



ECOSOC

A YEAR IN REVIEW 2024-2025

Bob Rae, President of ECOSOC



Credit: UN Photo/Loey Felipe

ECOSOC AT A GLANCE

Established in 1945 as one of the six principal organs of the United Nations, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) serves as the central platform for policy dialogue, coordination, and review on economic, social, and environmental issues. Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, it plays a vital role in advancing the SDGs through the work of its forums, commissions and expert bodies.

In 2025, ECOSOC contributed to several key intergovernmental processes, including the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, the Second World Social Summit, and the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The Council deepened its engagement with international financial institutions, further explored the role of artificial intelligence in achieving the SDGs, and drew greater attention to the global crisis of displacement—all while upholding gender equality and inclusivity as crosscutting priorities.

ECOSOC PRESIDENT'S ROLE

The ECOSOC President represents the Council's work and interests across the UN system and beyond. As the chair, the President ensures the smooth running of the Council's agenda in cooperation with the Bureau.

Beyond formal meetings, the ECOSOC President acts as the champion for the SDGs and meets with a wide range of stakeholders, including the President of the General Assembly (PGA), UN leadership, heads of state and government, ministers, permanent representatives, intergovernmental organizations, and civil society.

2024-2025

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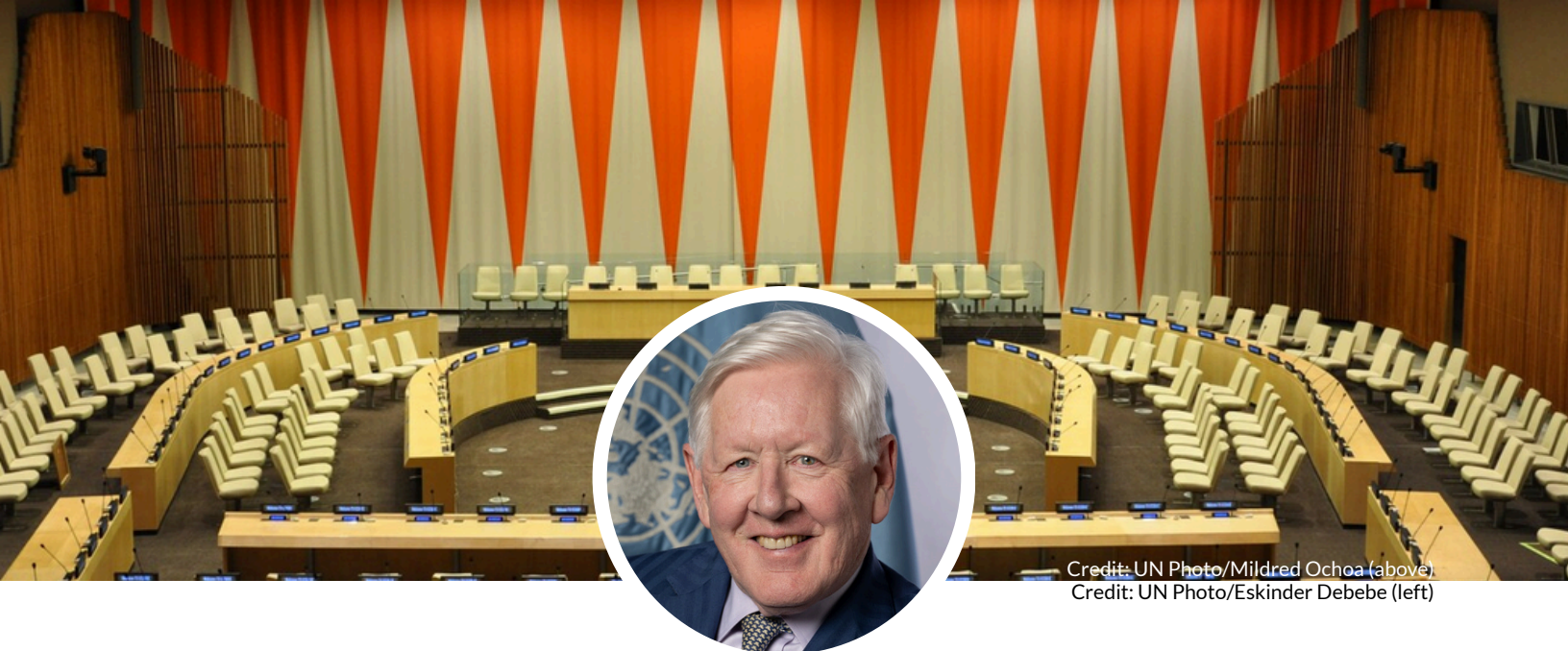
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Credit: UN Photo/Mildred Ochoa (above)
Credit: UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe (left)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

