



**Joint Briefing on the work of ECOSOC and the General Assembly
2 February 2024
Statement by the President of ECOSOC**

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

I am pleased to welcome you to this joint briefing. It is my honour to join the President of the General Assembly, His Excellency Ambassador Dennis Francis.

[Introduction & international situation]

The world continues to face an interlocking array of crises, all of which highlight the vital work of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council as principal organs of the United Nations.

They add urgency to our respective agendas.

In the SDG Summit Political Declaration, world leaders reaffirmed the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as the roadmap for achieving sustainable development and overcoming the multiple crises we face. They also pledged to act with urgency to realize its vision.

The General Assembly and ECOSOC must now do their part to advance the bold, ambitious, accelerated, just and transformative actions called for by the Declaration.

[Vision for the year going forward]

Excellencies,

As I stated when I assumed the Presidency last July, my first priority is to leverage ECOSOC's policy guidance in an international context of multiple crises.

During the coming six months, ECOSOC, through its segments, forums and events, and the High-level Political Forum, will translate the commitments of the SDG Summit into policy guidance and concrete actions.

This is being carried out under the theme of *“Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions.”*

We will take this opportunity to build on the outcomes of the SDG Summit and its strong Political Declaration, using the different ECOSOC platforms, and as a contribution to the Summit of the Future.

The recently concluded Partnership Forum and Coordination Segment promoted coherence in action in follow up to the SDG Summit. It is now up to Member States and UN system principals to show up for these important discussions.

Vetting and reviewing NGO applications, the Committee on Non-governmental Organizations lays the foundation for the NGO participation in the Council and its subsidiary bodies and forums.

The Forum on Financing for Development Follow-up, to be convened in April, will pave the way for the 4th Conference on Financing for Development.

The Youth Forum, also in April, has become a key platform allowing young people to engage and contribute to policy discussions affecting their future. A third day will be dedicated to identifying youth priorities for the Summit of the Future

The Science, Technology and Innovation Forum in May, will advance on the commitments at the SDG Summit to bridge STI divides.

The Operational Activities Segment, also in May, will further mobilize country level of commitments of the SDG Summit by the United Nations development system.

The Humanitarian Affairs Segment in June will strengthen and support the United Nations response to the many catastrophic situations occurring around the worlds.

The Meeting on Transition from Relief to Development preceding the Humanitarian Affairs Segment, will address the linkages between humanitarian assistance and development assistance.

In July, I will convene the High-level Political Forum and the High-level Segment of ECOSOC, which will serve as the capstone of the ECOSOC cycle.

The HLPF will undertake a vital follow-up and review as we seek to turn the tide and place the SDGs back on track. The Forum will mobilize networks and coalitions for implementation after the SDG Summit.

The SDGs under in-depth review this year could not be more critical: eradicating poverty, ending hunger, taking action to combat climate change, promoting peace, justice and strong institutions, and strengthening partnerships for the Goals.

The Voluntary National Reviews will share transformative policies and commitments.

And I will seek an ambitious and focused ministerial declaration to provide further policy guidance for moving forward.

In addition to these vital mandated meetings, I am also working to have the Council provide additional policy guidance, as well as further raise its profile, such as through the Special Meeting on the Future of Work just held in Santiago, Chile.

And I also look forward to discussing further with the President of the General Assembly the convening of a special event to address disaster risk reduction in the face of the many negative effects of El Niño, as recently mandated by the GA.

[ECOSOC contribution to the Summit of the Future]

Excellencies,

To deliver on existing commitments and successfully address emerging threats and challenges, we need to strengthen our multilateral system.

The forthcoming Summit of the Future is an opportunity to demonstrate that multilateralism can deliver for everyone, everywhere, and offer solutions for a more peaceful, just and sustainable world for current and future generations.

As we advance towards the Summit of the Future in September, the Pact for the Future is an opportunity to accelerate further the path towards sustainable development.

As ECOSOC President, I will do my utmost to support the President of the General Assembly as he leads the Summit preparation process.

ECOSOC is poised to contribute substantively on financing for development from its FfD Forum, on STI from its STI Forum, on youth and future generations from its Youth Forum, highlighting their perspectives on issues and priorities, and on global governance from the Council's both recent and long history in addressing this issue.

The coming months will be essential to ensure the critical links between the Summit of the Future and SDG acceleration.

Let us build on the momentum of the 2023 SDG Summit and scale up our ambition for the Summit of the Future.

I also note that ECOSOC would also have a strong contribution to make to the proposed World Social Summit in 2025.

[GA and ECOSOC to support countries in special situations and LNOB, and other issues]

Excellencies,

I would also like to highlight the readiness of ECOSOC to work further with the General Assembly in support of countries in special situations and of the imperative of leaving no one behind.

I look forward to building on the General Assembly-ECOSOC Thematic Event on LLDCs on 7 December.

The SIDS, LDCs, and LLDCs also have a home at the HLPF.

I would like to assure all of you of my commitment to continue working with the President of the General Assembly to ensure that ECOSOC complements the work of the General Assembly on this and other issues, such as the linkages between humanitarian affairs and peace building.

[Conclusion]

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

We must rise to the challenges before us.

I look forward to further collaboration and coordination with the President of the General Assembly, building on the established course of our monthly meetings. You can rely on my full support as we work to achieve a just, inclusive and more sustainable future for all.

Thank you.