehr-Sutter**, Parliamentary State Secretary at the Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany

**Friday, 16 July 2021, 4:30 PM -6:00 PM**

**Conclusion of the High-level Segment of ECOSOC**

General Assembly Hall

**Chair:**

- **H.E. Mr. Munir Akram (Pakistan)**, 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, UNDESA
- **H.E. Mr. Munir Akram (Pakistan)**, President of Economic and Social Council

Conclusion of the High-level Segment of ECOSOC