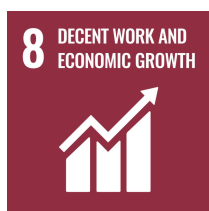
This year marks a historic milestone for ECOSOC as we commemorate its 80th anniversary. Since its first meeting in London in 1946, the Council has stood at the forefront of multilateral efforts to address the world's most pressing economic, social, and environmental challenges – offering a global platform for dialogue to advance sustainable development.

Over the years, ECOSOC has guided the international community through transformative development agendas – from the early post-war reconstruction efforts to the Millennium Development Goals, and now the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

As we reflect on this legacy in 2025, we are also reminded of the urgency of the

present moment. With just five years remaining to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the global community is at a critical juncture. The COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, conflict, and widening inequalities have tested our resilience and solidarity. Yet, they have also underscored that the ECOSOC system, including its subsidiary bodies and the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, remains a universal and inclusive platform.

During this session, the Council has supported Member States' efforts to implement and review the SDGs, with a strong emphasis on SDGs 3 (Good Health and Well-being), 5 (Gender Equality), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 14 (Life Below Water), and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).



With a roadmap in the form of *el Compromiso de Sevilla*, Member States have now agreed on a new framework to finance development. You can rest assured that ECOSOC will do its part to ensure sustained review and follow-up as we approach 2030.

As President, I am proud to present this report card on ECOSOC's work, and invite all partners to renew their commitment to multilateralism, solidarity, and sustainable development.

Sincerely,



Bob Rae

President of ECOSOC at its 2024-2025 session

A Legacy of Canadian Leadership at the United Nations

Canada's tradition of leadership within the United Nations system reflects its enduring commitment to multilateralism. Bob Rae is the third Canadian to have chaired a UN Charter body.



Credit: UN Photo/MB

Lester B. Pearson

President of the General Assembly
1952-53

Pearson championed multilateralism during the Cold War and laid the groundwork for peacekeeping that later earned him the Nobel Peace Prize.



Credit: UN Photo

George Davidson

President of the Economic and Social Council
1958-59

Davidson advocated for cooperation in social development and public administration, focusing on reducing global economic disparities and expanding technical assistance to developing countries.



ECOSOC

SESSIONS, SUBSIDIARY BODIES, AND RELEVANT PROCESSES

2025 Calendar of Activities and Meetings

February

Partnership Forum | 5 Feb.

Coordination Segment | 6 Feb. - 7 Feb.

Commission for Social Development (CSocD) | 10-14 Feb.

Committee for Development Policy (CDP) | 24-28 Feb.

Asia-Pacific Regional Sustainable Development Forum | 25-28 Feb.

March

Statistical Commission | 4-7 Mar.

Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) | 10-14 Mar.

Commission on the Status Women (CSW) | 10-21 Mar.

Development Cooperation Forum | 12-13 Mar.

Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters | 24-27 Mar.

Latin America and Caribbean Regional Sustainable Development Forum | 31 Mar.-4 Apr.

April

UNECE Regional Sustainable Development Forum | 2-3 Apr.

Commission on Population and Development (CPD) | 7-11 Apr.

Commission on Science and Tech for Development (CSTD) | 7-11 Apr.

Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) | 7-11 Apr.

Africa Regional Forum for Sustainable Development | 9-11 Apr.

Arab Regional Forum for Sustainable Development | 14-16 Apr.

ECOSOC Youth Forum | 15-17 Apr.

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII) | 21 Apr. - 2 May

Financing for Development Forum (FfD) | 28-29 Apr.

UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names | 28 Apr. - 2 May

May

UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) | 5-9 May

Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI Forum) | 7-8 May

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) | 19-23 May

Operational Activities Segment (OAS) | 20-22 May

June

3rd Ocean Conference | 9-13 Jun.

1st Management Segment | 10-11 Jun.

Transition from Relief to Development Meeting | 17 Jun.

Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS) | 18-20 Jun.

4th International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) | 30 Jun.-4 Jul.

July

High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) | 14-18, 21-24 Jul.

2nd Management Segment | 29-30 Jul.

Organizational Session & Bureau Election | 31 Jul.

