

1 December 2023

CONCEPT NOTE

2024 ECOSOC Coordination Segment

Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: The effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions

Background

The ECOSOC Coordination Segment will take place from 31 January - 1 February 2024, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, addressing the main annual theme of the 2024 session of ECOSOC and the HLPF: “Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: The effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions.”ⁱ

The Segment will continue to serve as a key platform for the Council to deliver on its Charter mandate and provide forward-looking policy guidance and direction to the work of its subsidiary bodies and the UN system entities in the economic, social and environmental areas.

By bringing together Member States, ECOSOC functional commissions and expert bodies, United Nations regional commissions and UN system entities, including specialized agencies, the Coordination Segment will aim to identify coherent, coordinated and concrete transformative policy recommendations to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs and eradicate poverty in the face of multiple crises, culminating in the High-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) and the High-level Segment of ECOSOC in July 2024. The Segment will build on lessons learned from the 2023 session while seeking to contribute to the work of the Council and the HLPF, particularly the reviews of SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 2 (zero hunger), SDG 13 (climate action), SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) and SDG 17 (partnerships for the Goals), to take place at the 2024 HLPF.

The Coordination Segment will also address mandates from the 2023 SDG Summit [Political Declaration](#) and forge linkages with major upcoming events in 2024, including the 6th session of the UN Environment Assembly, the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States, the 3rd UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, and the Summit of the Future.

In 2023, the Coordination Segment provided recommendations for the work of the ECOSOC system¹, as we approached the review of implementation of the 2030 Agenda halfway through the deadline. There was great emphasis on the importance of the 2030 Agenda as the guiding framework to overcome prevailing crises, address the lingering impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and achieve the transformations needed to realize the SDGs.

The urgency to advance transformative actions to accelerate the implementation of the Goals will continue to be reinforced by the Council throughout 2024. The [2023 SDG Progress Report](#) showed that just 15% of the

¹ The [ECOSOC system](#) is an ecosystem of bodies in the economic, social, cultural, educational, health and related fields that report to the Economic and Social Council. This includes the Council’s [subsidiary bodies](#) (regional commissions, functional commissions and expert bodies, standing committees, ad hoc and other related bodies) and United Nations entities working in the matters under the purview of the Council, including specialized agencies.

Sustainable Development Goal targets were on track, and progress on 50% of them is weak or insufficient. During the [2023 HLPF](#) and the [2023 SDG Summit](#), participants expressed confidence that the SDGs remain within reach if game-changing policies and solutions are translated into action. The importance of fostering a renewed commitment to international solidarity and cooperation, along with better coordinated efforts to address complex global challenges, both current and emergent, continued to be emphasized. Member States adopted a [Political Declaration](#) at the Summit reaffirming their shared commitment to end poverty and hunger everywhere, combat inequalities within and among countries and build peaceful societies that leave no one behind, emphasizing a strong backing of the vision of the 2030 Agenda and its Goals. There were calls to translate the commitments made into concrete policies, budgets, and investment portfolios.

The need to leverage interlinkages and further build synergies between the interconnected agendas to accelerate implementation is bringing to the forefront the imperative of breaking silos while creating multiplier effects to achieve simultaneous gains on several fronts. This is the transformative action needed to accelerate SDG implementation. Coordination and coherence are essential to optimizing relevant interlinkages in decision and policymaking for greater impact.

Objectives

The 2024 Coordination Segment will take place at a critical juncture. In addressing the main annual theme of the 2024 ECOSOC session, the Segment will take into account major trends that are shaping the current context – including the renewal of global governance, the surge of AI and other frontier technologies in a rapidly evolving digital landscape, and the aggravation of climate change. It will seek also to contribute to the preparatory process and outcomes of the Summit of the Future.

The objectives of the 2024 Coordination Segment are to:

1. Bring the ECOSOC system together and discuss their role in accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
2. Align the work of the ECOSOC system with the follow up to the [Political Declaration](#) of the 2023 SDG Summit.
3. Ensure an enhanced contribution by the ECOSOC system to the HLPF, the Summit of the Future and other intergovernmental processes in the economic, social, environmental and related fields.

