

## Key messages from the Informal Note by the Secretariat

### 2023

Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels - HLPF under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council  
SDG Summit 2023 – HLPF under the auspices of the General Assembly



### 2024

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



The informal note is prepared by the Secretariat, as mandated by General Assembly resolution [75/290 A](#), to inform discussions at the 2024 Coordination Segment of the Economic and Social Council. The informal note provides an integrated analysis of ECOSOC subsidiary bodies and UN entities' work in 2023, demonstrating how the ECOSOC subsidiary bodies and the UN system entities are addressing various dimensions of the implementation of the

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs at a time of multiple crises, within their respective mandates. The breadth of knowledge and expertise of the work of the ECOSOC system allowed these bodies and entities to explore the interlinkages among the SDGs from the perspective of their specific mandates. Their key policy proposals and initiatives have contributed to the [Political Declaration](#) adopted by Heads of State and Government at the 2023 SDG Summit.

The following key messages emanate from the analysis in the Informal Note and can help develop ECOSOC's guidance at the Coordination Segment.

- At the halfway mark of the 2030 Agenda, the importance of **transformative action to accelerate SDG implementation** has become vital. Ongoing challenges include inequalities, conflicts, climate change, and the rapid advancement of technology. The need for **international solidarity and coordinated efforts** to address complex global challenges is emphasized. The 2030 Agenda serves as an essential framework for addressing and overcoming current complex and diverse challenges, fostering **resilience** and preparing for effective handling future crises.
- The escalation of conflicts globally and geopolitical tensions have **exacerbated humanitarian needs**, underscoring the interconnected challenges faced by the international community. It is estimated that nearly 300 million people will need humanitarian assistance and protection in 2024 due to conflicts, climate emergencies, and other drivers.
- The COVID-19 pandemic and other multiple interlinked crises have **reversed years of sustainable development gains**, increasing extreme poverty and hunger, and exacerbating global food insecurity and malnutrition. The number of people living in extreme poverty increased to 724 million in 2020 representing a 9.3% increase from the previous year, with an estimated 670 million still in extreme poverty by the end of 2022. In addition, hunger and malnutrition have become more prevalent, with 3.1 billion people unable to afford a nutritious diet.
- Building upon the 2021 Food Systems Summit outcomes and the UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment in July 2023, various coalitions and initiatives emphasize **transforming food systems** to ensure global food security, promote healthy diets, and address poverty and inequality, while also contributing to combating environmental degradation and climate change.
- The importance of sustainable and inclusive agricultural practices, equitable access to nutritious food, and fair distribution across supply chains is emphasized. These elements are key to **addressing poverty**

**and reducing inequalities.** A **human rights approach** is advocated in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda to ensure that poverty eradication and inequality reduction are central to sustainable development efforts.

- The **triple environmental crises** of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution are exerting profound impacts globally, especially on developing countries and the most vulnerable populations. **Climate change** is causing persistent droughts, extreme weather events, land and soil degradation, rising sea levels, coastal erosion, ocean acidification, glacier retreat, biodiversity loss, desertification, and various forms of pollution. These threaten the planet and its inhabitants, with over a million species facing extinction and ecosystems, both on land and in water, increasingly endangered due to human activities. In response to these challenges, the **Secretary-General launched an Acceleration Agenda** focusing on transformative actions, policies, and plans to decarbonize the global economy and achieve climate justice. The **COP28** underscored the urgency for concrete agreements on finance, adaptation and mitigation to accelerate climate action and keep the 1.5°C goal within reach. Member States adopted a decision to operationalize the new Loss and Damage Fund.
- **Early warning systems** to support climate change adaptation, reduce losses and save lives are critical, yet fewer than half of the world's countries currently have such systems, with particularly low coverage in vulnerable countries. The **Secretary-General's Early Warnings for All initiative** aims to ensure global protection through early warning systems by 2027.
- The necessity of an integrated approach to address the impacts of climate change and foster economic growth is emphasized. The **interconnectedness of environmental sustainability and economic resilience** calls for urgent, innovative and cooperative strategies that balance ecological conservation with the needs of communities and economies worldwide.
- The interconnectedness of our **increasingly digitalized society** introduces new dimensions in navigating complex challenges. As people and organizations harness the power of digitalization and frontier technologies, including Artificial Intelligence (AI) and biotechnology, the international community navigates a future where intelligent technologies could drive **unprecedented advancements alongside formidable challenges**. Digital transformation is crucial for advancing the 2030 Agenda, yet **many countries still face challenges in fully leveraging these technologies**, highlighting the need for capacity development and digital governance.
- **Ethical and human rights considerations** are also imperative. It is vital to ensure that harnessing the benefits of the digital era is done responsibly and effectively. The **Global Forum on the Ethics of AI** and the **Secretary-General's High-level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence** are focusing on changing the landscape of AI governance and grounding AI in universal principles, while a **Global Digital Compact** is aimed at mitigating the risks of digital technologies and identifying ways to harness their benefits for the good of humanity.
- In a rapidly transforming world faced with increasingly complex challenges, the importance of **education and lifelong learning** becomes critical to equip individuals with the necessary skills and knowledge to navigate and contribute effectively to this dynamic environment while leaving no one behind.
- **Robust institutions** and **effective financing mechanisms** are of crucial importance in achieving the SDGs. In order to manage crises without impeding progress towards the SDGs, transforming institutions to embrace comprehensive, **integrated approaches is essential**. This involves applying effective governance principles, enhancing peer exchanges for building strong institutions, improving budget

credibility, innovating public sector workforce training, and managing the digitalization of public services in an inclusive and ethical manner.