A NOTE ON THE ECOSOC BUREAU



I would like to recognize the work of the Vice-Presidents of the Council for their stewardship of key segments of the Council. Whether in the Coordination Segment, the Operational Activities Segment, or the Humanitarian Affairs Segment, the Council offered action-oriented and timely discussions which engaged Member States and the UN System.

H.E. Lok Bahadur Thapa (Nepal)
H.E. Anatolio Ndong Mba (Equatorial Guinea)
H.E. Maritza Chan-Valverde (Costa Rica)
H.E. Krzysztof Szczerski (Poland)

I also wish to recognize the Permanent Representatives who stepped up to lead the work of the Council over this past cycle. Their leadership was essential in driving the work of the Council forward and I extend my sincere thanks to:

Revitalization of the Commission on the Status of Women

H.E. Mutryce Williams (St. Kitts and Nevis)
H.E. Fergal Mythen (Ireland)
H.E. Gladys Mokhawa (Botswana)

Ministerial Declaration of the HLPF

H.E. Inga Rhonda King (St. Vincent and the Grenadines)
H.E. Jakub Kulhanek (Czech Republic)

Co-chairs of the Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation

H.E. Omar Hilale (Morocco)
H.E. Elina Kalkku (Finland)

Partnership Forum Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group

H.E. Héctor José Gómez Hernández (Spain)
H.E. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani (Qatar)

With Deep Gratitude to My Predecessor



Credit: UN DESA

I had the distinct privilege of chairing the Council following Ambassador Paula Narváez of Chile.

Paula demonstrated exceptional leadership, championing stakeholder engagement, and bringing ECOSOC's work outside of New York by convening a special meeting in Santiago de Chile.

Ambassador Narváez's focus on the future of work and artificial intelligence laid a strong foundation, which I was honored to build upon during my presidency.

A Warm Welcome to My Successor



Credit: UN DESA

Looking forward, I wish to warmly congratulate Ambassador Lok Bahadur Thapa on his election as President of ECOSOC for the 2025-26 session and on being the first from Nepal to hold this office.

I welcome his stated priorities on digital inclusion, youth entrepreneurship, remittances and development, food systems, and sustainable ecotourism. I am confident Lok will lead the Council with vision and purpose, advancing our mission of inclusive and sustainable development.



Credit: UN DESA



**I like that it's called
el Compromiso de Sevilla.
It's not a perfect document,
but it is a better document. It
is a call and a commitment to
action.**



FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT

Throughout my Presidency, I have placed a deliberate focus on the “how” of development – how we can accelerate progress on the SDGs through more effective, inclusive, and strategic financing. Two lines of work have been at the center of this effort:

- Strengthening the coherence and collaboration between the United Nations and the international financial institutions (IFIs)
- Ensuring that financing flows are aligned with the needs of the most vulnerable

This has meant showing up – consistently and intentionally. In October, I participated in the 2024 Annual Meetings of the World Bank Group (WBG) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). I emphasized the importance of aligning financial strategies with the SDGs and advocated for better support to fragile and conflict-affected countries, bridging the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, and scaling up climate financing for prevention and preparedness.

In March, I led the ECOSOC Bureau and 13 Member States on a visit to Washington, D.C., where we engaged directly with the Executive Boards of the WBG and the IMF.



Credit: Permanent Mission of of Zambia to the United Nations

This visit was not just symbolic; it was substantive. We discussed how the IFIs can better address debt vulnerabilities in developing countries, the IMF’s role in strengthening global macroeconomic and financial stability, and the WBG’s role in reducing poverty and promoting sustainable development.

These conversations continued at the FfD Forum, which remains the UN’s central platform for dialogue with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization, UNCTAD, and regional development banks.

The Bureau’s expanded consultations as well as the FfD Forum helped shape a more inclusive and action-oriented outcome document for the FfD4 Conference – a pivotal moment in the global financing landscape.

FfD4 reaffirmed the importance of aligning financial flows with the SDGs and produced a forward-looking agenda that reflects the priorities of both developed and developing countries. The active participation of the WBG, IMF, and regional development banks underscored the growing recognition that sustainable development requires a whole-of-system approach.



Credit: UN Office for Partnerships



Credit: UN Photo/Chema Moya



Credit: UN Photo/Chema Moya

How can be a force for good?

How can it work for everybody? Can we have a system of governance and use of AI that empowers people?

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Artificial Intelligence (AI) presents transformative opportunities for sustainable development. The rise of generative AI has, for the first time, made this technology accessible to people across the globe; and its adoption is outpacing that of any previous innovation.

