

ECOSOC Roundtable discussion:
‘Transformation is possible: Actions from the ECOSOC system’
Discussion points EU Delegation

Vice-President, excellences, colleagues,

Thank you for the presentations.

It is always good to be informed about the work of the subsidiary bodies.

Let me briefly propose some answers to the four guiding questions.

1) Firstly, how can ECOSOC better harness the work of its system in advancing the SDGs?

- Generally speaking, ECOSOC should guide the UN development system by issuing substantive guidance through resolutions and decisions, and by assuring consistency in its messages towards subsidiary bodies;
- The Council should fully use and appropriately communicate the wealth of information generated by the functional commissions and expert bodies, in view of accelerating the implementation of the SDGs.
- The review of the ECOSOC subsidiary bodies last year has shown that we have to make a special effort to be in close contact with the subsidiary bodies not based here in New York. We heard a good example of this yesterday, when UNICRI (UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute) for the first time reported directly to ECOSOC.

2) Secondly, on key transformative policies and initiatives to accelerate recovery from COVID and advance the 2030 Agenda

- An example here is the fight against corruption, on which ECOSOC held a special meeting on 2nd of May. Already in 2018, ECOSOC had endorsed 11 principles of effective governance for sustainable development, proposed by CEPA. Principle 4 (on integrity) recommends as anti-corruption policies codes of conduct for public officials, competitive public procurement, conflict of interest policies, whistle-blower protection, and, importantly,

adequate salaries for public servants. These recommendations all remain highly relevant.

3) Thirdly, on priority areas for a sustainable recovery

- Let me point here as an example to the work of ECOSOC's Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Among other issues, this Commission conducts pioneering work on crime against the environment. Crime prevention and strengthening criminal justice are undoubtedly among the quite technical but vital ingredients for the recovery and for implementing the SDGs.

4) And lastly, on key interlinkages among the SDGs under review this year

- Water, energy, infrastructure, cities and partnerships are all interconnected. ECOSOC remains of high importance for global policy coordination, it should break down policy silos wherever possible. The synthesis report on submissions by functional commissions provides many valuable examples. However, we would have wished that they were even more action-oriented.
- I thank you.