ECOSOC

HIGH LEVEL WEEK

SDG Summit 2019: Delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals

The General Assembly held its first SDG Summit since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda on 24-25 September 2019. This was an important opportunity to bring the work of four years of the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) to the attention of Heads of State and Governments. ECOSOC President, H.E. Ms. Mona Juul participated in the Opening of the Summit alongside the President of the General Assembly and United Nations Secretary General. The President called on Member States to greatly accelerate their efforts and to aim much higher to implement the 2030 Agenda. She underscored the need to bridge the gap in investments towards the SDGs and to innovate and harness advances in science and technology. The President also stressed that an "efficient UN, fit for purpose, is critical for it to make a real difference in the lives of people".

Accelerating action on Financing for Development (FfD) to implement the SDGs

The General Assembly also held a High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development on 26 September 2019. Numerous initiatives were launched on that day. In her closing remarks, H.E. Ms. Mona Juul emphasized the importance of financing sustainable development and noted that it is an overarching priority of her presidency. She signaled that the ECOSOC Financing for Development Forum, to be held in April 2020, would be an important milestone in reviewing progress on related initiatives and accelerating solutions to finance the 2030 Agenda.

Implementing the 2030 Agenda in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

At the Annual Ministerial Meeting of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), which was held on the margins of the High-level Week, some of the challenges that LDCs face that can impede the implementation of the 2030 Agenda were presented. These include climate change, access to development finance and armed conflicts. The ECOSOC President noted that the 5th LDC Conference in Qatar in 2021 would be an important opportunity to agree on an ambitious Programme of Action fully aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

STRENGTHENING RELATIONS WITH OTHER UN BODIES

Breaking the silos between the peace and development pillars of the United Nations in Haiti

On 15 October 2019, the Security Council held an open debate on Haiti, marking the transition from the 15-years United Nations peacekeeping presence with the closure of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) and the opening of a new special political mission - the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH).

ECOSOC President, H.E. Ms. Mona Juul, delivered a statement in which she underscored the complementarity between the work of ECOSOC and the Security Council on Haiti. In highlighting elements of the report of the ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, she noted that the root causes of the current political instability were linked to the country's economic and social stress. She encouraged Members of the Security Council to work towards breaking the traditional silos between the peace and development pillars of the United Nations. The participation of the ECOSOC President in this debate is an important step in this direction.

Maximizing ecosystem approaches for shifting the world onto a sustainable pathway

The Second Committee of the General Assembly and ECOSOC held a joint meeting on 15 October 2019 aiming to provide a deeper understanding of how ecosystem approach grounded in nature-based solutions can be applied to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

ECOSOC President, H.E. Ms. Mona Juul and the Chair of the Second Committee Cheikh Niang co-chaired the event. An important message was that nature-based solutions are determined by site-specific natural and cultural contexts that include traditional, local and scientific knowledge. They, therefore, produce societal benefits in a fair and equitable way, and in a manner that promotes transparency and broad participation.

Reaffirming Multilateralism

A High-level Dialogue on Multilateralism was held on 10 September 2019. The President of the General Assembly, the President of ECOSOC, the President of the Security Council and the United Nations Secretary General addressed the meeting. The event emphasized the critical importance of global cooperation and multilateralism in sustainable development. The meeting underscored that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals provide us a blueprint to help better manage globalization, including by addressing inequalities as well as the risks of globalization.

Human Rights and the Sustainable Development Agenda

For the second time since the adoption of its resolution 37/25, the Human Rights Council (HRC) was briefed by the President of ECOSOC on 13 September 2019 on the outcome of the July High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). H.E. Ms. Mona Juul noted that the theme of empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality was particularly relevant for the HRC. In this context, Ambassador Juul encouraged the Human Rights Council to assist Member States in identifying individuals and communities who are most marginalized, vulnerable, and at risk for discrimination, and to support all efforts towards reaching these groups so that no one would be left behind.

Discussing ways to shape the 2020 review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture

The work of ECOSOC and the Peacebuilding Commission are inextricably linked and the interlinkages between peace and sustainable development were clearly recognized in the 2030 Agenda. The Peacebuilding Commission held its annual retreat on 15 October. In her remarks, the ECOSOC President highlighted the specific challenges faced by conflict-affected countries. She stressed the importance of a comprehensive whole-of-system response, including close cooperation among development, humanitarian, human rights and peace and security actors, to successfully achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

OTHER EVENTS

Calling for accelerated action on SDGs on the International Day of Non-Violence

During the International Day of Non-Violence celebrated on 2 October, ECOSOC President, H.E. Ms. Mona Juul addressed the event, "Climate Action – Gandhian Ways". She highlighted the courage and non-violent leadership of Mahatma Ghandi as an inspiration to all. She emphasized his perspective of looking at the world from the point of view of the lowest and most humble. "This perspective gives strength and meaning to the most important principle of the 2030 Agenda: Leaving no one behind."

ACTIVITIES OF THE ECOSOC ECOSYSTEM

The UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) held its ninth session (7-9 August 2019) during which the Committee discussed how to make better use of geospatial information to support the SDGs.
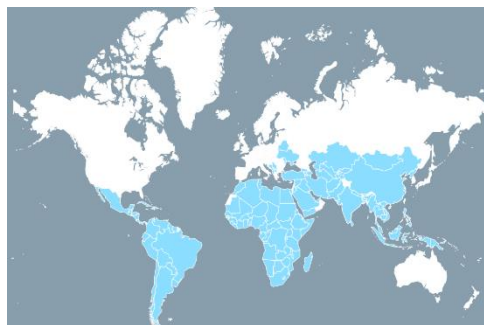
Everything that happens, happens somewhere, but how do we know what is happening where? When? And why? The answers lie in geospatial information.

That means information that pinpoints the location of geographic features, such as settlements, mountains or lakes, on the Earth and describes their relation to other features. It allows us to create a digital image of our world, in which all social, economic and environmental activity takes place.

Geospatial information shows us where social, environmental and economic conditions occur. Reliable and authoritative geographic information can help us to measure, monitor and manage the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), improving people's lives and protecting the planet.

The GGIM is the most recently established subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council (E/2011/24). Led by United Nations Member States, UN-GGIM aims to address global challenges regarding the use of geospatial information, including in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Realizing the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda: Tracking the work of the UN System at the country level

The UN Development Coordination Office (DCO), which serves as the secretariat for the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) at the regional and global levels, uses an on-line tool called UNInfo for planning, monitoring and reporting on how UN supports governments to deliver on the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda. Here you can see which UN entities are working on which SDG and where; the source of funding, key implementing partner and funding gap. (Click on the map or search the country).

Just click on Sustainable Development Goals on these websites: Benin, Comoros, Haiti, Kenya, Mongolia, Rwanda, Turkmenistan. Other websites have also been launched, pulling data from other systems, but not from UNInfo yet: DPRKorea, DRCongo, El Salvador, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Honduras, Jamaica, Lesotho, Serbia, Sudan, Togo, Ghana.

ON THE HORIZON

The General Assembly will review the implementation of resolution 72/305 on the strengthening of ECOSOC and resolution 67/290 and 70/299 on the format and organization of the HLPF during its seventy-fourth session. Stay tuned for more information.

DID YOU KNOW THAT …

… ECOSOC created UNAIDS in 1994?

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS - UNAIDS was stablished in 1994 by ECOSOC Resolution 1994/24 and launched in 1996.

UNAIDS leads the global response to fighting HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. UNAIDS works with partners from many sectors of society and, uniquely for an international organization, includes associations of people living with HIV/AIDS in its governance and programmes. UNAIDS continues to report to ECOSOC annually.

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