Amidst these rapid advances, the multilateral system faces a critical task: to ensure that AI's benefits are equitably shared and directed toward advancing the common good, while mitigating its risks. AI is not inherently neutral; its development and deployment can perpetuate bias, amplify misinformation and disinformation, and contribute to environmental degradation.

As global institutions navigate complex questions of governance and ethics, ECOSOC has emerged as a vital platform to explore how AI can accelerate progress on the SDGs, ensuring that no one is left behind.

Ensuring that the benefits of AI are available to all, significant investments will be required to bring 2.6 billion people online. The reality is that access to computing resources is both more readily available and cheaper in developed countries – this imbalance will need to be rectified in order for developing countries to achieve equal footing.

A recent study showed that AI can support 134 of the 169 SDG targets, but to fully realize this potential, the international community must act decisively to:

- Bridge the digital and data divides by investing in infrastructure and digital skills, particularly in the Global South.
- Ensure equitable access to computing and connectivity through differentiated pricing models and localized infrastructure.
- Establish national AI governance frameworks to foster enabling environments and safeguard rights.
- Foster multi-stakeholder partnerships to mobilize investment at scale.

As President, I have focused on raising awareness of these needs and to convening the required partners to make change happen. Building on the work of my predecessor, I organized a special meeting of the Council as a follow-up to the meeting in 2024. I was also pleased to have convened multiple events to this end including informal briefings and side-events on the margins of the Commission on the Status of Women and STI Week.



Credit: UN Photo/Evan Schneider

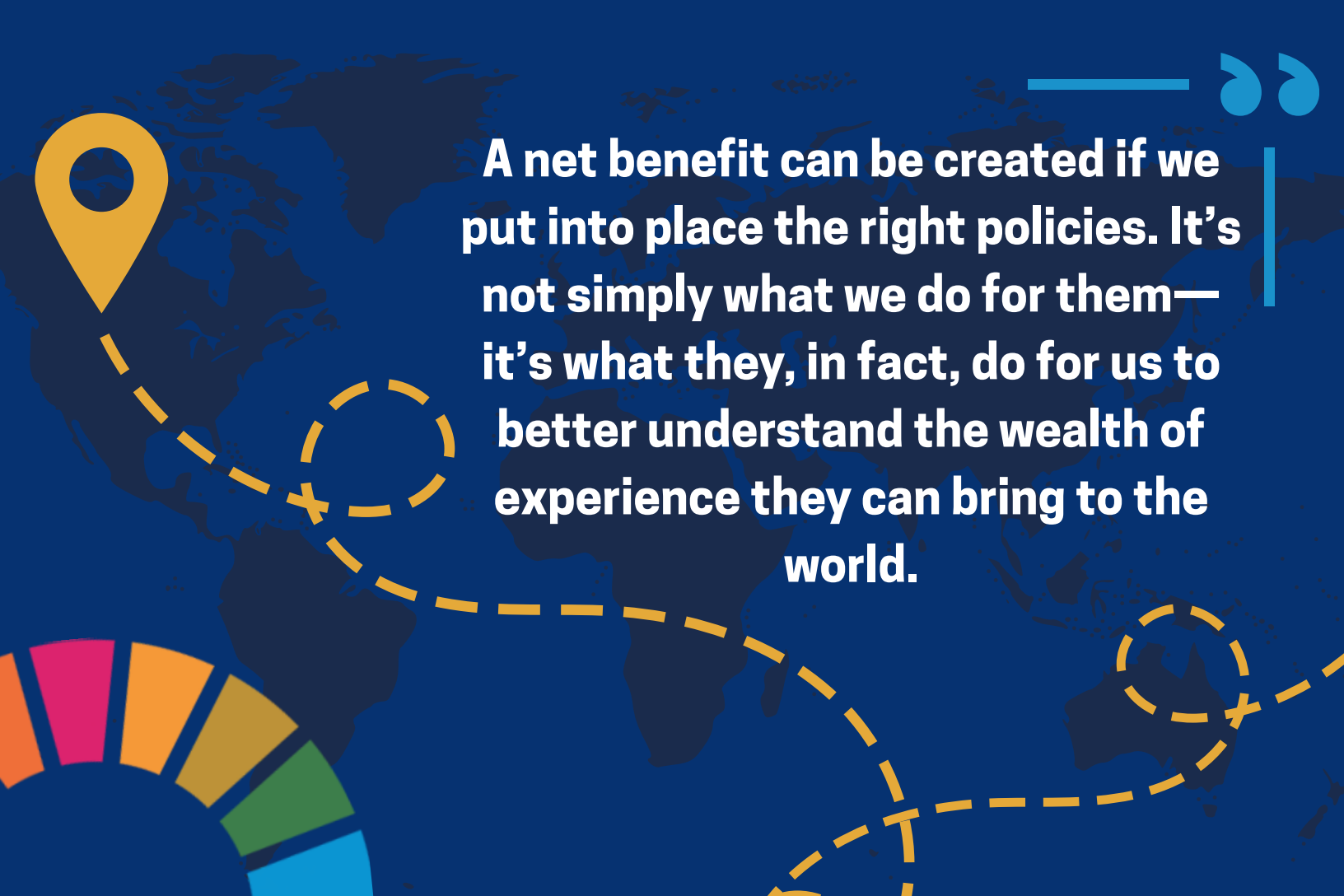
In Geneva, I participated in the AI for Good Summit and WSIS+20 High-Level Event, hosted by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). I delivered a keynote on purposeful partnerships in the digital landscape, joined UN leaders for a roundtable on harnessing AI for operational efficiency, and participated in a multi-stakeholder consultation as part of the WSIS+20 review.