Format

The 2024 Coordination Segment will be composed of four meetings over a two-day period. The meetings will comprise a number of sessions in the form of panels and interactive dialogues. Panel sessions would include a maximum of three to four panelists to kick off the discussions. The Segment will also include a session dedicated to exchanges with the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions and the Chairs of functional commissions and expert bodies, following past practice.

It is envisaged that high-level participation by Chairs of ECOSOC functional commissions and expert bodies, Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions, and Heads of UN system entities, including specialized agencies, will enable ECOSOC members to engage in a substantial policy dialogue, leading to concrete recommendations.

Supporting documents and outcome

In accordance with General Assembly resolution [75/290 A](#), an informal noteⁱⁱ will be prepared by the Secretariat to frame the discussions at the Coordination Segment.

A non-negotiated factual summary will be prepared by the Vice President of ECOSOC, in consultation with the Bureau, to reflect key messages from the discussions during the Coordination Segment and the Partnership Forum. It will include strategic proposals, transformative policy recommendations as well as good practices derived from the work of the UN system.

ⁱ In line with the mandates from [GA resolution 75/290](#), during the Coordination Segment, Member States will:

- steer the Council system towards an efficient and integrated workflow (para 16)
- provide forward-looking policy guidance to ensure coherence and direction in the policies and normative work of subsidiary bodies and specialized agencies relating to the 2030 Agenda (para 16)
- formulate common action-oriented policy guidance on all matters requiring implementation or coordination efforts [.....] including detailed guidance on the implementation of the intergovernmentally negotiated ministerial declaration of the previous year (para 17)
- provide guidance and coordination to subsidiary bodies, ensuring a clearer division of labour among them, aligning their work with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and promoting their implementation of the intergovernmentally negotiated ministerial declaration of the previous year (para 18)
- provide detailed guidance to the subsidiary bodies of the Council and the United Nations system on their upcoming work on the main theme and develop action-oriented assessment and recommendations so that those bodies best contribute to the preparations for the thematic review of the high-level political forum on sustainable development (para 18)
- review how subsidiary bodies and the UN system work on the interlinkages among the SDGs and the integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda, guiding their work for the rest of the Council cycle (para 18)

ⁱⁱ According to its mandate, the informal note by the Secretariat should include:

- (i) integrated policy analysis emanating from the work of ECOSOC subsidiary bodies during the previous cycle and proposed guidance for their contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development;
- (ii) coordination issues emanating from the work of subsidiary bodies and the policy and normative activities of specialized agencies and other United Nations system entities and recommendations for addressing them; and
- (iii) proposals related to the implementation of the intergovernmentally negotiated ministerial declaration of the Council of the previous cycle and lessons learned from the thematic reviews and voluntary national reviews at the high-level political forum on sustainable development, with recommendations for follow-up by countries, various segments and forums of the Council, the United Nations system and relevant stakeholders.



DRAFT PROGRAMME

2024 ECOSOC Coordination Segment

Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: The effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions

Wednesday, 31 January 2024

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|-------------|---|
| 10:00-10:15 | Opening |
| 10:15-11:30 | Translating commitments into action to get back on track, eradicate poverty and tackle inequality in times of multiple crises |
| 11:30-13:00 | Resilient and sustainable food systems: the path to advance SDG 2 and beyond |
| 15:00-16:30 | Sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions to advance climate action |
| 16:30-18:00 | Effective, strong and responsive institutions to achieve the SDGs and the future we want |

Thursday, 1 February 2024

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|-------------|---|
| 10:00-12:00 | Conversation with Executive Secretaries of Regional Commissions and Chairs of functional commissions and expert bodies on sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda |
| 15:00-16:30 | Closing the digital divide: towards achieving a global digital transformation |
| 16:30-17:30 | The Way Forward: From the 2023 SDG Summit to the Summit of the Future |