- The intersection of policy design and implementation with **international cooperation** and **institutional capacity-building** in combating **drug-related issues** and in **crime prevention** is addressed. These efforts contribute significantly to sustainable development by fostering safer, more just societies.
- Moreover, **corruption** and **illicit financial flows** pose major obstacles to sustainable development, as they erode trust in institutions, divert essential resources and exacerbate inequalities. Addressing these challenges is vital for ensuring transparent, accountable governance and financial integrity to achieve sustainable development.
- International cooperation and innovative financing are indispensable to realize the SDGs. The Secretary-General's proposal for an **SDG Stimulus**, which calls for an annual increase in financing for sustainable development of at least USD 500 billion, will be instrumental in augmenting financing for sustainable development, tackling debt challenges and providing contingency funding to countries in need. In order to achieve its goals, the SDG Stimulus promotes **a new international financial architecture** that does not exacerbate inequalities and instability and instead enables just, inclusive and equitable sustainable development for all countries.
- To accelerate the implementation of the SDGs, it is imperative to leverage linkages and build synergies between the interconnected agendas and programmes of action. For this, breaking silos and using interlinkages to create multiplier effects and achieve simultaneous gains on several fronts is critical. This is the supreme transformative action needed to achieve the 2030 Agenda. Global coordination and cooperation is essential in the design and implementation of coherent and integrated decision- and policy-making. In a fracturing world overwhelmed by crises, restoring trust and **reinvigorating multilateralism for the 21st century** assumes great urgency.
- In follow-up to the [Political Declaration](#) of the 2023 SDG Summit and in preparation for the [Summit of the Future](#), the informal note puts forward the following **recommendations**:
  1. The **ECOSOC subsidiary bodies** should:
    - Further strengthen the alignment of their agendas and programmes of work with the 2030 Agenda to ensure a coordinated approach to sustainable development.
    - Continue collaboration with other subsidiary bodies as well as UN system entities to effectively address cross-cutting issues and provide integrated, in-depth analysis to support evidence-based recommendations on the advancement of the SDGs.
    - Support Member States in implementing the 2030 Agenda through programmatic guidance on technical assistance and capacity building, taking into consideration their respective mandates and international norms.
    - Enhance engagement with external partners, including the private sector and civil society, to leverage their unique resources and perspectives.
  2. The **UN system entities** should:
    - Also continue to align their programs and initiatives with the 2030 Agenda to ensure a coordinated approach to sustainable development.
    - Strengthen collaboration and information sharing across the UN system to enhance synergies and reduce duplication of efforts.



- Strengthen their technical support to Member States towards the implementation of the SDGs, especially those facing significant development challenges, with an emphasis on integration policy approaches and key transitions, including through financing from the UN Joint SDG Fund.
  - Monitor and evaluate the impact of their activities on the SDGs to continuously improve their effectiveness.
3. The **Economic and Social Council** should:
- Further develop and promote integrated policies that address the interconnected challenges of poverty, inequality, productive capacity, biodiversity loss, climate change and pollution, drawing on the expertise and evidence-based recommendations of its subsidiary bodies and the UN system entities.
  - Reorganize its cycle, in particular the timing of its segments and that of the sessions of its subsidiary bodies, in order to facilitate the effective channeling of policy guidance to the work of these bodies, as well as to allow for their full contribution to the work of the Council and the HLPF.
  - Spearhead the regular review and assessment of the impact of policies and programmes on the SDGs by the whole ECOSOC system, to provide an effective follow-up to the discussions at the HLPF and in its own meetings, in pursuit of integrated implementation and review.
  - Strengthen partnerships with other UN bodies, international organizations and civil society, including the private sector, to enhance policy coherence and effectiveness.
  - Advocate for increased investment in sustainable development, particularly in areas most affected by climate change.
  - Further facilitate knowledge sharing and best practices among Member States to accelerate progress towards the SDGs.
4. **Member States** should:
- Prioritize the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in national policies and plans.
  - Strengthen institutions and governance structures to enhance accountability and transparency in SDG implementation.
  - Mobilize domestic resources and explore innovative financing mechanisms to support sustainable development, including the integration and implementation of the commitments under internationally agreed instruments.
  - Shift significant quantities of funding for development activities from tightly earmarked project funding to system-wide pooled funds, such as the UN Joint SDG Fund.
  - Foster partnerships with the private sector, civil society, and other stakeholders to leverage diverse resources and expertise.
  - Agree on and implement measures to reform global governance structures that level the playing field and enable the policies, budgets and investments needed for a better, healthier, more peaceful, sustainable and prosperous world.

\* \* \*