Credit: International Telecommunication Union/Anne-Laure Le hat

Without urgent action, African and least developed countries risk falling further behind as AI deepens the digital divide. However, many governments are already developing national AI strategies to guide investment and policy. These frameworks can promote human rights, build trust, and reflect local values. International frameworks can serve as adaptable models for diverse national contexts.

The UN system stands ready to support Member States' efforts. Initiatives such as UNESCO's Recommendation on the Ethics of AI, UNDP's AI Landscape Assessment, and ITU's AI standards exemplify this commitment.



A net benefit can be created if we put into place the right policies. It's not simply what we do for them—it's what they, in fact, do for us to better understand the wealth of experience they can bring to the world.

FORCED DISPLACEMENT AND REFUGEE PROTECTION

The world is witnessing an unprecedented crisis of displacement. As of mid-2024, there were approximately 43.7 million refugees worldwide, highlighting the vast scale of forced displacement. Constrained and declining international funding has left millions of vulnerable people without access to life-saving assistance.

The protracted nature of many displacement crises necessitates new and more sustainable approaches to supporting the life-saving needs of refugees and supporting the communities that so generously host them. This includes

enhancing refugee self-reliance, better integrating refugees into national systems, and expanding access to third-country solutions, all while achieving the SDGs.

The Council has addressed the issue of displacement in the context of its Humanitarian Affairs Segment and the ECOSOC meeting on the transition from relief to development. This issue has also been addressed by some countries in their voluntary national reviews (VNRs) at the HLPF.

As President, I convened a Special Meeting on Forced Displacement and Refugee Protection, bringing together Member States, UN agencies, the private sector and civil society. The meeting highlighted best practices of countries that have demonstrated leadership and innovation in hosting and integrating refugees.

As an outcome of the Special Meeting, I issued a Call to Action noting that addressing the forced displacement crisis is complex and requires an approach that combines key elements, including, but not limited to:

- Mobilize and sustain funding
- Strengthen legal, social, and economic frameworks and their implementation
- Support host countries from the very start of an emergency response to include refugees and displaced persons in national systems and strengthen their self-reliance
- Tackle the underlying causes of forced displacement
- Promote agency and leadership of forcibly displaced people
- Call for continued support from international financial institutions
- Adopt a whole-of-society approach and collaboration among Governments, international organizations, the private sector and civil society

Forcibly displaced populations, refugees, host communities, and host governments need our action and solidarity, and we have a unique window of opportunity to step-up our efforts. We must seize it urgently and decisively. It is my hope that ECOSOC will continue to be a venue where this important topic can be advanced.



Credit: UN DESA



Credit: International Labour Organization



Credit: R-SEAT/Rez Gardi



Credit: UN DESA

CROSSCUTTING THEMES

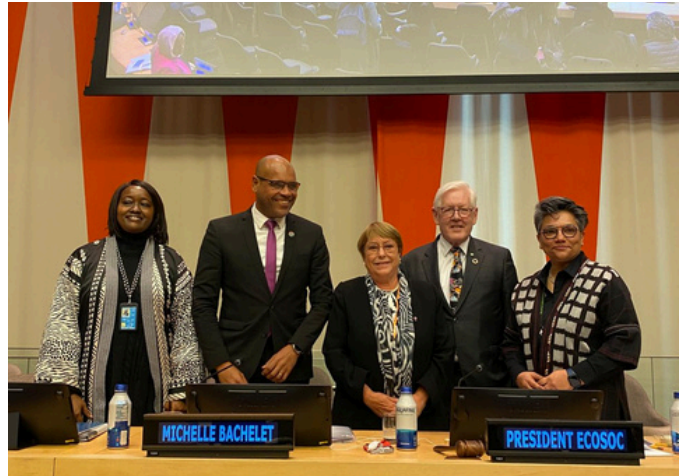
In line with the commitments I made when elected, the principles of gender equality, diversity and, inclusion have guided my work and have been reflected in the Council's agenda.

Gender Equality

This year, we marked the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. It reminded us that gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world.

At the opening of the 69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), I chose to share my speaking time with a young Indigenous woman from Canada – an intentional step toward amplifying voices too often excluded from global policymaking spaces. I was also honoured to host a high-level event titled “Celebrating Intersectional Feminist Leadership at Beijing+30,” which convened diverse perspectives from across regions to explore how inclusive leadership can catalyze systemic change.

In line with my Presidency's focus on AI, I also hosted a conversation on AI as a transformative force for women and girls along with the Secretary General of ITU.



“

Our diversity is our strength. I talk about the dignity of people and the dignity of difference. The way we do our business in this Council is important; we must do it in a way that is truly and deeply inclusive.

”

Youth Engagement

Championing youth as thought leaders and agents of positive change to the global agenda was another key focus of my Presidency. I was proud to elevate their meaningful participation throughout the Council's work, including by inviting youth representatives to speak at the Partnership Forum and the Special Meeting on AI. I was also deeply honoured to have chaired the 2025 ECOSOC Youth Forum, which set the record as the largest and most diverse gathering of youth at the United Nations.



Credit: UN DESA

Indigenous Advocacy



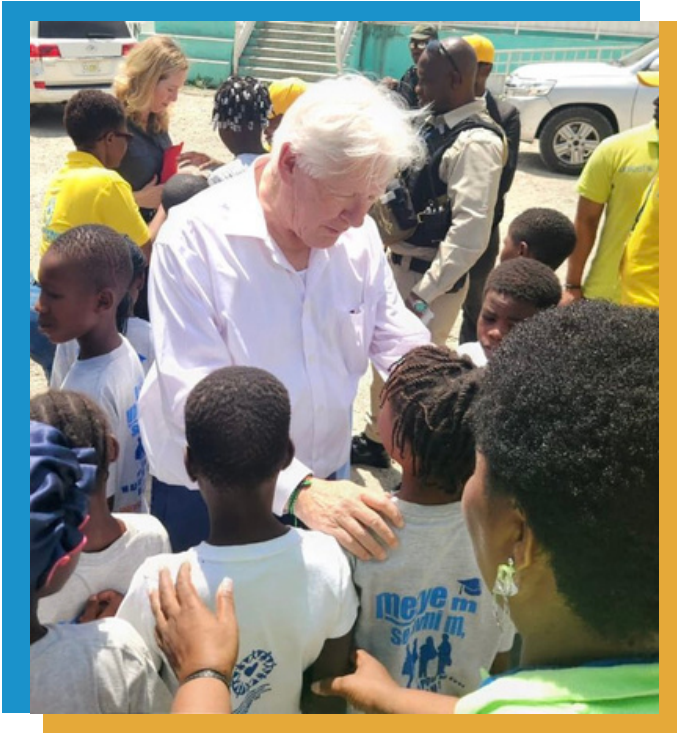
On the margins of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, I hosted “The Next Generation of Indigenous Advocacy – an Intergenerational Dialogue,” a youth-led roundtable highlighting the lived experiences and leadership of young Indigenous advocates from around the world working to ensure their voices shape inclusive, equitable policies grounded in the realities of their communities. Their insights underscored the importance of creating intentional and intergenerational spaces for dialogue where Indigenous youth are not just recognized as future leaders, but as leaders of today.

.....

From the outset, I prioritized the representation and leadership of women, youth, and Indigenous peoples – not just as isolated themes, but as crosscutting priorities that informed and enriched the Council's work. By centering this throughout our activities, I aimed to foster a more inclusive, responsive, and representative Council – one that truly reflects the world it serves. I am grateful for the support extended by Member States, the Secretariat and stakeholders in this regard.

SPOTLIGHT ON HAITI

Haiti Can't Wait



Haiti continues to face a multidimensional crisis marked by escalating violence and insecurity, human rights violations and urgent humanitarian needs, alongside a deepening political and economic crisis.

As ECOSOC President and Chair of the Ad-Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, I have worked to raise awareness and mobilize international support. My first trip as President was to Port-au-Prince in August 2024, where I met with Haitian authorities, civil society, women leaders, and UN staff.

In December 2024, I convened a Special Meeting focused on the critical situation of Haiti's children and youth. My Call to Action emphasized the need for stepped-up international support focused on children and youth, and called for restoring security and increasing humanitarian aid.

Recognizing the link between security and development, ECOSOC and the PBC co-chaired a meeting on building and sustaining peace in Haiti. The participation of the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council underscored the need for an integrated UN approach to Haiti's crisis.

Participants emphasized the importance of comprehensive approaches rooted in the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, including inclusive community violence reduction, youth defection programs, and reinforcement for the Multinational Security Support mission. They also called for enforcement of sanctions and arms embargo, continued support for the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH), and sustained engagement by ECOSOC – including its Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti – and the Peacebuilding Commission.

While my term as President has concluded, I will continue to champion the need for sustained and coordinated support to Haiti as chair of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti. Haiti's people truly cannot wait.



Credit: United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.”

ECOSOC remains the open door for the UN. Stakeholders should know that their participation in the council’s work is both necessary and appreciated.

In this regard, I cannot underline enough my pride in the ECOSOC Major Groups and Other Stakeholders (MGoS) and the crucial work which they do to coordinate stakeholder engagement in the work of the council. Stakeholders, whether from NGOs, academia, or the private sector, are deeply engaged in the forums, segments, and commissions of ECOSOC. They prepare statements, submissions and rally support for important initiatives which are advancing the SDGs and making an impact at every level. It has been a distinct pleasure to support their role and to engage in dialogue on a regular basis. Many of them have also been great partners in organizing key events and supporting my priorities as President.

In line with the practice established by one of my predecessors (H.E. Lachezara Stoeva) and maintained by H.E. Paula Narvaez, I convened monthly meetings with the MGoS to keep them apprised of relevant updates and to solicit their feedback. These monthly dialogues, which were joined by other members of the ECOSOC bureau, are important as they have now become a regular fixture and reliable means for stakeholders to share their perspectives. At these monthly dialogues, co-facilitators of key UN processes were also invited on an ad-hoc basis to brief the group.

What is the MGoS?

The MGoS is a network of stakeholder organisations focused on the review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda. They are led by a coordination mechanism, with 22 constituencies, which has been officially recognised by Member States.

Throughout my term, co-facilitators of different ECOSOC processes have been encouraged to offer the opportunity for stakeholders to have their views heard and conveyed, while respecting the intergovernmental character of the UN.

Going forward, I am pleased that a guide for stakeholder engagement for ECOSOC was launched. I trust this living document will prove useful for stakeholders and the ECOSOC Bureau.



FOLLOW-UP TO THE MANDATES IN THE PACT OF THE FUTURE



The Pact of the Future, adopted in September 2024 by Member States, includes clear commitments for action. Since its adoption, ECOSOC has actively contributed to advancing the Pact's commitments.

By supporting a new STI week around the Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation, we have worked to expand networks and deepen collaboration to scale the benefits of science and technology for everyone as called for in Actions 28, and 29.

My priority on AI for the SDGs has further contributed to these actions, while also advancing Action 55 to strengthen partnerships to address new and emerging challenges. A dedicated focus on inclusion and the differentiated impacts of AI on women and girls has helped to ensure that technology improves gender equality and the lives of all women and girls (Action 31).

Actions 48, 49, 50 and 52 speak to reform of the international financial architecture. Over the past year, ECOSOC has increased its interactions with the IFIs, leading to additional dialogue and a better understanding of the “how” we finance development. The adoption of *el Compromiso de Sevilla* promises to further build on this important work.

Finally, in line with action 44 on strengthening the Peacebuilding Commission, this year's joint ECOSOC-PBC meeting was focused on Haiti. Focusing the meeting on a specific country gave our collaboration a clear lens. It allowed for a more grounded discussion and the meeting itself was a powerful demonstration of what multilateralism can achieve when mandates converge. The participation of the PGA, and the President of the UNSC further underscored this point.

The Pact of the Future and its Global Digital Compact and Declaration of Future Generations are a clarion call for all of us to reassess the current state of sustainable development and endeavour for more.

MAJOR GLOBAL OUTREACH

ECOSOC's commissions and subsidiary bodies are spread across five continents; facilitating their engagement in the Council's work has been a priority. I was pleased to participate in two regional sustainable development forums – the ECE Forum in Geneva and the Africa Forum in Kampala.

During my term, I have also had the opportunity to bring the Council's voice to the UN Specialized Agencies and into the field. My engagement throughout the year provided insights into advancing multilateralism and operationalizing system-wide reform.

In **Rome**, I met with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the World Food Programme (WFP) to discuss mobilizing private capital for agricultural development and addressing the global food crisis.

In **Paris**, meetings with UNESCO reaffirmed our shared commitment to press freedom, inclusive education, and cultural preservation. Meetings with the OECD focused on aligning multilateral efforts to promote inclusive growth and sustainable development, including in the context of FfD4.

In **Vienna**, I received a briefing by the UN Controller on UN80 reform, toured the laboratory of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and discussed global nuclear cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).



Credit: Economic Commission for Africa

In **Geneva**, which I visited on three occasions, I engaged with the leadership of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Human Rights Council (HRC), the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNCHR) and the International Telecommunications Union (ITU).

Engagements in **Nairobi** with the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON), UN-Habitat, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Resident Coordinator (RC) for Kenya revealed operational realities and opportunities for scaling common back-office functions across the UN system in Africa.

In **Addis Ababa**, meetings with the UN Special Representative to the African Union highlighted the potential for enhanced UN-AU alignment to deliver greater impact for Africans.

OUTCOMES OF ECOSOC FORUMS

Partnership Forum

The Partnership Forum marked the beginning of the ECOSOC cycle and brought the “ECOSOC family” together. Convening over 500 in-person participants from across academia, the private sector, Indigenous Peoples, civil society organizations, youth and multilateral organizations, it reaffirmed ECOSOC’s commitment to partnership and serving as an open door for external stakeholders. The 23-member multi-stakeholder advisory group played a key role in shaping the Forum’s inclusive and collaborative format.



Credit: UN DESA

Development Cooperation Forum



Credit: UN DESA

With only 17% of SDGs on track and 600 million people projected to remain in poverty by 2030, the Development Cooperation Forum emphasized realigning international cooperation with the needs of developing countries. Key outcomes included calls to restore the integrity of Official Development Assistance, scale up access to climate finance, modernize development cooperation architecture, and adopt multidimensional criteria for resource allocation. Participants stressed the importance of country-led, transparent, and accountable development strategies.

Youth Forum

This year’s ECOSOC Youth Forum became the largest and most diverse youth gathering at the UN, drawing over 1,000 youth leaders and 60 ministers. Under the theme “Youth at the Forefront,” participants proposed bold and actionable solutions on mental health, digital inequality, gender-based violence, youth unemployment and ocean degradation. They also called for institutionalized youth participation, intergenerational collaboration and sustained investment in youth-led innovation to enable co-creation of the policies that impact their communities and shape their futures.



Credit: UN DESA

Forum on Financing for Development Follow-up



Credit: UN Photo/Evan Schneider

The Forum on Financing for Development Follow-up convened back-to-back with the 4th PrepCom Session for FfD4, brought together over 300 representatives from governments, intergovernmental organizations, civil society, academia, and the private sector. Discussions underscored the need for a renewed global financing framework that delivers both a large-scale investment push—supported by debt sustainability, domestic resource mobilization, increased concessional finance and multilateral development bank reform—and a reformed international financial architecture that is more inclusive, responsive, and representative of developing countries.

Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology, and Innovation

This year's Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology, and Innovation for the SDGs took place under the auspices of a new STI Week – a collaboration between the ECOSOC Presidency, the Forum co-chairs, and the UN Secretariat. This new initiative promises to augment the role of science and technology on the UN agenda and offers an important gateway for the private sector to share its innovations and build linkages with Member States and the UN Secretariat.



Credit: UN Photo/Loey Felipe

High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development



Credit: UN DESA

The 2025 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), held under the auspices of ECOSOC, was attended by more than 100 Ministers and featured VNR presentations from 35 countries. The Forum focused on the theme “Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda,” and included in-depth reviews of SDGs 3, 5, 8, 14, and 17. The Forum and its inputs created synergies with several other intergovernmental processes in 2025, including Beijing+30, FfD4, UNOC3, LLDC3, and WSSD2.



This is a publication of the Permanent Mission of
Canada to the United Nations.
August 2025

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